



# 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 1996

21<sup>st</sup> May – 28<sup>th</sup> May 2022 – SIXTH 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 15:1-2,22-29, Apoc 21:10-14,22-23, Jn 14:23-29

**Entrance Antiphon:** Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth: The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

**Psalm: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. Alleluia!**




**Intercession:** Lord hear us

**Response:** Lord graciously hear us!

**Next Week: Readings:** Acts 7:55-60, Apoc 22:12-14,16,17,20, John 17:20-26

**Ramblings** The challenge concerning circumcision and being a Christian in the first reading reminds us of a continual challenge, namely: Is salvation free or not? The response to this challenge can meet with contradictory responses and for good reason. Everybody believes that Jesus died and rose again to save us from the destructiveness of sin and an eternal death cut off from God. Jesus did this freely and offers salvation to us without condition - unless believing and accepting is a condition. In other words, the grace of God is free and for everyone without exception. The sacraments offered are not only free but God desires to fill us with their graces so as to help us find true fulfilment with God both in this life and the next. In its wisdom and love of the faithful, the Church has offered us programmes to help us understand better the graces God offers us so as to benefit more fully from the graces given. After all it makes no sense to give gifts without providing an understanding of how to use them and an awareness of their potential. The danger is to turn these programmes into tests that the candidates have to pass through in order to receive the gifts that God offers without condition! Children in Primary School would never have initially chosen to go there and initiation can be difficult for some but, very quickly, children discover the joys of learning and enjoy the experience and the friendships they make. They also learn how to benefit from the hard lessons of life they sometimes face. During the pandemic, when schools were closed, many children missed being with their friends and the joys only school can offer. The challenge this week, if you are prepared to accept it, is *“What does salvation mean to you!”* *“What does being saved mean.”* These questions do not self-destruct!!!

## Diary Dates

<b>Sun 22 May</b>	
	<b>Coffee Morning</b> after 8.30am and 10.30am Masses in aid of <b>Diapalante</b> .
<b>Mon 23 May</b>	
<b>6pm Beavers &amp; 7.15pm Cubs Scout Hall</b>	
<b>Tuesday 24 May</b>	
<b>No 10am Mass</b> or coffee because of funeral. +++++	
	<b>12 noon Funeral Mary Skeet RIP This is the Mass of the day</b> and followed by refreshments in the hall. All are welcome. +++++
<b>7pm Scouts Scout Hall</b> +++++	
<b>7pm FHC Session 9 Hall</b> +++++	
<b>7.50pm Choir practice Church</b> 	
<b>Wed 25 May St Bede</b>	
<b>10.30am UCM Meeting Hall</b> +++++	
<b>6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall</b> +++++	
<b>7pm RCIA EC</b>	
<b>Thurs 26 May Ascension</b>	
<b>Masses today are 7.30am, 10am( Our Lady's School will be attending this Mass) and 7.30pm</b> +++++	
<b>1pm Italian Club Hall</b> +++++	
<b>6.30pm Brownies Scout Hut</b>	
<b>Fri 27 May St Augustine of Canterbury</b>	
	<b>12.15pm Funeral Elizabeth Cassidy RIP</b> In accordance with the family's tradition, the body will rest in Church overnight on Thursday. This means that the casket will be in the Church during the 10am Mass today. May she rest in peace and rise in glory. May the Lord comfort her family. +++++
<b>2-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall</b>	
<b>Sat 28 May</b>	
<b>1-3pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall</b>	



## Prayer diary

**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*



**This Sunday's 10.30 Mass** is a children's Mass with a theme of **PEACE**. Children are encouraged to bring a picture or symbol of peace to show during the Mass when Br Adam and Fr Tom lead their reflection.

**Offertory Collections** taken during Mass will be resumed this weekend but given that the pandemic is very much still a risk, "passing the plate" during Mass will be delayed. For the time being, a "retiring" collection using baskets will be re-introduced as Parishioners exit the Church. Many thanks, as always, for your very generous donations.

**What: Parish Pals** A young adults social (18-30)  
**When: Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm**  
**Where:** Our Lady's Church Hitchin  
**Why:** Meet like minded people and have a moment to connect with God

Many thanks to all who supported the One World/Live Simply Coffee Morning which raised £48. This will be given to the local charity "Herts Young Homeless". This Sunday proceeds will go to support Diapalante's education centre in Senegal. Cakes, new season's preserves, religious cards and bric a brac will also be on sale.



