



# 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 2013

17<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> September 2022 – 25<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 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:** Amos 8:4-7, 1Tim 2:1-8, Luke 16:1-11

**Entrance Antiphon:** I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

**Psalm: Praise the Lord, who raises the poor.**

**Intercession:** We pray to the Lord

**Response: Lord, hear us!**

**Next Week: Readings:** Amos 6:1-4-7, 1Tim 6:11-16, Luke 16:19-31

**Ramblings** Our readings speak of *honesty and integrity and decency* as though they were written for Queen Elizabeth. The psalm encourages leaders to be *good to all their people and protect those who are vulnerable, assuring that they are safe and treated decently*. The Queen read these scriptures and lived by them faithfully throughout her life. It is acknowledged that she did not always act well and made some bad decisions but she had the humility to acknowledge her mistakes and to learn from them. She recognised that her position and role were truly a gift from God and that God would help and guide her to be a good leader, taking Jesus as her example.

**Jane Hartley**, the U.S. ambassador to the U.K. said: *"I was so taken personally by not only how substantive she was, because she cared deeply about policy and she cared deeply about what was happening in the world, but her sense of warmth and her sense of caring just came through immediately. She represented the best of what a public servant is, duty and responsibility, putting your country first and she did it for 70 years. It's truly remarkable."*

**Chief Rabbi** of the United Kingdom Ephraim Mirvis praised the queen, saying she *"embodied the most noble values of British society. Throughout her extraordinary reign, she conducted herself with grace, dignity and humility and was a global role model for distinguished leadership and selfless devotion to society. In an ever-changing world, she was a rock of stability and a champion of timeless values. He applauded her "warm relationship" with the Jewish community, adding that she had a particular commitment to interfaith relations and Holocaust memorial.*

**Archbishop Anastasios** of Tirana said *"Dignity, honesty, wisdom were the wonderful fruits of Queen Elizabeth II's character, having their roots in love, humility, and sincere faith in Christ. She remains a paradigm of every type of leadership"*.

## Diary Dates

<b>Sun 18 Sept</b>	
	The <b>One World/Live Simply</b> coffee morning after 8.30 and 10.30 Sunday morning Mass will be in aid of 'Herts Welcomes Refugees' a group which provides support for people settling in our community. Cakes, preserves, books will be on sale as well as religious cards and artefacts
<b>Monday 19 Sept</b>	
<b>6pm Beavers &amp; 7.15pm Cubs</b> Scout Hall	
<b>Tuesday 20 Sept</b>	
<b>Sts Andrew Kim Taegon &amp; Paul Chong Hasang</b>	
<b>10.30am Coffee Morning</b> Hall *****	
<b>7pm Scouts</b> Scout Hall	
<b>Wed 21 Sept St Matthew</b> <b>International Day of Peace</b>	
<b>6pm Feed Up Warm Up</b> Scout Hall *****	
<b>7pm RCIA</b> EC	
<b>Thurs 22 Sept</b>	
<b>1pm Italian Club</b> Hall *****	
<b>6.30pm Brownies</b> Scout Hall	
<b>Fri 23 Sept St Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)</b>	
<b>2-4pm Hitchin Pantry</b> Scout Hall *****	
<b>7pm Clothes Swap</b> Event Hall	
<b>Sat 24 Sept Our Lady of Walsingham</b>	
<b>1-3pm Hitchin Pantry</b> Scout Hall	



## Prayer diary

**Tuesday 11.30am Meditation** Emmanuel Centre  
**7pm Eucharistic Service** Church  
To Zoom click on [Eucharistic Service](#)

**Wednesday 9.30am Rosary** Church  
**2pm Charismatic Prayer** 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*

**Next Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September is World Migrant and Refugee day.** The 10.30 Mass is a children’s Mass so this is the theme for the Mass. Children are invited to bring pictures or items that may relate to this topic to show at the Mass during the homily. Please invite any families you may know who are refugees living in the area, to come to this Mass. There will be resources in the porch for adults and children for you to use in your home.

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**Parish Audit** The Parish Audit was carried out by the Diocese on 10/11 August 2022 and we are delighted to report, with special thanks to David Wilson and the Finance committee, Cheryl, Trish and John (Scott) that we achieved what the Auditor described as “a fantastic Compliant score of 90%”. We were fully Compliant in the areas of Property Management, Health & Safety, Safeguarding and Data Protection and in the important and challenging areas of Accounting Records and Accounting Transactions (where the Audit was particularly searching). Also, we scored 95% for Cash Management and 96% for our management of Planned Giving and Gift Aid both areas where other Parishes often have problems

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**Our Lady Catholic Primary School Ofsted Report 2022** Our Lady School was inspected in July 2022 Her Majesty’s inspector and team found the school to be ‘Good’ across all categories in the inspection framework.



We are all delighted that the hard work undertaken by the Our Lady School staff, children and community has been recognised, including the comments regarding positive relationships and our friendly and welcoming school, high expectations that the children live up to these and happy, polite and respectful pupils that enjoy learning. The report itself is very detailed and highlights the many elements of effective provision at Our Lady

School as well as the next steps needed to take the school forward. What is satisfying is that the next steps were already identified by leaders and will be a priority in our school development plan for this academic year. For full details go to [Ofsted Report](#)

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**Parish Mission Statement** The Pastoral Parish Council have been considering a Mission Statement for the parish, to define what we aim to do as a parish and guide us in our decision making. After much discussion we have agreed on the following text and we ask all parishioners to consider this statement. If you have any suggestions for amendments please let [Trish Bonnett](#) know by 30<sup>th</sup> October.

