



# 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 1981

5<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> February 2022 5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 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 6:1-8](#), [Cor 15:1-11](#), [Luke 5:1-11](#)

**Entrance Antiphon:** O come, let us worship God and bow low before the God who made us, for he is the Lord, our God.

**Psalm:** **Before the angels I will bless you, O Lord.**

**Intercession:** Lord hear us

**Response:** **Lord graciously hear us!**

**Next Week:** [Jer 17:5-8](#), [Cor 15:12.16-20](#), [Luke 6:17.20-26](#)

### Ramblings

Despite the power and influence that St Paul has had and still has on Christian believers, he readily recognises that all of his teaching authority is due to the power and grace of God. Would that all teachers of the faith could do that!

Richard Rohr writes about St Paul:

*There are those who say that Paul is the founder of the Christian religion, a case one could strongly make. Jesus proclaims the Reign of God; Paul gives shape and structure to the implications of that message. He tries to bring Jesus' teaching down to a practical, ethical, pastoral level, so that it can "happen." Paul wants to create a concrete vehicle for the Christ vision. He begins the inevitable organization of the message, the ministry, and the shape of what became Christianity. Whether or not we like it, Christians have to acknowledge and pay attention to Paul.*

Have you ever wondered what St Paul might write or say to the Church today, to us, to you? He would support the ecumenical work for Unity and applaud the progress made developing a much more shared and positive understanding of the faith and of our prayer together, but he would challenge us to go still further and face the difficult questions especially about communion and other questions of theology. He would lambast us about our failure to work harder for the future of our planet, and castigate our deplorable lack of responsibility for God's creation: it is not our creation to be exploited!! He would challenge us equally strongly about our support and care for refugees. You could add many more.

Paul is convinced that all things are possible with the grace and power of God. **But, are YOU??**

### Diary Dates

Mon 7 Feb
12.30pm Funeral Mass of Anne Smith in our church ††††††††††
4pm Funeral service of Klausina Hoffmann at Vale Crematorium, Luton ††††††††††
6pm Beavers & 7.15pm Cubs Scout Hall
Tues 8 Feb
10.30am Coffee Morning Hall ††††††††††
12pm Meditation Hall ††††††††††
6.45pm Confirmation Session 4 Hall ††††††††††
7pm Eucharistic Service – Please join us to consider the readings for next Sunday and share communion. To Zoom click on <a href="#">Eucharistic Service</a> ††††††††††
7pm Scouts Scout Hall
Wed 9 Feb
9.30am Rosary said before Mass in Church ††††††††††
10.30am Praise Group Hall ††††††††††
6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall
Thurs 10 Feb <b>St Scholastica</b>
6.30pm Brownies Scout Hall ††††††††††
6.30pm Meditation EC
Fri 11 Feb
2-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall
Sat 12 Feb
1-3pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall
Sun 13 Feb
Racial Justice Sunday

### Update on covid restrictions

We have received guidance from the Bishops following the Government's stopping of Plan B and we are implementing the following from this weekend.

- Any people displaying symptoms of Covid-19 should continue to stay at home and not participate in acts of worship in church.
- We no longer have to take names for track and trace purposes, you are encouraged to use the QR code and if you find you are positive for Covid having been to Mass earlier please let us know and we will notify all parishioners that this is the case so they may wish to step up Lateral flow testing.
- We hope stewards will be in the porch more in a welcoming role and to encourage the use of hymn books for the 8.30am and 10.30am Masses.
- With the number of covid cases in our area on the rise again we ask for the use of facemasks at Mass keeping in mind our responsibility to protect others as well as ourselves. The Bishops particularly point to the wearing of facemasks at Masses where there is singing.
- All tape has been removed in the church. Parishioners are asked to be mindful of others when you find your seats and check that they are comfortable with you being close to them, otherwise maintain a space between you and them along the pew. It will help if early arrivals to church move to the centre of the pews so others don't have to pass in front of you to get to their seats.
- Communion will still continue under one kind as at present and you are encouraged to receive the host in your hand as best practice.
- We will continue to fog the church after all services and thank those who have been doing this so faithfully over the past 18 months.

Thanks to everyone for following all the instructions so far to ensure we keep everyone in our parish safe.



