

# 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 1992

23<sup>rd</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> April 2022 – SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER - Year C

**Prayer for Ukraine:** God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine; for peace and the laying down of weapons. Give comfort to those who fear for tomorrow. Grant wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide those who have power over war and peace. Hold and protect your precious children, at risk and in fear. We pray in the name of Jesus, Prince of Peace. Amen.

**Readings:** Acts 5:12-16, Apoc 1:9-13, 17-19, Jn 20:19-31

**Entrance Antiphon:** Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

**Psalm: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.**

**Intercession:** We pray to the Lord

**Response:** Lord hear us!

**Next Week: Readings** Acts 5:27-32, 40-41, Apoc 5:11-14, Jn 21:1-19

**Ramblings** Reading about the healings in the Acts is why we call this Divine Mercy Sunday. It is through the mercy of God that we are healed both spiritually and physically. It is only through the mercy of God that peace will ever return to Ukraine and overcome all the other wars in the world. Like Thomas, we are asked to believe in what might seem to be impossible, way beyond reason, unreal, and yet we do that in other ways all the time. We tell people we love them we hold them tenderly, we do and say many things to show our love for another, for others, but love is far greater than all that. Experiencing God's love for us is an even greater challenge. Fortunately, God helps us by showing us that it is an experience far beyond words.

The story of St Christopher states that, in his youth, Christopher was gifted in every way except faith. A big man, physically powerful, strong, goodhearted, mellow, and well-liked. He was generous, using his strength to help others. Yet he found it hard to believe in God. For him, the physical was real and everything else seemed unreal. He yearned to believe in God and deeply respected those who did. So, he lived as an honest agnostic, unable to believe in anything he could not physically see, feel, and touch. Yet he loved using his gifts, especially his strength, to serve others. He became a ferryboat operator helping to carry people across a dangerous river. One night, so the legend goes, during a storm, the ferryboat capsized and Christopher plunged into the dark waters to rescue a young child. Carrying that child to the shore, he looked into its face and saw there the face of Christ. After that he believed, for he had seen the face of Christ. The very name, Christopher means *Christ-Bearer*. Your name may not be Christopher but you are a '*Christ-bearer!*'

## 🙏 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

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

## Diary Dates

Sun 24 April **Divine Mercy**

**Coffee Morning after 8.30am Mass only**

Mon 25 April **St Mark**

4pm Fr Euloge's FHC Group UCR

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6pm Beavers & 7.15pm Cubs Scout Hall

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7pm Young Adults Social Church

Tues 26 April **St George's Day**

10.30am Coffee Morning Hall

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7pm FHC Session 8 Hall

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7pm Scouts Scout Hall

Wed 27 April

11.30am CTH Meeting Hall

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2.30pm UCM Meeting Hall

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2.30pm Funeral Helena Pickup RIP

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6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall

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7pm RCIA

Thurs 28 April

1pm Italian Club Hall

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6.30pm Brownies Scout Hall

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7pm Finance Meeting Priest's Lounge

Fri 29 April **St Catherine of Siena**

2-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

## Dates cont

<b>Sat 30 April</b>
<b>1-3pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall</b>
<b>Sat 30 April</b>
<b>1-3pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall</b>

**Many thanks** to all those who supported last week's OWLS coffee morning. £58 was raised for Cafod's Ukrainian Refugee appeal.

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**Hitchin Pantry** - Thanks for all your donation of goods for the pantry, also plants for the roof of the container. Plants may be left beside the green container in the car park where they will be well looked after.

## Other Dates

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April 11 am. Friends Meeting**



**House Peace Garden** Over recent years, Hitchin Quakers have been establishing a Peace Garden around their Meeting House in

Brand Street. Churches Together in Hitchin has contributed a sundial with the words 'Blessed are the peace-makers' and this will be dedicated in a simple ceremony at on. There will be some words about Quaker peace witness, and Father Tom of Our Lady's, the Chair of Churches Together, will offer a blessing. All are welcome to attend, to see the other features of the garden, and to join in a cuppa and chat afterwards. More details from John Richardson on 07505 426876.

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**15th May 2022 \*Big Green Hike\*** For the first time



ever, many of the UK's nature and environmental charities are joining together to encourage us all to walk to raise money for the green stuff. This event is being promoted by these charities: You can pick the environmental cause you want to fundraise for.

Each of The Big Green Hike partner organisations have unique charitable objectives, but they share the same overall goal: /to protect and restore our natural environment/. You choose the route. You choose the distance. You choose the cause that's closest to your heart.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-big-green-hike-2022-registration-292446875477> Maybe the confirmation group could take part and be sponsored by the parish. \*#TheBigGreenHike\*

## Other items of interest

**Zeo** is taking a group of young people to Satellite



Youth Festival this summer and we wondering if anyone had some stuff that would be helpful for camping with

big groups e.g. particularly a marquee/s for us to eat in etc. There's 30 of us going so far, so any help appreciated AND if you'd love to join us with some of your young people then come back to me as we'd love it to be a group of young people across churches. Any help appreciated. Many thanks,

Matt.

