



# 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. [Livestream](#) is currently suspended

## Newsletter No 1985

5<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> March 2022 – 1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT - 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:** : [Deut 26: 4-10](#), [Romans 10:8-13](#), [Luke 1-13](#)

**Entrance Antiphon:** When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.

**Psalm:** **Be with me, O Lord, in my distress.**

**Intercession:** Lord in your Mercy

**Response:** **Hear our Prayer!**

**Next Week:** [Gen 15:5-12.17-18](#), [Phil 3:17-4:1](#), [Luke 9:28-36](#)

**Ramblings** Having been called to prayer, fasting and almsgiving, we hear Moses reminding the people of everything God has done for them. This is a good way to continue our Lenten journey, reflecting on the many, many ways God has blessed and interceded for us in the past. It highlights not only God's deep love for us but also how much he wants the best for us. St Paul adds that God loves everybody without exception - even those who inflict war - and wants to give life to everyone. *How can we best respond?*

It is not easy to go into a wilderness and endure its hardships without food or water as Jesus did. However, Jesus shows us that hardship, difficulty and suffering forces us to face the real challenges of life and what place we will give to God. Although we do this individually, we are encouraged and supported in the knowledge that many others choose to face the same challenges. Jesus shows us that putting God first is not just for ourselves, it is also for others: be that family, community, parish, town, Church etc. As well as a season of preparation, Lent is also a season of special thanksgiving to God for his blessings. It is a season to discover more deeply and more richly the honour, reverence and dignity with which God loves us. This makes us want to cry out in thanks and praise, and give glory to God. Let us ever more earnestly call upon the **God of Life** to restore peace in Ukraine even as we pray for the many casualties of this tragic conflict.

*Lord, facing the reality of these times, we pray that your hope will fill and strengthen us. Let hope be the important insight we gift to each other.*

*Bring peace to Ukraine quickly. Give us courage to gift your hope to that process, in the name of Christ and in the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

### Prayer diary

Opportunities for communal prayer

- Tuesday** 11.30am **Meditation** Emmanuel Centre  
7pm **Eucharistic Service** Church  
To Zoom click on [Eucharistic Service](#)
- Wednesday** 9.30am **Rosary** Church
- Thursday** 6.30pm **Meditation** Emmanuel Centre
- Friday** 10.30am **Stations of the Cross** Church

*All are welcome for private prayer at any time in the church which is open 8.30am - 7pm*

### Diary Dates

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| <b>Sun 6 March</b>  |
| <b>8.30am&amp;10.30am Coffee after Mass</b><br>+++++  |
| <b>3pm Healing and Wholeness service</b><br>Parishioners who feel the need for these gifts are invited to share in this time of prayer, during which the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing will be celebrated. |
| <b>Mon 7 March</b>  |
| <b>6pm Beavers &amp; 7.15pm Cubs</b> Scout Hall   |
| <b>Tues 8 March</b>   |
| <b>10.30am Coffee Morning</b> Hall<br>+++++   |
| <b>7pm Scouts</b> Scout Hall<br>+++++   |
| <b>7pm Finance Committee Meeting</b> Hall   |
| <b>Wed 9 March</b>  |
| <b>6pm Feed Up Warm Up</b> Scout Hall<br>+++++  |
| <b>7pm RCIA</b> EC  |
| <b>Thurs 10 March</b>   |
| <b>6.30am-10.30pm Bi-Election</b> Hall<br>+++++   |
| <b>6.30pm Brownies</b> Scout Hall   |
| <b>Fri 11 March</b>   |
| <b>2-4pm Hitchin Pantry</b> Scout Hall  |

## Diary Dates cont

**Sat 12 March**

**10.30am Sacrament of Reconciliation** First confession for First Holy Communion programme  
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**1-3pm Hitchin Pantry** Scout Hall



**Coffee and tea** will be available in the hall after Sunday morning masses this weekend provided by Pam Brannigan and Our Lady's Special Support Group (OLSSG) Please come and join us.  
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**Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 14th May 2022 at 3pm.**

The Cardinal is inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their 5th 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) Wedding Anniversary of Catholic Marriage in 2022. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give Cheryl in the Parish Office the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email). **Please submit your details by 31 March 2022.**

### Other items of interest


#### Cardinal's Lenten Appeal 2022


We are very conscious that the impact of Covid-19 is still being felt by everyone. We are extremely thankful for your continued generosity. This year, we celebrate 10 years of Caritas Westminster, the social action agency of the Diocese, working with Parishes to restore hope and enable people to lead a life of dignity and worth. Funds raised in this year's Cardinal's Lenten Appeal will be shared between Parishes and Caritas Westminster. Cardinal Nichols has expressed his gratitude to everyone who

supports the Appeal, with whatever they can afford. Just as a mosaic is made up of many different coloured pieces, each one unique, each person's contribution to the mosaic of hope, will bring light into the lives of people across our Diocese. The effects of the pandemic are making daily life harder for many people. The Church is responding, with thousands of people putting their faith into action by serving those in need, those who feel like they're pushed to the margins of society. Please take a donation envelope from the porch. You can use the QR code to make your donation online using your phone camera to scan. Alternatively, you may donate using the box on the wall by the Church doors marked "Lenten Alms". Thank you for your generosity.  
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**Donations to CAFOD** this Lent will reach families around the world, enabling local experts to provide support to families in times of need or conflict. You can donate in church using a CAFOD envelope or by visiting the CAFOD website: [Lenten Appeal](https://www.cafod.org.uk)  
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**28 March 2022, 6:45pm - 8:15pm** 'Homelessness and the Pandemic: What have we learnt?' Catholic Church of the Immaculate Conception, Mayfair, 114 Mount St, London W1K 3AH, UK The Diocese Of Westminster Justice & Peace and Caritas agencies are hosting a panel discussion to discuss this topic. On the Panel: Central London Catholic Churches Homeless Services Guests, Mick Clarke (CEO, The Passage), Jon Kuhrt, Fr Dominic Robinson SJ, **Elizabeth Wills (Caritas Westminster and our parishioner)** Followed by light refreshments. No need to book. Donations to homeless services invited. Also on livestream at [www.farmstreet.org.uk](https://www.farmstreet.org.uk)

 Fr d'Alzon founded the Oblates of the Assumption to work with the priests in Eastern Europe. The first group of sisters arrived in Bulgaria in 1868 working mainly among poor village children. working in field hospitals during the Balkan wars they are now in 26 countries. Since 2014 they have 3 communities in China.

 **Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 273** *Love made fruitful - love and pregnancy* Sometimes parents feel that their child is not coming at the best time. They need to ask the Lord to heal and strengthen them to accept their child fully and wholeheartedly.

**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

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| <b>Parish Priest</b> Fr Tom O'Brien<br>07547 171570   | <b>Assistant Priest</b> Fr Euloge Kasine<br>07424 004647  | <b>Parish</b> <b>01462 459126</b><br>E-mail: <a href="mailto:hitchin@rcdow.org.uk">hitchin@rcdow.org.uk</a><br>Website: <a href="https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/">https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/</a> |
| <b>Parish Administrator</b> Cheryl Saunders<br><a href="mailto:cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk">cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk</a> } | <b>Pastoral Assistants</b> Robert Hitchcock<br><a href="mailto:roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk">roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk</a> } | Trish Bonnett<br><a href="mailto:trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk">trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk</a> }   |