We are very grateful for all the goods donated by parishioners in recent weeks. There is a labelled container in the porch for packets, tins and toiletries. We also need items which need to be stored in a fridge or freezer and these should be brought to the Scout Hall on Friday afternoons from 1 to 4pm or Saturdays from 12 to 3.30pm.

In particular, we need:

- **Cheese** any variety
- **Butter**
- **Pizzas**

Many thanks for your generosity.

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**Fire Marshalls** 4 years ago we sorted a number of parishioners who would take on the role of Fire Marshall to help with evacuations should it ever be required. We need to revisit who is willing to take on that role and also update our training and we should have a practice evacuation before our next health and safety inspection in May. Are you willing to take on the role of Fire Marshall at the Mass that you attend? It isn't a role you are likely to have to assume other than when we have a practice but it would be good to have people in place. If you are interested let Trish know and she can send you details of what is involved.

Fire Marshall training has been organised in our Deanery on 15th Feb at 7pm at St Peter's Church & hall, Bishops Rise, Hatfield, AL10 9HN. It will be general training but will be useful. If you are able to attend let [Trish](#) know asap she will book places and organise car sharing.

### **Other dates**

**12<sup>th</sup> February 2pm** The annual Mass in honour of Our Lady of Lourdes on the World Day of the Sick will take place in Westminster Cathedral. The decision has been taken that this year the Sacrament of the Sick will not be administered. We are pleased to let you know that the Mass will be livestreamed on the Cathedral's livestream, which can be accessed at [www.westminstercathedral.org.uk](http://www.westminstercathedral.org.uk) or [Cathedral Livestream](#) All are most welcome to attend.

**12<sup>th</sup> February 10am-12pm North Herts Interfaith Forum - tree planting** at Little Hadham. The Forum is providing the trees and gives the following invitation: `There will be hundreds of trees for you to plant in a spirit of good will to the Earth and in the great company of others. Whether you would like to plant a silver birch in memory of someone you've lost, or a rowan just because it looks beautiful, please join us. Tree planting is easy, it's contemplative and it's fun! Come to **Little Hadham Village Hall, SG11 2BP** - free parking.

**13th February, 6.30 to 7.30 pm Churches Together in Hitchin Theological Society** in St Mary's Church. The theme is `The Common Good' and two speakers - Father Tom O'Brien and Rev Elizabeth Bunker - have agreed to lead our thoughts on whether this is a fair description of a `godly' society and, if so, how we can achieve it. This will be the fifth meeting of the society - numbers have risen each time we have met and we look forward to that trend continuing! All welcome

### ***Other items of interest***

**CTH Lent Discussion Groups 2022** begin this year from Ash Wednesday 2 March. Meeting in homes or churches these can work in various ways. Some are set up just for the five weeks of Lent. Some existing groups that meet all year pause for those weeks and use the Lent study guide, invite a few extra people from another church and resume their normal study after. Some meet fortnightly and continue well after Easter. Whatever suits people. The dates of this year's Lent are from 2 March through to Palm Sunday 10 April. Week beginning Monday 11 April is Holy Week. A number of Lent study guides are being researched and will be announced soon. Contact Helen Richardson. If you would like to either host or lead a group please let me know which day of the week you prefer and what time. I look forward to hearing from you.

[helenwrich@btinternet.com](mailto:helenwrich@btinternet.com) 07880 682681

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**Chorister opportunities at Westminster Cathedral Choir School** Every September Westminster Cathedral Choir School welcomes up to six choristers into Year 4. Becoming a chorister offers boys the opportunity of being both in central London and on tour internationally, in one of the world's great choirs. Boys also receive an outstanding education at one of London's leading schools. Choristers board during the School week only, heading home to their families

from Friday afternoon until Sunday morning at 9.45am.

Becoming a chorister at Westminster Cathedral is a wonderful, one-off opportunity to join a thriving choir and school. There are no financial barriers to entry: all boys receive generous scholarships, with bursaries worth up to 100% of fees available on a means-tested basis. We are an inclusive and diverse community; almost all our choristers join us from Catholic primary schools in the maintained sector; the only universal element is a love of singing!

We have two golden tickets to pass onto musical boys or families. Just ask in the parish office if you are interested or contact the Director of Admissions, Miss Lucy Auger at 020 7798 9081.

**CAP Job Club from 9<sup>th</sup> Feb Wednesday 2022 10am-12 noon each week**

If you know of anyone looking for work, we are running an 8-week course. You can just turn up at Zeo Centre Bedford Rd, Hitchin SG5 1HX and receive help and support with job searching.