*Our mission in the Church, is to:  
live simply, peacefully and sustainably;  
be attentive to the call of the Holy Spirit;  
support the poor and marginalised;  
be a source of comfort to those in need  
and seek out those distanced from the Lord.  
We strive to strengthen the bonds of families and friendship through our ministries, outreach and liturgies.  
We ask the Lord's guidance to make us mindful of our duty to protect the earth and everything he has created and make us joyful messengers of His Kingdom.*



## SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

### First Reconciliation and Holy Communion programme 2023

Application forms for next year's FHC programme is now available. Please note: if your child was baptised outside of the parish then you will need to upload a copy of their certificate.

The first parents meeting details:

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> September 7-8.30pm**

Please arrive from 6.45 to allow a prompt start (tea and coffee will be served). If you have child care issues, then children are welcome to join.

Applications and more details can be found on the following: [First Eucharist](#)

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**Baptism Preparation Course** the next course will be on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2022 10-11.30am in the Church Hall. [Register here](#)

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The next **Marriage Preparation Course** will take place in the church hall on **Saturday 29 October 2022, 9am to 5pm**. Anyone considering marriage in the church in 2023 should book onto this course. To book a place please email [catholicmarriageprep@outlook.com](mailto:catholicmarriageprep@outlook.com) with your full names if interested. Many thanks.

**A reminder that we have a new stream to our recycling Nestlé**

Confectionary recycling:

We are collecting: **All brands** of plastic chocolate and sweet pouches and bags, multipack wrappers, individual chocolate wrappers.

**(Waste NOT accepted: No Aluminium foil, no paper and no card wrappers, no tins, no trays, no tubs)**

These items should be placed in the same bin as the biscuits and cake wrappers.



**Other Dates**



In the last hour of the event the host will be showing people how to practice simple mending techniques, encouraging the mending of our

clothes. There will be scraps of fabric for people to practice on but please do bring anything with a hole in or small tear for example. **Link to invitation [Clothes Swap & Stitch](#)**




**John Henry Newman School Open evening** The school warmly invites parents of Year 6 pupils to an Open Evening on **Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September**, from 5.30 – 8.30pm.


Prospectuses and Application Forms will be available on the evening and there will be two opportunities at 6.30pm and 7.30pm to attend the Headteacher's address in the Sports Hall. The last tour will be at 7pm and the school will close to visitors once the final Headteacher's address starts at 7.30pm. There will be opportunities for parents to view the School following this Open Evening.

**Other items of interest**


**State Funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II** Christchurch will be open on Monday 19th September for anyone from the area to come and watch the live broadcast of the Queen's funeral with others from the community. The church will be open from 10am until 1pm. Refreshments will also be served. If you would like to share in this significant event with others then you will be very welcome. The church is located on Bedford Road, next to the Health Centre and across the road from Waitrose. There is a car park adjacent to the church.

 Fr d'Alzon found the need for sisters to work in Eastern Europe with the priests. His recruits were mainly young women from the rather rough area of the Cevennes who would be willing to work in similar areas of Bulgaria. The Oblates of the Assumption are very active today in our African and Asian apostolate.

**Fr Andrew encourages us to pray for the Beatification of Fr d'Alzon**  
O Lord Jesus Christ who rule heaven and earth it was by your will that Fr Emmanuel d'Alzon was born into the world, to extend your kingdom here below. to come to the defence of your rights and to found a religious family committed to serving you. We humbly ask your to reward your servant with due honour and as a sign of the glory you wish to make known in him to grant us the favours we ask of you. Amen

 **Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 301** *Love made fruitful - An expanding fruitfulness*  
Those who accept the challenge of adopting and accepting someone unconditionally and gratuitously become channels of God's love

**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	E-mail: <a href="mailto:hitchin@rcdow.org.uk">hitchin@rcdow.org.uk</a>
<b>Parish Tel no</b>	01462 459126	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> }



## SAINT BERNADETTE RELIC TOUR 2022

*"I shall do everything for heaven, my true home." – St Bernadette*

St Joseph's Church, Bedwell Crescent, STEVENAGE SG1 1NJ

17-18 OCTOBER 2022

### MONDAY 17 OCTOBER

- 1pm **Welcoming Ceremony**  
*Relics arrive in Bedwell*
- 2pm **Rosary**  
*joyful Mysteries led by the Syro-Malabar community*
- 3pm **Liturgy of Water & Prayers for Healing**
- 5pm **Mass:** Fr Andrew Gallagher  
*Assistant Director for the Westminster Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes*
- 5.45pm **Angelus & Rosary**  
*Luminous Mysteries led by the Filipina community*
- 7pm **Solemn Mass:**  
**Bishop Paul McAleenan**  
*Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster*
- then **Outdoor procession**

- 9pm **Meditation**  
*Words of St Bernadette & quiet music*
- 10pm **Mass:** Fr Nigel Woollen  
*Assistant Priest, Stevenage*
- 10.45pm **Rosary**  
*Glorious Mysteries*
- 12 midnight **Church closes**

### TUESDAY 18 OCTOBER

- 6am **Church opens**
- 6.30 **Angelus & Rosary**  
*Sorrowful Mysteries*
- 7am **Closing Mass:**  
**Fr Norbert Fernandes**  
*Dean of Stevenage*
- 7.45am **Pilgrim blessing**
- 8.15am **Relics depart from Bedwell**