



# 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 2031

21<sup>st</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> January 2023 3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 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 8:23-9:3](#), [Cor 1:10-13.17](#), [Mat 4:12-23](#)

**Entrance Antiphon:** O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. In his presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in his holy place.

**Psalm:** **The Lord is my light and my help.**

**Intercession:** Lord hear us

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


**Next Week:** [Zeph 2:3-12-13](#), [Cor 1:26-31](#), [Matt 5:1-12](#)

**Ramblings** In his letter "Aperuit Illis" Pope Francis wrote: *At the conclusion of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, I proposed setting aside a Sunday given over entirely to the word of God, so as to appreciate the inexhaustible riches contained in that constant dialogue between the Lord and his people. Consequently, I hereby declare that the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time is to be devoted to the celebration, study and dissemination of the word of God. The celebration of the Sunday of the Word of God has **ecumenical value**, since the Scriptures point out, for those who listen, the path to authentic and firm unity. On this Sunday, it would be particularly appropriate to highlight the proclamation of the word of the Lord and to emphasize the honour that it is due. Bishops could celebrate the Rite of Installation of Lectors or commissioning of readers, to emphasise the importance of the proclamation of God's word in the liturgy. Renewed efforts should be made to provide members of the faithful with the training needed to be genuine proclaimers of the word, to show how to read, appreciate and pray daily with sacred Scripture, especially through the practice of **lectio divina**.*

This year marks the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Stephen Lawrence's murder. As long as racism exists, we live in a divided society and a divided world. During this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity we reflect upon how these divisions impact our shared life as we pray together for the unity for which Christ prayed. The focus this year is on **Belonging – praying for Unity amidst Injustice**. The relationship between the Christian Churches in Hitchin is such that we all believe that we belong to one Church Family even if we may understand this Christian family differently. The differences do not cause separation, far from it. The differences enhance and promote a richer understanding and experience of the Christian Family to which we all belong. This creates a sense of belonging that not only excludes the possibility of injustice but actively militates against it.

### Diary Dates

#### Sun 22 January 2023

 **Coffee Morning** after 8.30am and 10.30am Masses. Proceeds from this Diapalante coffee morning will go to support the charity's education centre in Senegal. Cakes, preserves and books will also be on sale. All are welcome.

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**6pm Prayer Session for Christian Unity Week** on the theme **Be-longing: praying for unity amidst injustice**. An opportunity for shared prayer and quiet moments. Refreshments will follow this session.

#### Monday 23 Jan

6pm Beavers & 7.15pm Cubs Scout Hall

#### Tuesday 24 Jan **St Francis de Sales**

10.30am "Tuesday Chat" Hall

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2pm Craft Circle LCR

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7pm Scouts Scout Hall

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7pm Confirmation Session 1 Hall

#### Wed 25 Jan **The conversion of St Paul**

4.30pm FHC Non Faith Schools Hall

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6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall

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7pm RCIA EC

#### Thurs 26 Jan **Sts Timothy & Titus**

1pm Italian Club Hall

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6.30pm Brownies Scout Hall

#### Fri 27 Jan

10am-5pm **Warm Spaces** Hall includes coffee after morning Mass. Do pop in.

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2-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

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2.30pm **Scripture** with Fr Andrew Christopher House

#### Sat 28 Jan **St Thomas Aquinas**

1-3pm 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*

**10.30 Mass this Sunday is a Children's Family Mass** with a theme of **The Word of God.**

Children are invited to create their own word art to share at the Mass. Spend time looking through your bible and select God's words which stand out most to you and create your own piece of word art. You may like to arrange the words into a shape and use lots of bright colours to celebrate the Word of Our Lord. Here are some examples to help:



These will be displayed on the front of the altar.

Many thanks to all who supported the Coffee Morning last Sunday in aid of The One World/Live Simply Group. A total of **£140.15** was raised and this will be sent to The Garden House Hospice. Thank you all for your continued generosity.



We pray for **Agata de Luca** whose funeral is on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 11.30am.** May she rest in peace and rise in glory and may the Lord comfort her family.

The crib will be taken down after the 10am Mass of the Presentation of the Lord on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February. If you can give an hour or two to help with taking down the crib and cleaning afterwards please can you let Trish know.



Do you have any clear plastic fruit boxes you can leave in the porch for a Beaver project for Trish's granddaughter? Needed by next week if you can. Thanks in anticipation.



