



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 2026

17th – 24th December 2022 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - Year A

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: [Is 7:10-14](#), [Romans 1:1-7](#) [Matt 1:18-24](#)

Entrance Antiphon: Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour
Psalm: **Let the Lord enter! He is the king of glory.**
Intercession: Lord in your Mercy
Response: **Hear our Prayer!**

Next Week: [Isaiah 9:1-7](#) [Titus 2:11-14](#) [Luke 2:1-14](#)

Ramblings Pope Benedict XVI presented St. Joseph as a model of recollection. Joseph's silence in the Gospel does not demonstrate an empty interior but rather the fullness of faith that he carries in his heart. Silence is often lacking in a noisy world which does not favour recollection or listening to the voice of God. In preparing for Christmas, let us cultivate interior recollection so as to receive and keep Jesus. Let our silence be permeated with contemplation of the mystery of God and an openness to the divine will. Let our silence be interwoven with constant prayer, a prayer of blessing, of adoration of his holy will and of boundless confidence in his providence:-

Advent: Macrina Wiederkehr, OSB.

Climbing down through the stars to the stars on earth

The divine face meshing with the human
Heaven touching earth. We call it Incarnation!

You came as a star led by a star
through the stars to the stars

We never knew we were stars until you came.

O God, we welcome you

We lovingly share our frail human flesh and our
starry planet with you

We wrap you in our flesh

We embrace you with joy as you reach out your
hands and your heart to become one of us.

It was Mary who first wrapped you in our human
flesh

Her womb, the first altar consecrated from all
eternity to be your first earthly home.

How holy is this earth!

Your glory streamed through our lives
like stars the day you leaned from heaven


You came to help us see our glory

Following the star we lean into your glory

In your light, we see the light. We never knew we
were stars until you came.

Diary Dates

Sun 18 Dec

Coffee Morning after 8.30am and 10.30am
Masses' This Sunday's One World
 Live Simply coffee morning will be in
aid of Baldock and Ashwell Action Aid
Ukraine, a local group which supports refugees.
Cakes, preserves and books will also be on sale.
All are welcome.

**The Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered
after 10am Mass each day this week
in the Priest's parlour**

Monday 19 Dec

6pm Beavers & 7.15pm Cubs Scout Hall

Tuesday 20 Dec

10.30am "Coffee Chat" Hall

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2pm Craft Circle LCR

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7pm Scouts Scout Hall

Wed 21 Dec

6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall

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7pm RCIA EC

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7pm Advent Reconciliation Service with 2
priests available to hear confessions.

Thurs 22 Dec

1pm Italian Club Hall

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6.30pm Brownies Scout Hall

Fri 23 Dec

10am-5pm Warm Spaces Hall

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2-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

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2.30pm Scripture with Fr Andrew LCR

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6.30pm Carol Service followed by refreshments
in the hall

Sat 24 Dec

2-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall



 **Prayer diary** 

Opportunities for communal prayer

- Tuesday 11.30am Meditation** Emmanuel Centre
 - 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*



Please pick up a Christmas service sheet from the porch for information about all services over the next two weeks. Also available on the parish website homepage.

Kiss Coffee Morning - a huge thank you to all those who prepared, baked and helped at last Sunday's Kiss Coffee morning which **raised £130.00** – importantly, this would not have been possible without the support of our Parish Community who not only attended, but were actively involved in the raffle, tidying up and clearing away tables. A lovely response! Thank you - you are all amazing!

Minutes secretary needed for Pastoral parish council – Are you willing to take minutes at the meetings (2 hours in the evening 6 times /year) and type up and distribute them? First meeting on 9th January. Please let Trish know if you can help.

A grand total of **£633.00** was donated to Fr Adams for a gift on his Ordination. A huge thank you to all our Parishioners who contributed. Once Fr Adams has chosen a gift, he will share details of this with us all. **Thank you again for your continued generosity.**



Terracycle recycling funds raised for charity 1st MAY 2022- 30th OCTOBER 2022: Total = £ 663.52

Biscuit&Cakes/Bakery and Wax Wrap: **£ 102.00** (Parish hardship Fund)

Pens /Colgate: **£83.00** (Helping Herts Homeless)

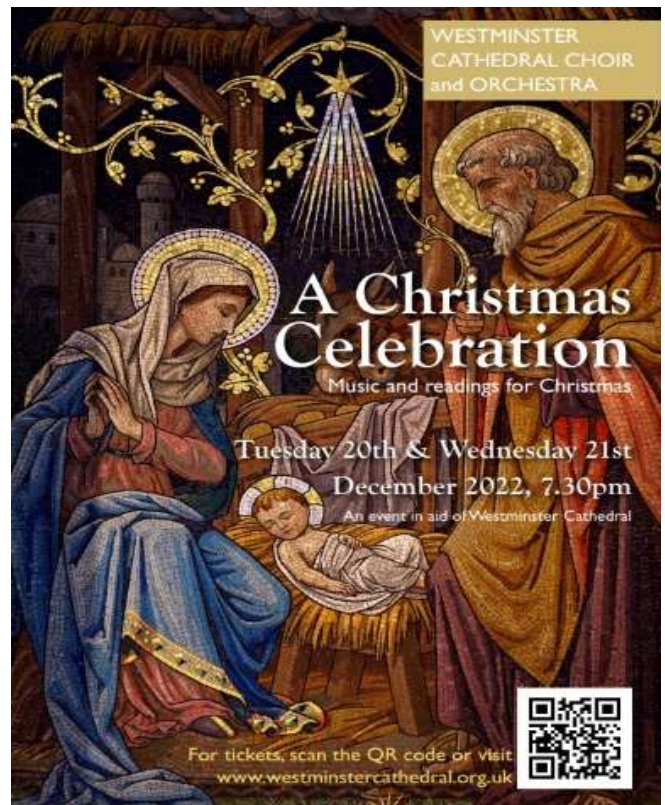
Pringles /KP Crisps & Nuts: **£465.00**


(Marine Conservation Society)


Coffee pouches/Marigolds/R&B Homecare packaging: **£ 13.50** (PHASE) as this value is less than the **£20.00** minimum, it is being held back until next time. **A BIG Thank You** to everyone that have shared this recycling journey with us, and contribute their packaging to be recycled, to be re-purposed, and kept out of landfill sites or an incineration fate.

Due to the closure of the Pet food packaging and the Tassimo/L'Or/Kenco waste schemes last year, the funds raised for PHASE are reduced to a tiny fraction of what was previously achieved, despite taking on various other waste streams, they are not yet well supported. But we look forward to see the future support from the community for the remaining and new waste streams now on offer.


Other Dates



 For Assumptionists Christmas Day is particularly important. On December 25th 1850 the bishop of Nimes gave Fr d'Alzon and his infant Congregation permission to make vows. Fr d'Alzon made his vows, of poverty, chastity and obedience, at the midnight mass and then received those of his followers.

 **Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 314** *Love made fruitful - Discerning the Body*
The Eucharist demands that we be members of the one body of the Church. To 'discern' the body of the Lord both in the sacramental signs and in the community at large

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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