We have a couple of spaces available to host a Coffee Morning after Masses on Sunday **29 May** and Sunday **12 June**. Please contact Trish or Cheryl if you would like to host one or both of these dates.

We pray for **Alexander Rashkov** whose funeral is on **Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2022 at 10am**. May he rest in peace and rise in glory and may the Lord comfort his family.

For those who wish to support **Christine Laubin** who is in the US for her father's funeral, St Christopher's Church has kindly organised live streaming for Norb's Mass on 21<sup>st</sup> May at 10am EST (**3pm in UK**) for anyone who can't come but would like to be with her as they pray for

him. There will also be a recording available later. <https://youtu.be/EU5e8z2TyWI>

The **Foodbank** will be closed on Friday 3 June 2022, the Queen's Jubilee. It will be open on Tuesday 31 May and again on Tuesday 7 June.



Mrs Sarah Snowball has been appointed as the new Head Teacher for Our Lady School as from 1st September 2022. We wish her and the School all the very best for their future and look forward to closer links being developed with the parish.

**The Healing and Wholeness service** was due to be held on Sunday June 5<sup>th</sup> but as this is the Jubilee weekend we have cancelled this but we ask that if you have need for prayer for yourself or others please email Trish or contact **Mary** on **07759195487** and the team will be spending sometime that weekend in prayer for your needs. If you wish to have prayer with a member of the Healing after a Mass please let Mary know and she will arrange for a member of the team to meet up with you.



**Our next Healing and Wholeness service will be on Sunday September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3pm.**

**Health and Safety Inspection** We had our annual inspection on Thursday and spent 4½ hours reviewing paperwork and looking at all aspects of the property. Many people in the parish have contributed a great deal of time and energy to keep this parish safe and we are exceedingly grateful. The results were very positive as Chris from Precision writes: *Please pass on my thanks everyone for their time in reviewing the reports and policies with me and for the very positive attitude to all matters concerning safety within your Parish. The standards continue to improve and your remain one of the very few Parishes without any RED issues in your report.*



**Other items of interest**  
**How can the Church support Ukrainian Refugees?** We're all horrified at the number of refugees multiplying through war and famine. We can't individually help everyone but we can look at what God has put in our hands and the people he's put in our path.  
 Zeo Church has two pastors in Moldova, Leo and Samantha Sandu, who have been supporting refugees from Ukraine since the beginning of the invasion. Some of them we've helped to

come to the UK (specifically Hitchin), finding sponsors to host them. Trish & Tim Bonnett are hosting a mother and child arriving this week through the help of Samantha. But the demand is growing and we're looking to find more people willing and able to support. Would you be interested in hosting, befriending or supporting in some way?

On Sunday 22nd May, John and Rosemary Draper are hosting a 4pm Zoom call as a bit of Q&A/Information sharing for any interested parties. John and Rosemary have been hosting a Ukrainian family for a few weeks now and will share their experiences, as well as the ways people can get involved.

The details of the meeting can be found at the link below and when people sign up they'll get the zoom code.

<https://zeo.churchsuite.com/events/woi4egdh>

I know that many of us may already be doing things. Together we can help each other to ensure our new Ukrainian friends get a truly outstanding welcome from the Christian community in our town.

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**A message from Pam Brannigan** Friends for many years we have benefited from the use of the parish hall for the Gateway Club. It is no

exaggeration to say that without this support the club would have closed many years ago. Your generosity has enabled a group of very vulnerable adults to have a pleasant outing on alternate Saturday afternoons for over thirty years. On their behalf and that of the local Mencap group I would like to thank you most sincerely for all you have done for us.

However, our local society will be closing later this year along with the Gateway Club. Covid has led to the deaths of several members and this, along with the absence of new committee members has indicated that this is the right time to close. While this is a source of regret as we have been in operation for around fifty years, there are a number of relatively new local groups which support adults with a learning disability including Our Lady's Special Support Group. Our helpers continue to take part in other local initiatives. Finally I would like to say that the way our parish supports and enriches our local community is a wonderful demonstration of Jesus' command to 'Love one another as I have loved you.'