**Sunday 29th January at 3pm** in the hall the start of a new series of sessions entitled **Let's talk about** ... to continue our sharings on our Synodal journey. **Let's talk about**

*Loneliness and what we can do to overcome it.* We will have some input followed by discussion in smaller groups and then sharing together. Refreshments will follow. All are welcome. .

The Pastoral Parish Council is in need of new members to support Fr Tom with the running of the parish. We would welcome anyone from the parish (do not have to be RC) and would really like to see a more diverse mix of cultures represented. The formal commitment is 6 meetings per year. If you want to find out more please speak to [Trish](#) or [Roger Hyde](#).

Thanks to all the very generous parishioners who gave items for the mother with the three children who was in urgent need. I am delighted to report that they are settling in their new home very comfortably thanks to your generosity. She has asked me to extend her thanks to you all for your gifts and prayers. She is overwhelmed by the response. I have to say that I'm not – it is what I



have come to expect from our wonderful parishioners. God bless you all.

**Christmas Hamper thank you**

Overall 175 families were supported with over 400 children receiving gifts - some families had seven children! A big thank you to our parishioners as due to their generosity and other sources, all 400 children received a selection box (other churches collected too) together with their Christmas gifts. The families were supplied with Christmas wrapping paper and sellotape, so that parents would know what 'they' were giving and could wrap them up themselves.

**Other Dates**

**24<sup>th</sup> Jan 5pm** Service of Vespers in the Cathedral to honour the life of the late Pope Emeritus Benedict, and to pray for the repose of his soul. All parishioners welcome to attend.

**11<sup>th</sup> Feb 2.30pm** is the **Mass for the Sick** at the Cathedral for the 31<sup>st</sup> World Day of the Sick, the Memoria of Our Lady of Lourdes; celebrated by the Cardinal and during which Anointing of the Sick will be offered.

Tickets are in three categories:

1. Wheelchair users who require anointing
2. Walking sick who require anointing
3. Those assisting the sick, who do not require anointing.

If you wish to attend can you let [Cheryl](#) know as all booking have to be made via the parish administrator.

**22<sup>nd</sup> Feb 12.30 - 1.30pm Ash Wednesday Lunch at Church House**, this year organised by St Mary's church, . £5 per adult £2.50 for children. This simple lunch of soup, roll and a piece of fruit raises vital funds for Christian Aid. With all the disasters in the world at present the money is much needed.

**6<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> March Shroud of Turin Exhibition** at the Christian Heritage Centre based at Stonyhurst. Accompanying the display of a replica will be a historical and scientific commentary, looking at both its authenticity and its importance for Christians  
<https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/shroud-of-turin-exhibition/>

### ***Other items of interest***

**CAP LIFE SKILLS** Course begins on 1<sup>st</sup> February for 10 weeks from 10am – 12 noon followed by lunch at the Zeo Centre, Bedford Road. It provides money saving techniques, cooking on a budget, living healthily on less, and tips for dealing with life's pressures. Book your free place by contacting [ismith@capjobclubs.org](mailto:ismith@capjobclubs.org) or 07931 833838.

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**CTH Lent Discussion Groups 2023** begin this year from 23 February through to Palm Sunday 2 April.. Meeting in homes or churches these can work in various ways. Some are set up just for the five weeks of Lent. Some existing groups that meet all year pause for those weeks and use the Lent study, invite a few extra people from another church and resume their normal study after. Some meet fortnightly and continue well after Easter. Whatever suits people.

**The study is A Search for Peace by John Birch.** This can be purchased in PDF form to download from his website Faith and Worship for £3.49. It can be followed on your device or printed, whichever suits. It's possible for just the group leader to have it, or members if they so wish. CTH can provide a photocopy if that is preferable. Contact Helen Richardson [helenwrich@btinternet.com](mailto:helenwrich@btinternet.com) 07880 682681 if you

would like to either host, or lead a group telling her which day of the week you prefer and what time.

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**Parenting for Faith** - a new online course starting for those with Babies and Toddlers over 5 weeks from 23rd March via Zoom starting at 8pm. For details and to book a place click below.  
<https://www.celebratetrust.org/parentingforfaith>

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### **Make Your Home Safer this Year**

More than three quarters of fire related deaths happen in the home. You can make sure that your home is safe by arranging a

#### **Safe & Well visit from the Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service.**

Safe & Well visits are carried out by uniformed technicians free of charge. You will receive advice on making your home safe and on staying well. Fire and Rescue Service will fit smoke detectors where necessary and check your existing ones. With a working smoke alarm, you are 4 times more likely to survive.