([matt.summerfield@zeochurch.com](mailto:matt.summerfield@zeochurch.com))

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**If you want to stay on top of what is going on in the parish** you can be first to see new entries on the parish website. Go to the home page, scroll down and towards the bottom on the right hand side you can sign up for email alerts. Click on the link , add your name and email address and you are all signed up. (please note you do not get an alert every time a change is made to the website. We have to send you an alert if it is an event or update of particular interest)

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**Red Boxes 2021** In 2021, Hitchin Parish raised



**£1009.00** through our Red Boxes and donations to Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries. Our missionary community here at Hitchin Parish is

part of a worldwide network of people supporting missionaries through prayer and financial assistance. The founder of this network (APF/Missio), Pauline Jaricot, will be beatified on 22 May this year. This remarkable lay woman's life was marked by intense suffering and great trust in God. Pauline's life helps us to see how every prayer, however short, and every contribution, however small, is valued by God and can transform the world for the better. Thank you for being a part of Pauline's legacy. Visit [mission.org.uk](http://mission.org.uk) to find out more about Pauline, and how your support of Missio changes lives for the better.

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The Passage, a Catholic charity working with homeless people is raising funds through the Big

Give a matched giving scheme until 12 noon on Monday 9 May. Every £1 donated online before 12 noon on Monday 9 May makes £2 and £2.25 if you are a taxpayer through Gift Aid. Please visit: <https://bit.ly/BigGiveAprilMay22> to support the campaign. The campaign 'It takes more than a house to make a home' focuses on the services we provide to people who have been homeless in their journey to being happily settled in a new home. The Passage would be very grateful for your support. For questions about the campaign or assistance making a donation please ring 020 7592 1856.



Don't forget that whenever you buy anything online - from your weekly shop to your annual holiday - you could be raising a free donation for Our Lady's RC Church Hitchin. You may not be able to increase your weekly offering and here is a way to help raise income for the church at NO extra cost to you. There are nearly 3,000 retailers including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, the train line and Sainsbury's, who will donate a percentage of the amount you spend to Our Lady's RC Church Hitchin to say thank you for shopping with them. It's really simple, and doesn't cost you anything.

All you have to do is:

1. Go to <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ourlady srchitchin>
2. Sign up for free
3. Get shopping- your donations will be collected by Easyfundraising and automatically sent to our Lady's RC Church Hitchin. Go onto parish website for further details. Thank you for your support!

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Don't forget to continue to recycle and raise money for good causes. If you haven't already taken one please grab a poster with all the details from the porch and put it up where it will remind you to bring things when you come to church. Please note re collection of old pens that pencils and crayons cannot go into this collection but that Diapalante collects these items for sending to needy families so please bring them in whenever the One World Group or Diapalante have a coffee morning.



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Are you the sort of person who notices what needs to be done? Do you ever wish you could be more active during Mass? Would you like to help the congregation and the priest in an important and unique task?

Why not join our altar servers?

You would be fully trained. You would learn about why things are done the way they are during the Mass and you would work as part of a team, assisting the priest in celebrating the Mass. It would be a regular commitment and your times of service would be on a rota, so you need to be reliable. Please think about helping to make our Mass celebrations really good! We need you! If you have made your first communion and want to help speak to a pastoral assistant, Priest or MC after Mass.

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**Choir members** needed If you are willing to sing in praise of Our Lord come and join us. You need to be available at 8-9pm on a Tuesday evening for the practices and the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month at the 10.30 Mass. We have a particular need for male bass voices. If you think you could help the parish in this way and have some great fun at the same time please speak to Trish or Catherine Muncaster or email [trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk)



**Love of the Church.** We also love the Church because Christ loved her. Our love of the Church broadens our love of Christ to the dimensions of the whole world. Fr d'Alzon insisted that we be deeply attached and totally dedicated to the Church.



**Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 280** *Love made fruitful - love and pregnancy*  
Try to experience this serene excitement amid all your many concerns, and ask the Lord to preserve your joy, so that you can pass it on to your child.

**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>	FrTom O'Brien 07547 171570	<b>Assista nt Priest</b>	Fr Euloge Kasine 07424 004647	<b>Parish 01462 459126</b> 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>
<b>Parish Administrator</b>	Cheryl Saunders		<a href="mailto:cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk">cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk</a> }	
<b>Pastoral Assistants</b>	Robert Hitchcock Trish Bonnett		<a href="mailto:roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk">roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk</a> } 01462 459126 press 4 <a href="mailto:trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk">trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk</a> }	