**Thanks also go to Pam for her amazing support of this Club in our parish.**

## The Life of Christ



The Life of Christ is back after a 2 year break and will be performed from 21-25 June 2022 at the beautiful Wintershall Estate with its lakes and woodlands. Trish will be in it again playing a number of different roles. This is James Burke-Dunsmore's last time playing the role of Jesus so it's not to be missed. The play has some new scenes which we are sure you will enjoy but we will still finish promptly. Please tell your local schools and friends to come and join us. Click here to [Please Book Now](#)

If you can help in anyway, they are looking for:

- New cast members, no experience needed.
- 3 babies to take part as baby Jesus, aged 3-9 months in late June.
- Volunteers to help and guide the audience
- Assistant Stage Managers - great for over 16's for their CV's and if interested in drama. They have great fun.

[Email us](#) to join in.

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Parishioners Mario and Oyin are looking for someone to clean/iron every other week for 5-6 hours or so and babysitting occasionally just in case of an emergency or if they want to go out for dinner one day. Please contact [mario.ilde.v@gmail.com](mailto:mario.ilde.v@gmail.com) if you are able to help.

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At the Anne Robson Trust you will find a small team of people who are passionate about providing company and comfort to people at the end of their lives, and their families. The work they do has a direct impact on how people die and how families feel equipped and are able support their dying relatives. They have two vacancies currently. Click on [Vacancies](#) for details.



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**The paradox of abundance** Over 800 million people go hungry each day. Yet the world produces over 4 billion tonnes of food and we

only need 3.7 billion tonnes to feed everyone. From all this food produced, a third is wasted. St John Paul II called this 'the paradox of abundance.' Clearly the currently global food system is not working. But as Pope Francis said, "Each of us has a role to play in transforming food systems for the benefit of people and the planet." Let's respond to his call! CAFOD's new campaign is called Fix the Food System. See [www.cafod.org.uk/food](http://www.cafod.org.uk/food) for more information, including an invitation for parish groups to learn about the impact of our food with our Fix the Food System: a 7-station journey resource.



**Message from Deacon Roger Carr-Jones** – Last Saturday we celebrated our Mass of Thanksgiving for Matrimony, attended by well over 430 couples from 144 parishes, representing all 22 Deaneries. It was good to be back together again. Each couple who joined us in the cathedral are heralds of married love, a beautiful and demanding vocation, each of which tells a unique story. Through them, the good news of married love and the quietly lived out vocation of that love, will gleam, glisten and sparkle. Now that is something to celebrate.

# IT ALWAYS HELPS TO TALK

Catholic Listeners is a new telephone helpline, based at Farm Street Church, specifically created to listen to the troubled or concerned – especially those wishing to reconnect with their faith.

Operating three days a week from 4pm to 7pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays, you'll find compassionate, confidential, experienced, dedicated, non-judgemental listeners.

And calls are free to the helpline.

**0800 448 0704**

or email Ade on [catholiclisteners@gmail.com](mailto:catholiclisteners@gmail.com)

  
**Catholic listeners**  
compassionate confidential telephone faith helpline




A DIocese OF WESTMINSTER INITIATIVE & PART OF **LAMBETH** OFFERING A WAY BACK TO THE CATHOLIC FAITH

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We have a number of things we need help with in the parish. If you can help with any of the following please let Trish know.

- Gardening
- Flower arranging
- Singing in choir
- Leading Children's liturgy
- Taking up the gifts at the 10.30 Mass
- Looking after the parish library
- Dewaxing the carpet

We would be so grateful if you could help with even one of these important tasks.

	Faith in Fr d'Alzons words calls for humility. Not a false humility which pretends to be weak and unable to do anything but humility which helps us be aware of our abilities and weaker points so that gifts and talents may be used to their full.
	<b>Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 284</b> <i>Love made fruitful - The love of a mother and a father</i> Every child has a right to receive love from a mother and a father; both are necessary for a child's integral and harmonious development
<b>Safeguarding reminder</b> EduCare (now part of Tes) leaflets can be downloaded from our website at <a href="https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/diocese/safeguarding-in-our-parishes/">https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/diocese/safeguarding-in-our-parishes/</a>	
	If you have a need for prayer, please contact <b>Mary</b> on <b>07759195487</b> and let her know your prayer intentions
<b>Parish Priest</b> FrTom O'Brien 07547 171570 <b>Parish Tel no</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>
<b>Parish Administrator</b> Cheryl Saunders <b>Pastoral Assistants</b> Robert Hitchcock Trish Bonnett	<a href="mailto:cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk">cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk</a> } <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> }