



# 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 2028

31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 – 7<sup>th</sup> January 2023 – THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY - 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:** Numbers 6:22-27 , Gal 4:4-7 , Luke 2:16-21

**Entrance Antiphon:** Hail, Holy Mother, who gave birth to the King, who rules heaven and earth for ever.

**Psalm:** O God, be gracious and bless us.

**Intercession:** Lord hear us

**Response:** Lord, graciously hear us!

**Next Week:** Is 42:1-4.6-7, Acts 10:34-38, Matt 3:13-17

### Ramblings

The year 2022 has discretely woken up as 2023. Happy New Year everyone!! we are deeply appreciative and grateful for all your cards and generous gifts. A mass of thanksgiving has been offered for your intentions. It is your presence and your love that is the greatest gift of all. The love you bring to the Church is tangible and uplifting. Knowing that God lives within us, a presence renewed at Christmas, wherever we go we are bearers of God's blessings and love.

2022 ended celebrating the feast of the Holy Family, appropriate because Family has been a major theme of the year. Covid taught us the importance and value of family, the nourishment and unique sustenance that it offers us, and the value of being present. Even Jesus understood this, showing why he wanted to live with us.

Let's take this as a call from God to place our focus on the family as we face a New Year. The pandemic taught us the importance and value of the family which has nurtured and sustained us in so many ways. The family like the incarnation is a mystery that teaches us about God and God's presence even as it challenges us in many different ways.

Pope Francis has reminded us that the Church is also a family by calling a synod of the Laity which will meet later this year. He believes that the Laity have an important and essential role in the life of the Church. The Laity have an experience, wisdom and spirituality that has been overlooked for too long.

May this year for you and your families be filled with a love that unites and strengthens you throughout the coming year.

### Diary Dates

<b>Sun 1 January 2023</b> <i>Mary, the Holy Mother of God</i>
A very happy New Year to all. No coffee this morning after Masses.
<b>Monday 2 Jan Sts Basil &amp; Nazianzen</b>
<b>Tuesday 3 Jan Most Holy Name of Jesus</b>
10.30am "Coffee Chat" Hall *****
2pm Craft Circle LCR
<b>Wed 4 Jan</b>
6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall *****
7pm <b>NO RCIA</b>
<b>Thurs 5 Jan</b>
1pm Italian Club Hall
<b>Fri 6 Jan Epiphany</b>
10am-5pm Warm Spaces Hall *****
2-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall *****
2.30pm Scripture with Fr Andrew LCR
<b>Sat 7 Jan</b>
2-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

### 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  
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*



**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January** is the Feast of the Epiphany and a Holy day of Obligation. Masses are at 7.30am, 10am and 7pm



**Children's liturgy begins again on Sunday January 8<sup>th</sup> at 10.30 Mass.** Children of school age are invited to go for their own liturgy at the start of Mass and will return at the offertory and do the offertory procession.

Children 1-5 years are welcome to come to the hall with parents/guardians after the gospel where there will be a session for them during the homily and bidding prayers – lasts approx 10 minutes led by Trish. Thanks to the new team for offering to help with this.

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**URGENT 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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**Eucharistic Ministers needed at 6pm Mass.** If you regularly attend the 6pm Mass and are willing to be trained in this ministry to assist the Priest with the distribution of communion please contact [Trish](#). A training course will be arranged soon.

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**“Enlarge the space of your tent” (Isaiah 54:2) Synod 2021 - 2024** a reminder

The Agency for Evangelization have sent us the Working Document Summary which is a summary of the Working Document for the


Continental Stage (DCS) which came from the Synod Office in the Vatican; The summary (attached) is a third of the length of the original. Both documents can be found on this link: <https://rcdow.org.uk/synod/>.


The Diocesan Discernment Group will be considering the following questions posed by the Vatican Synod Office at #106 of the Working Document for the Continental Stage:

- 1) “After having read and prayed with the DCS, which intuitions resonate most strongly with the lived experiences and realities of the Church in your continent? Which experiences are new, or illuminating to you?”
- 2) “After having read and prayed with the DCS, what substantial tensions or divergences emerge as particularly important in your continent’s perspective? Consequently, what are the questions or issues that should be addressed and considered in the next steps of the process?”
- 3) “Looking at what emerges from the previous two questions, what are the priorities, recurring themes and calls to action that can be shared with other local Churches around the world and discussed during the First Session of the Synodal Assembly in October 2023?”


No one has responded to the suggestion to have a meeting but if you have any responses to these questions please send them to [Trish](#) by 8<sup>th</sup> Jan so they can be sent to Adrian Cullen by the deadline of 9<sup>th</sup> Jan.

Mag the Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you: The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace in 2023.

 Next week is one of special importance for the Assumptionists of the European Province, Our elected delegates will meet with the Provincial Assistants in the Chapter which prepares the General Chapter later in the year. This is a time when we particularly ask for prayers as decisions can be made which concern our apostolate and communities as well as the formation of younger members and care of the elderly. Fathers Joseph and Justin of Bethnal Green are delegates. Please remember the Chapter in your prayers. Thank you.

 **Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 316** *Love made fruitful - Discerning the Body* The ‘mysticism’ of the eucharist has a social character. Families who are properly disposed and receive the Eucharist regularly, reinforce their desire for fraternity, social consciousness and commitment to those in need. (Benedict XVI, Deus Caritas Est 25.12.2005).

**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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