



# 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 2029

7<sup>th</sup> January – 14<sup>th</sup> January 2023 – THE BAPTISM 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:** [Is 42:1-4.6-7](#), [Acts 10:34-38](#), [Matt 3:13-17 21](#)

**Entrance Antiphon:** After the Lord was baptized, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

**Psalm:** **The Lord will bless his people with peace.**

**Intercession:** Lord in your Mercy

**Response:** Hear our Prayer!

**Next Week:** [Is 49:3.5-6](#), [Cor 1:1-3](#), [John 1:29-34](#)


**Ramblings** Not only did God send his Son to be one like us and live among us but he grew up in obscure places hidden away just like most of us. He then chose to be baptised like us. We know that *the Spirit of God descended in him like a dove and that a voice spoke from heaven, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him.'* It follows that in our baptism the same Holy Spirit descends upon us and that the favour of the Father rests on us too. As we reflect on Jesus' baptism as well as our own let it lead us into a closer relationship with God as suggested here by *Macrina Wiederkehr* osb

### Into the eye of God

For your prayer your journey into God,  
may you be given a small storm  
a little hurricane named after you,  
persistent enough to get your attention  
violent enough to awaken you to new depths  
strong enough to shake you to the roots  
majestic enough to remind you of your origin:  
made of the earth yet steeped in eternity  
frail human dust yet soaked with infinity.  
You begin your storm under the Eye of God.  
A watchful, caring eye gazes in your direction  
as you wrestle with the life force within.  
In the midst of these holy winds  
In the midst of this divine wrestling  
your storm journey  
like all hurricanes leads you into the eye,  
Into the Eye of God where all is calm and quiet.  
A stillness beyond imagining!  
Into the Eye of God after the storm  
Into the silent, beautiful darkness  
Into the Eye of God.

Last chances to apply for the **Confirmation 2023 programme** Please find more details [here](#). The sessions will commence on 24 January 2023 and are open to anyone who is school year 9 and above.

### Diary Dates

<b>Sun 8 January 2023</b>
 <b>Coffee Morning</b> after 8.30am and 10.30am Masses in aid of KISS. All are welcome.
<b>Monday 9 Jan</b>
6pm Beavers & 7.15pm Cubs Scout Hall *****
7pm PPC Meeting LCR
<b>Tuesday 10 Jan</b>
10.30am "Coffee Chat" Hall *****
2pm Craft Circle LCR *****
7pm Scouts Scout Hall
<b>Wed 11 Jan</b>
10.30am Praise Group LCR *****
4.30pm FHC Non Faith Schools LCR *****
6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall *****
7pm RCIA EC
<b>Thurs 12 Jan</b>
1pm Italian Club Hall *****
6.30pm Brownies Scout Hall
<b>Fri 13 Jan</b>
10am-5pm Warm Spaces Hall *****
2-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall *****
2.30pm Scripture with Fr Andrew Christopher house
<b>Sun 15 Jan</b>
2-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall (not Saturday)

### 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*

**Help look after the Colouring Box** - as you know we offer colouring sheets at Masses for our younger attendees so they have a liturgically appropriate sheet to colour whilst at Mass. We need someone to help maintain this box which involves:

- Taking old sheets out and putting the new sheets into each pack
- Wiping the packs with disinfectant wipes
- Sharpening the pencils
- Putting a regular amount of sharpened pencils into each pencil case.
- Having this all done by the Friday each week

You can do this in the parish office or pick up the box and contents and do it at home. If you can or a young person in your house can help please let Trish know asap.

### Other Dates

**14<sup>th</sup> Jan 10.45 -2.30 Christians Against Poverty Information and Celebration Event**

Prospective, current, and former volunteers and supporters are invited to meet to celebrate all things CAP at the Zeo Centre, Bedford Road, Hitchin on Saturday 14th January.

If you are thinking about volunteering for or supporting CAP financially this is an ideal opportunity to find out more about what goes on at your local CAP Debt Centre which covers an area extending from Hitchin to Shefford, across to Letchworth and Royston.

This is a free event and lunch is provided, please come along even if you cannot stay for lunch!

To reserve your place please and to advise if you have any specific dietary requirements or allergies etc. contact Carlton Andrews on 07305 460031 or [carltonandrews@capuk.org](mailto:carltonandrews@capuk.org)

**15<sup>th</sup> Jan 6.30 to 7. 30pm Hitchin Theological Society** meeting in St Mary's Church. As the

annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is about to start, John Richardson, Secretary of Churches Together in Hitchin, is leading a session on **'What sort of Christian unity do we pray for?'** He will offer his personal thoughts and invite a number of local church members to give their own ideas. There will then be the usual general conversation and there might even be a vote at the end! All are welcome.


### Other items of interest


**Plant a tree in 2023** Rotary are organising tree-planting sessions on Swinburne Recreation Ground on **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> 9.30am to 3pm and Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January 10am to 3pm**. Spades and plants will be provided and they invite anyone to come along in sturdy footwear, outdoor clothing and good gloves - instructions and help will be given. More details from Tim Ray of Rotary on [tim.ray@btinternet.com](mailto:tim.ray@btinternet.com)

**Helping Herts Homeless** (North Herts Sanctuary) are continuing to restructure and build up their Trustee base. They really need more Trustees & more people on the leadership team. Particularly they need expertise in general charity management, marketing, communications, social media, partnership development, the commercial side of property management and fundraising. If you want to support those who are homeless in this way to helping this organisation can you please contact Owain Lister [here](#).

**\*Closing soon\* Food Programme Support Officer, Caritas** are recruiting for a one year paid role, working alongside **Niki Psarias** Caritas Development Worker – Project Lead for Food to amplify support to parishes, schools and projects that have outreach with food, and those receiving Caritas supermarket vouchers.

Job description and application form are [here](#):

 Fr d'Alzon made it clear that it was a good thing to start a work and accept that others carried it forward. This principle applies well to the Becket School at Nottingham, founded in 1932 by the Assumptionists Fr Aidan Kenny and Fr Bede Howard, it is now a flourishing school on new site in Nottingham.

 **Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 317** *Love made fruitful - Life in the wider family* The nuclear family needs to interact with the wider family made up of parents, aunts and uncles, cousins and even neighbours.

**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>	Fr Tom O'Brien 07547 171570	E-mail: <a href="mailto:hitchin@rcdow.org.uk">hitchin@rcdow.org.uk</a>
<b>Asst Priest</b>	Fr Adams Tatsidjoun 07438 408350	Website: <a href="https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/">https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/</a>
<b>Parish Tel no</b>	01462 459126	
<b>Parish Administrator</b>	Cheryl Saunders	<a href="mailto:cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk">cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk</a> }
<b>Pastoral Assistants</b>	Robert Hitchcock	<a href="mailto:roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk">roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk</a> }
	Trish Bonnett	<a href="mailto:trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk">trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk</a> }