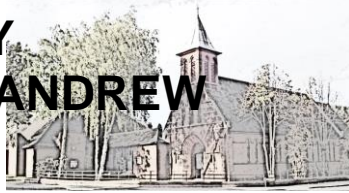




# CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

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 2034

11<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> February – 6<sup>th</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:** [Ecc 15:15-20](#), [Cor 2:6-10](#), [Matt 5:17-37](#)

**Entrance Antiphon:** Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

**Psalm:** **They are happy who follow God's law!**

**Intercession:** Lord hear us

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

**Next Week:** [Lev 19:1-2.17-18](#), [Cor 3:16-23](#), [Matt 5:38-48](#)

**Ramblings** Listen carefully to the first reading from Ecclesiasticus this Sunday. It opens with these words: "If you choose, you can keep the commandments — they will save you. If you trust in God, you too shall live." They echo the words of the last of the five great opening books in the Jewish testament: I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Choose life, that you and your descendants may live, by loving the LORD, your God, heeding his voice, and holding fast to him. (Deut 30: 19-20)

We clearly have a choice about how we live our lives and have been given the wisdom and ability to make good, wholesome choices. For some, keeping the rules is paramount and when these are clear it can be straight forward but rules like loving God and loving neighbour raise the question of how? It is the question Jesus responds to in the Gospel. Jesus invites us to look for the spirit behind the rules or, as Deuteronomy implies, to choose life-giving responses. These responses however, can be far from easy and can involve suffering and heartbreak to which Jesus testified on the Cross. In fact, Jesus gave away his life so that we could all have life now and hereafter. Fulfilling the Law, which Jesus came to do, involves living its spirit which will affect the life of the whole community not just ourselves. The whole community, we are beginning to realise, is not just our Church but all Churches, people of all faiths and none, in fact the world community. But, equally important, is our creation.

This week we offer the sacrament of anointing of the sick asking God to bring healing to the members of our community so that they will be able to live healthier lives. We can offer help and healing to our creation by being less wasteful, living more simply and recycling. God made

creation able to heal itself if we give it the opportunity.

### Diary Dates

#### Sun 12 Feb



**Coffee Morning** after 8.30am and 10.30am Masses in aid of **KISS**. All are welcome.

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The Sacrament of the sick will be offered at the end of all Masses this weekend.

#### Tues 14 Feb **St Cyril**

10.30am "Tuesday Chat" Hall

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2pm Craft Circle LCR

#### Weds 15 Feb



11.30am. Funeral Mass of **Jeanete New**. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

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6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall

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7pm RCIA EC

#### Fri 17 Feb

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 Fr Andrew Christopher House

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6pm-8pm Youth Group Hall Year 9 and above welcome for **Faith, Food & Fun** with Rob, Fr Adams and others. Fortnightly after.

#### Sat 18 Feb

1-3pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall



**Thanks** to everyone who came to the coffee morning for Parkinson's UK. and supported it and especially to all those who offered to help on the day and raised £266.25. It was greatly appreciated.

## Opportunities for communal prayer

**Tuesday 11.30am Meditation** Emmanuel Centre

**No 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*



Saturday (today) is the World Day of the Sick on the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and the Sacrament of the sick will be offered after all Masses this weekend including 10am on Saturday. If you wish to be anointed with the Holy oil of the Sick please approach the Priest at the end of Mass who will remain on the sanctuary to offer the sacrament. There may also be a member of the Healing ministry team if you want them to pray for you others

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We pray for **Sheila Barber** whose funeral is on **Monday 27 February 2023** at Sacred Heart, Stopsley at **12 noon**. We also pray for **Les Gentle** whose funeral is here on **Thursday 2 March 2023 at 10am**. May they rest in peace and rise in glory and may the Lord comfort their families.



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**Ash Wednesday** is 22<sup>nd</sup> February. Masses will be at 7.30am, 10am and 7.30pm. There will also be a Mass at Milford Lodge Care home at 11am with Fr Andrew. Ashes will be distributed at all Masses.

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**Day by Day** Lent books for infants and juniors are available in the porch for 60p each. Adult Lent books are also available priced £1.