For more info contact: [ismith@capjobclubs.org](mailto:ismith@capjobclubs.org) mobile 07931833838

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**CAP Money Course** Thursday 10th Feb and 17th Feb at the Zeo Centre in Hitchin and online via zoom, from 7pm to 9pm.

This course is for everyone: young, retired, single, families, those setting up a new home for the first time or struggling to make ends meet at the end of each month.

Contact Minister Leigh Smith for further details or to register by phone 07931 833838 or by email: [ismith@capjobclubs.org](mailto:ismith@capjobclubs.org)

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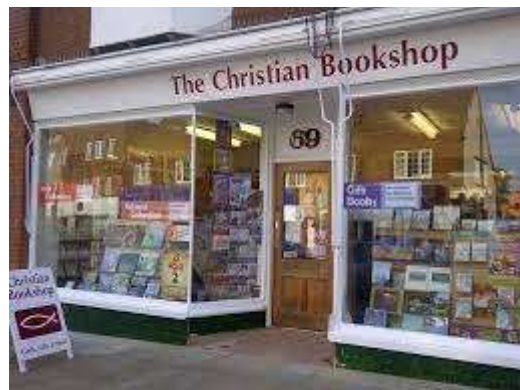
**Letchworth Christian Bookshop is closing.** It

is not clear what is the closing date but you can see the details at the parish website at [Bookshop](#)

There is a sale on so well worth getting yourselves over to 69 Leys Avenue Letchworth one last time to pick up the bargains.




**Letchworth  
Christian  
Bookshop**





Who are Blessed Kamen, Pavel and Josephat ? These three Assumptionist priests were shot in November 1952 accused of working for France and the Vatican. Pope John Paul II beatified them on his visit to Bulgaria. The martyrs were killed during the communist regime. The authorities have admitted that they were innocent. Blessed Kamen, Pavel and Josephat pray for us.

 **AMORIS LAETITIA THE JOY OF LOVE 269** *Love made fruitful - Love and pregnancy* Let us pause to think of the great value of that embryo from the moment of conception. We need to see it with the eyes of God, who always looks beyond mere appearances.

**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 you have a need for prayer, please contact **Mary** on **07759195487** and let her know your prayer intentions

<b>Parish Priest</b> Fr Tom O'Brien 07547 171570	<b>Assistant Priest</b> Fr Euloge Kasine 07424 004647	<b>Parish</b> 01462 459126 E-mail: <a href="mailto:hitchin@rcdow.org.uk">hitchin@rcdow.org.uk</a> Website: <a href="https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/">https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/</a>
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<b>Parish Administrator</b> Cheryl Saunders <a href="mailto:cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk">cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk</a> }	<b>Pastoral Assistants</b> Robert Hitchcock <a href="mailto:roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk">roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk</a> }	Trish Bonnett <a href="mailto:trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk">trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk</a> }	01462 459126 press 4
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**15 April 2022** Supported by the Mayor of London, one hundred Wintershall players bring their electric and moving portrayal of the final days of Jesus to this iconic location in the capital. The 90-minute production is completely free of charge - a gift to Londoners and visitors.

No tickets are required. There is a performance at 12 noon and 3:15 pm. The production is open air with visibility maximised using large screens. There is a realistic interpretation of the crucifixion so parental guidance is advised. British sign language interpretation is provided.

The designated Disabled Seating Area will be on the North Terrace at the top of the stairs in front of the National Gallery. Level access is available from East and West of the Square. All stewards in the Square will be able to assist you and direct you.

**June 21-25 2022** The greatest story of all time is movingly recreated with authentic detail, outstanding quality sound and music. The Life of Christ is a passion play not to be missed. It is both educational and entertaining, amusing and serious.

Watch as hundreds of actors bring the story of Jesus to life in an open-air epic production set in stunning Surrey countryside.

Young and old from all walks of life will be mesmerised as the story unfolds across three captivating acts from 10am to 3.30pm.

The retelling of this evocative story against the peaceful backdrop of the Wintershall grounds has a profound effect on visitors.

Perfect for schools, families, faith groups or theatre lovers, The Life of Christ is highly entertaining and unforgettable. Book your visit now at [Life of Christ](#)

