



CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

16 Nightingale Road, HITCHIN, SG5 1QS

(In the care of the Augustinians of the Assumption)



Mass Times

Saturday 6pm

Sunday 8.30am, 10.30am

Monday – Saturday 10am

Reconciliation Saturday 10.30am

during Exposition. All Masses are
livestreamed [Livestream Mass](#)

Newsletter No 1977

8th – 15th January 2nd The Baptism of the Lord - Year C

Prayer: We pray for the healing of creation: God, source of all goodness, we call you Creator; you have made our wonderful world out of nothing and constantly keep it alive. Help us to be full of care and grateful for our home received from you as a gift. May we work to keep this, our common home, filled with peace and justice. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Readings: : Is 40:1-5.9-11, Tit 2:11-14.3:4-7, Luke 3:15-16.21-22

Entrance Antiphon: After the Lord was baptized, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

Psalm: Bless the Lord, my soul! Lord God, how great you are.

Intercession: We pray to the Lord

Response: Lord, hear us!

Next Week: Readings: Is 62:1-5, Cor 12:4-11, John 2:1-11

Ramblings (Apologies delayed from last week)

New Year's blessings to everyone! You are invited to participate in a year of great promise, full of hope and incredible challenges never seen before. As we talk together about our faith journey, we will discover the strengths and riches of other people's journeys and be inspired in a new and exciting way about how we can better contribute to help grow a more welcoming, more compassionate and more loving Church. Saturday, being the feast of Mary the Mother of God, **theotokos** (God-bearer) she reminds us that we, too, are God-bearers in all that we do. She will help us be God-bearers in every way she can. We never journey alone.

May you have enough happiness to keep you happy.

Enough trials to keep you strong.

Enough sorrow to keep you human.

Enough hope to keep you thoughtful.

Enough failure to keep you humble.

Enough success to keep you eager.

Enough friends to give you comfort.

Enough faith and courage in yourself to banish depression.

Enough wealth to meet your daily needs.

Enough determination to make each day a better day than yesterday.

Pray this blessing each day this coming week:

You are the peace of all things calm

You are the place to hide from harm

You are the light that shines in dark

You are the heart's eternal spark

You are the door that's open wide

You are the guest who waits inside

You are the stranger at the door

You are the calling of the poor

You are my Lord and with me still

You are my love, keep me from ill

You are the light, the truth, the way You are my Saviour this very day.

Lord Jesus, You are the one who stands at the gate of the year. Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown. As I go into the darkness, I put my hand into Yours, for that is better to me than any earthly light and safer than a known way! Amen.

Ramblings Sunday 9th January, The Baptism of Jesus, Year C 2022

It is a breath-taking jump from the visit of the Magi to the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan 30 years later. Assimilation is needed. This is partly why we leave the crib up until the presentation of Jesus in the Temple, 2nd February. The dates of these early celebrations were not fixed until the 4th Century. The early understanding of the Epiphany including all the early epiphanies (*manifestations*) of God in one celebration. The Nativity, the coming of the Magi manifesting Jesus as Messiah to the world, the Baptism of Jesus and the changing of the water into wine at the marriage in Cana. Water is a major theme at the birth, in the Baptism and in the marriage feast. In the early days all waters were blessed including rivers and seas because of its major functions of cleansing and giving life. Although clearer in some, these epiphanies manifested the presence of the Trinity but most especially in the Holy Spirit empowering Jesus for mission at his baptism. Jesus is presented to us as priest, prophet and king filled with the presence of the Father. Being made in God's image, in Baptism we become heirs to Jesus, his brothers and sisters, we are empowered to share in his mission to be good news for others. Jesus spent

time in the desert to assimilate his mission to prepare himself for the challenges ahead. The Father and Spirit watched over him. We, too, need time to re-assimilate our baptism and prepare ourselves to enter a New Year accompanied by the Father and the Spirit to meet the unknown Challenges ahead and be people of Good News for 2022.

Lord, you make all things new.

You bring hope alive in our hearts and cause our Spirits to be born again.

Thank you for this new year, for all the potential it holds.

Come and kindle in us a mighty flame so that in our time, many will see the wonders of God

and live forever to praise Your glorious name.

Amen

††††††††††

Due to the ongoing pandemic, there has been some hesitancy with a few different groups regarding their return to hosting the Sunday Coffee Mornings at the present time. However, the Coffee Mornings will resume next **Sunday 16 January 2022** after 10.30am Mass. This will be hosted by the Charity One World Group. We look forward to welcoming everyone back!



We also have some spare dates in 2022. If you wish to host a Coffee Morning, please let Cheryl in the Parish Office know. The dates currently available are: 3 April, 24 April, 29 May, 12 June and July 31.

††††††††††

Last date for Applications for the Sacrament of Confirmation are open please click on the link below for the application. See website for details of application and dates [Confirmation programme](#)





Diary Dates

Sat 8 Jan
Synodal sharing session cancelled
Mon 10 Jan
6pm Beavers & 7.15pm Cubs Scout Hall ††††††††††
7.30pm PPC meeting Hall
Tues 11 Jan
10.30am Coffee Morning Hall ††††††††††
6.45pm Confirmation Session 1 Hall ††††††††††
7pm Scouts Scout Hall
Wed 12 Jan
10.30am Praise Group Hall ††††††††††
11.30am Funeral Mass Robert O'Dell ††††††††††
6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall
Thurs 13 Jan
6.30pm Brownies Scout Hall
Fri 14 Jan
2-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall
Sat 15 Jan
1-3pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall


Other dates

Sunday 16th January, 6.30-7.30 pm in St Mary's Church **Churches Together in Hitchin Theological Society** meeting. The is **Diversity in Unity** and speakers from different Christian traditions will look at our various approaches to faith, asking whether/how we can disagree in a kindly way and remain in fellowship with each other. All are welcome - we have had good attendances at the meetings so far and look forward to another worthwhile meeting.

 Last week we saw that Fr d'Alzon started the Assumptionist with a very small number of novices in December 1845. Today the Assumptionists are proclaiming the gospel in 33 countries across the world. The most recent foundation being in Angola. Please remember the Assumption family in your prayers.

 **AMORIS LAETITIA THE JOY OF LOVE 265** *Love made fruitful - Love and pregnancy*
Each woman shares in 'the mystery of creation, which is renewed with each birth'. St. John Paul II, Catechesis (12.3.80) The Psalmist says: 'You knit me together in my mother's womb.' Psalm 139:13.

Safeguarding reminder EduCare (now part of Tes) leaflets can be downloaded from our website at <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/diocese/safeguarding-in-our-parishes/>

If  have a need for prayer, please contact **Mary** on **07759195487**
a  at her know your prayer intentions

Parish Priest Fr Tom O'Brien 07547 171570	Assistant Priest Fr Euloge Kasine 07424 004647	Parish 01462 459126 E-mail: hitchin@rcdow.org.uk Website: https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/
---	--	--

Parish Administrator Cheryl Saunders cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk }	Pastoral Assistants Robert Hitchcock roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk }	01462 459126 press 4 Trish Bonnett trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk }
---	---	--