Please place your money in the pamphlets box just inside the church doors. There are also some Lent calendars for children which are free.

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**22<sup>nd</sup> Feb 12.30-1.30pm Church House Ash Wednesday Lunch.** St Mary's Church hosts this simple meal of soup and a roll and a piece of fruit, with tea and coffee. Funds for Christian Aid. No need to book. Frances Chamberlain will also be having the Fairtrade stall (cash only) during this lunch.



**Lent groups** offer the opportunity to discuss the Bible in small groups. They are attended by members of all Christian churches in Hitchin enabling a rich sharing of thoughts. You are welcome to sign up to one of these groups on the sheets in the porch.

The course this year 2023 the study is **A Search for Peace** by John Birch. You can download this yourself for £3.45 or you will be provided with a photocopy. With all that is happening in the world at present this seems an opportunity to discover what this word means to each of us and how we can make peace happen. [Download copy](#)

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### Cardinal's Lenten Appeal 2023

Funds raised this year will be shared between the four pillars of the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal: Marriage & Family Life; Youth & Evangelisation; The Education Service and Caritas Westminster. The effects of the pandemic, followed by the cost of living crisis, are still making daily life harder for all. Price rises last year meant many families faced an impossible choice: HEAT or EAT? And this crisis is far from over. The Church continues to respond, with thousands of people putting their faith into action by serving those in need. Cardinal Nichols has expressed his gratitude to everyone who supports the Appeal, with whatever they can afford. And for those who can't give financially, your time is a priceless commodity – please see the posters on how you can volunteer in the diocese and help those in need. Please take a donation envelope today, for more information. You can use the QR code to make your donation online. Thank you for your generosity.

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### Diocese Annual Report & Accounts 2021

The Annual Report & Accounts of the Diocese for 2021 have now been published and the full Report, together with a covering letter from the Cardinal, is available to read on the Diocese website at [www.rcdow.org.uk/about-us](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/about-us) or, if you prefer, there is a paper copy for you to read in the Parish Office and there is a short Financial Summary on the Notice Board in the Porch. Look out for the special mention of the work of our own Hitchin Pantry in the Helping Those In Need section of the Report and, if you have any questions or queries, please let Cheryl know and she will arrange for one of the Finance Team to get back to you.

**Help needed to fog church.** We are still fogging the church with a sterilizing fluid after 6pm, 8.30am and 10.30am Masses to clear all the germs and viruses which may linger in the air. If you attend these Masses and are willing to give 10 minutes of your time at the end of Mass to do this important task please speak to Trish. Full training on how to use the machine will be given.

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Thanks to those people who kindly looked at the plans for a new building and gave their comments. These plans are now on the parish website ([New Build Drawings](#)) and further comments can be made to emailing [hitchin@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:hitchin@rcdow.org.uk) with the subject **New build comments. Have your say!**

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### **CAFOD Syria-Turkey Earthquake Appeal**

CAFOD is responding with support of provision of food, water, shelter, medical assistance and winter kits for survivors. Your donations in recent months have made that quick response possible. Let us join CAFOD in praying for our sisters and brothers affected by the earthquakes and the winter weather. Your support for CAFOD throughout the year allows our Catholic agency to act quickly when disasters strike. For more details visit CAFOD's Syria Turkey Emergency Appeal online at <https://cafod.org.uk/give>. Thank you for your ongoing support.

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A 19 year old young lady at Emil Dale drama college in Hitchin is looking for accommodation in Hitchin (ideally a room in a home of a family or single female) whilst she is at college. She would be there Sunday evening to Friday and is out between 7am and 5:30pm Monday to Friday so it really is somewhere to sleep & wash. She's able to cook for herself so just requires access to cooking facilities rather than needing to be cooked for. If you can help this young person can you let [Trish](#) know with an indication of what facility you can offer and the weekly charge as soon as possible please.

### **Other Dates**

**12<sup>th</sup> Feb 6.30-7.30pm Churches Together Theological Society** in St Mary's Church. Bearing in mind that Lent is close, its theme is **Fasting**. Father Tom from Our Lady's and Herbert Riley from The New Testament Church of God will speak on why the practice is important in their church life and it is hoped that there will also be a presentation on the Muslim observance of

Ramadan. After these, there will be the usual conversation with all welcome to join in. Everyone welcome.

