



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 2027

24th December – 31st December 2022 – THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD - 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: Isaiah 9:1-7 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14

Entrance Antiphon: A child is born for us, and a son is given to us; his sceptre of power rests upon his shoulder, and his name will be called Messenger of great counsel.

Psalm: **I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.**

Intercession: We pray to the Lord

Response: Lord, hear us!

Next Week: Numbers 6:22-27 Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:16-21

Ramblings Let's go to Bethlehem and for a while be present with the new born baby Jesus and let his presence enter you... Some words from the Northern Pastoral Network might help:

Stable of Bethlehem:

space of tenderness, home of hospitality;
to an anxious couple in search of shelter;
to a new-born child fragile and vulnerable;
to poor shepherds on the margins of town and society;
to searching Magi, believing in the promise of the star.

As we rejoice in God-with-us may we become Bethlehem spaces open to receive and embrace the fragile, the vulnerable, the displaced; in ourselves, in one another and in our world.

Christmas

Stillness of God, whisper of love;
breath of God, quiet mystery;
Light of God, holy wisdom;
shadow of God, birth of mercy.
May God be with us in tenderness and love this Christmas.

Prayer

Heavenly Father,
help us rightly to remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds and the worship of the Wise Men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world.

Let kindness come with every gift and every greeting.

Deliver us from evil by the blessings that Christ brings.

May Christmas morning make us jubilant to be your children and Christmas evening find us filled with grateful thoughts, forgiven and forgiving, bringing love, peace and joy to all we meet. Amen.

Diary Dates

Sun 25 Dec **Christmas Day**

A very happy and blessed Christmas greeting to all. No coffee this morning.

Monday 26 Dec **St Stephen**

10am Mass for the Feast of St Stephen led by our Guild of Altar servers. A beautiful family Mass so please do come to thank them for their service to our parish.

Tuesday 27 Dec **St John, Apostle**

10.30am "Coffee Chat" Hall

2pm Craft Circle LCR

Wed 28 Dec **The Holy Innocents**

6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall

7pm NO RCIA

Thurs 29 Dec **St Thomas Becket**

1pm Italian Club Hall

Fri 30 Dec **The Holy Family**

10am-5pm Warm Spaces Hall

2-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall



Sat 31 Dec

2-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

🙏 Prayer diary 🙏

Opportunities for communal prayer

Tuesday 11.30am Meditation Emmanuel Centre

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

Many thanks to all those who supported the One World/Live Simply Group Coffee Morning last Sunday. A total of **£158.91** was raised in aid of "Baldock & Ashwell Action Aid, Ukraine" – a local group which supports refugees.

There is no Coffee Morning this weekend or next weekend. The next Coffee Morning will be in aid of KISS on **Sunday 8 January 2023.**

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Applications for the **Confirmation 2023 programme** are now open please find more details [here](#). The sessions will commence on 24 January 2023 and they are open to anyone who is school year 9 and above. Any questions please do get in touch. Please note: as part of the application process, you will need to upload a copy of your Baptism Certificate if you were not baptised here at Our Lady's.

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The next meeting of the Scripture group led by Fr Andrew is on Friday 6th January in the Lower Committee room at 2.30pm.

Other Dates

21st January 2023 11 am-1.30 pm **STUDY DAY ON THE APOSTLE PAUL** at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park. The speaker is Dr Sean Michael Ryan, chair of the Catholic Biblical Association of Great Britain, and research associate at the Margaret Beaufort Institute in Cambridge. Dr Ryan will speak about 'The Gospel according to St Paul'. The event is either in-person or live-stream. If you are attending in-person please book by email to gideapark@dioceseofbrentwood.org. Coffee will be available for those attending in-person from 10.30 am. Please bring a packed lunch. Gidea Park Station (Elizabeth Line) is five minutes from the church. For those attending via live-stream simply go to www.whatgoodnews.org on the day. Recording of the talks will be made available after the event on the same website.

Other Items of interest

CHRISTMAS READINGS FROM THE LECTIONARY The season of Christmas begins on Christmas Day and ends on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord on 8th January.

Text and commentary by Fr Adrian Graffy on all the readings for Mass is now available free of charge on www.whatgoodnews.org Go to 'Scripture Readings'.

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Lithium Battery Safety Awareness


Most modern UK households now have many items that contain Lithium-Ion batteries such as mobile phones, e-bikes/scooters, vacuum cleaners and even children's toys and any of these items can be a potential risk if not treated correctly. Research has identified a lack of knowledge in the public surrounding these issues so **Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service** have created a video awareness campaign called 'Simple Changes Save Lives'.

Smoke detectors are proven to protect life, however lithium-Ion battery fires can start and develop so quickly. Lithium-Ion is one of the most common forms of battery because it can store the most energy in the smallest space.


This video gives some simple advice that means even if a fire does start from a battery, the occupants of the home should be able to escape and this video is worth watching: [Lithium Battery Safety Awareness video in conjunction with Hertfordshire Fire & Rescue Service – YouTube](#)

Thank you to those people who have helped prepare our church for Christmas, those who built the crib, the flower arrangers and cleaners all helping to ensure we have a fitting environment to celebrate the birth of Our Lord.

 Last week we saw that Fr d'Alzon made his first public vows on Christmas Day. What better can we do than thank God for the Assumption by praying for Fr d'Alzon's beatification. 'Lord Jesus Christ you rule heaven and Earth. It was by your will that Emmanuel d'Alzon was born into this world, to extend your kingdom here below to defend your rights and to found a religious order committed to serving you. We humbly ask you to reward your servant with due honour and as a sign of the glory grant us the favours we ask of you. Through Christ our Lord.

 *Amoris Laetitia* the joy of love 315 Love made fruitful - *Discerning the Body*
With the celebration of the Eucharist we have a constant summons to open the doors of the family to greater fellowship with the under privileged, and in this way to receive the sacrament of that eucharistic love which makes us one body.

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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