Safe & Well visits are available to anyone. It won't cost you a penny, but it could save a life.

Everyone can benefit from fire safety advice, but some groups in our community may be at greater risk. Homes of older people, people with disabilities, those with visual or hearing impairments, people who hoard and those who use drugs or alcohol, may need greater consideration when it comes to fire safety. If you are caring for a family member or a friend, speak to them about fire risk. You can help them access the service and feel safer in their home.

Help is available so visit HFSC ([safelincs.co.uk](http://safelincs.co.uk)) or telephone on 0300 123 4046

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**North Herts Council** recently acquired the leasehold for the Churchgate Shopping Centre in Hitchin. Before making any proposals for the site, we would like to ask residents and businesses to take part in an initial consultation to get your views on what you would most like to see in the centre. We really want to hear what your priorities are for the future of the Churchgate area. This will help guide us on what you would like to see within the town. It only takes a couple of minutes to complete our short survey:

**Herts District Council Churchgate residents Survey** - The survey closes on Sunday 5 February 2023.

<https://www.north-herts.gov.uk/churchgate-shopping-centre-regeneration>



# Society for the Protection of Unborn Children

The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) is the oldest pro-life campaigning and educational organisation in the world. They campaign to end abortion in England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and internationally. Every new life is a wonderful gift from God, and every baby is loved and cherished by God from the first moment of his or her existence. Tragically, the threats facing unborn children in our country are very great. Over ten million babies have lost their lives because of abortion since 1967. Millions of women and men have been deeply wounded too.

In recent months, SPUC has focused on the problem of abortion coercion. An independent poll showed that 87% of GPs are concerned about women being coerced into unwanted abortions as a result of the "home abortion" scheme.

Abortion coercion is abuse.

DIY "home abortion" makes women much more vulnerable to coercion from abusive partners and family members. Since abortion pills have become available over the phone, women no longer have the opportunity to speak confidentially with any medical professional.

Who might be standing in the background and exerting pressure on the women to whom they speak? It could be abusive parents, partners or even people traffickers. But sometimes these providers seem to know what is going on in the background and go ahead anyway.

Last year SPUC agreed to support "Lydia", a hugely courageous woman who alleges that she


was coerced into an abortion by an ex-partner and his family. She says that her ex-partner's aunt – who is a medical doctor – used false medical information to exert pressure.


Lydia tried to kill herself rather than go through with the abortion. But while the abortion provider knew this, the still went ahead with the procedure. Lydia is overwhelmed with gratitude that SPUC supporters are helping her. She said that if she knew about organisations like SPUC, her baby would be with her today. We must magnify the voices of women who have suffered. This is a huge blind spot in our public debate: how can abortion be about "choice" when so many women experience coercion?

But our right to speak out for women is under threat. Pro-abortion politicians in Parliament have succeeded in a vote to criminalise "protests" outside abortion clinics. This is how they refer to the peaceful and compassionate prayer vigils, which offer last minute help to those going inside. Bournemouth Council has even explicitly banned prayer, and the Sign of the Cross, within a large area around an abortion clinic.


If they can criminalise speech and assembly in the street, then they can suppress them in churches too.

You can send a powerful message to the Prime Minister today by signing the postcard in the porch as part of a petition, calling on him to condemn the horror of abortion coercion and take steps to ensure that no other women suffer like Lydia has. Please fill in the postcard today and post it to SPUC. You can also make a prayer pledge to support the work of SPUC. You can make a donation to the SPUC White Flower appeal to support their work by going to <https://www.spuc.org.uk/whiteflower2023>

 The provincial chapter ended last Saturday at Lyon. Suggestions and ideas for the General Chapter have been agreed. This exercise is carried out in each province of the Congregation so that the General Chapter in July really is aware of the situation across the whole institute and can then make any decisions for going forward.

 **Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 318** *Love made fruitful - Life in the wider family - Being sons and daughters* Let us think of our parents. We are all sons and daughters. We did not give ourselves life, we received it. The great gift of life is the first gift we received. (Catechesis 18.3.2015)

**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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<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>
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<b>Parish Administrator</b>	Cheryl Saunders	<a href="mailto:cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk">cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk</a> }
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