**3<sup>rd</sup> March 1.30pm World Day of Prayer Service** at Our Lady's Church. This year the service has been compiled by women in Taiwan. This is particularly apt as it is presently being threatened by China and needs our prayers. Refreshments will follow the service giving the opportunity to get to know people from all the churches in Hitchin.

### **20th April 10am – 4pm**

**Animating Parish Seniors Groups – Conference Westminster Cathedral Hall – Lunch will be provided.**

This Conference, jointly organised by Caritas Westminster and the Irish Chaplaincy, is for all parishes, agencies or groups who accompany or work with older people in the Diocese of Westminster. A Collaboration between Caritas Westminster, the Agency for Evangelisation, Irish Chaplaincy, St Vincent de Paul Society and Anna Chaplaincy, this event will:

- Respond to the synodal listening in our parishes
- Celebrate the older people in our parishes
- Bring together all organisations and groups who work with older people
- Inspire hope in older age
- Generate ideas and introduce new programmes to parishes
- Promote diversity and inclusion and accessibility
- Provide a legacy of support for projects with Seniors

Click here for more information: [Animating Parish Seniors Groups - Conference](#)

### **Other items of interest**



**Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony**

**Westminster Cathedral,**

**Saturday 13th May 2023 at 2:30pm**

The Cardinal is inviting to this celebration all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their **5th 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60)** wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2023. If you are celebrating an anniversary, give Cheryl, the parish administrator the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email). Cheryl will forward the details to the Diocese.




THE  
**PASSION**  
OF JESUS

LIVE IN TRAFALGAR SQUARE

**GOOD FRIDAY 7 APRIL 2023**  
**FREE** PERFORMANCES 12 NOON AND 3.15 PM



[WWW.WINTERSHALL.ORG.UK](http://WWW.WINTERSHALL.ORG.UK)  
Wintershall CIO, Charity Number 1167111



SUPPORTED BY  
MAYOR OF LONDON

These performances contain a realistic interpretation of the crucifixion - parental guidance is advised.

**Trish** will be in the Passion again and if possible we will arrange to livestream this in the church on Good Friday at Noon. It is an extraordinary experience to see live in Trafalgar Square if you are able to.



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**Evangelisation Co-ordinator & Catechesis Co-ordinator**  
Would **you** like to use your skills to help shape the strategic direction for the Agency for Evangelisation at the Diocese of Westminster? **You** can help us to directly impact on how we can deliver the mission of the Catholic Church in Westminster, building missionary parishes, and forming missionary disciples across the Diocese of Westminster

[Evangelisation co-ordinator](#)  
[Catechesis co-ordinator](#)

**Happy Valentine's Day to everyone for Tuesday.**



	<p>Our prayer expresses praise to the Father for having revealed his love, and thanksgiving for all He accomplishes in us and in others. It prompts us also to beg forgiveness for the world and for ourselves and to ask for the strength we need to do His will. In turn prayer provides filial intimacy with God, constancy in faith and generosity in action( Rule of Life. prayer)</p>	
	<p><b>Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 322</b> <i>Love made fruitful - Life in the wider family - Being sons and daughters</i> The virtuous bond between generations of family is the guarantee of the future, and is the guarantee of a truly humane society.</p>	
<p><b>Safeguarding reminder</b> EduCare (now part of Tes) leaflets can be downloaded from our website at <a href="https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/diocese/safeguarding-in-our-parishes/">https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/diocese/safeguarding-in-our-parishes/</a></p>		
<p>If you have a need for prayer, please contact <b>Mary</b> on <b>07759195487</b> and let her know your prayer intentions</p>		
<p><b>Parish Priest</b> <b>Asst Priest</b> <b>Parish Tel no</b></p>	<p>Fr Tom O'Brien 07547 171570 Fr Adams Tatsidjoun 07438 408350 01462 459126</p>	<p>E-mail: <a href="mailto:hitchin@rcdow.org.uk">hitchin@rcdow.org.uk</a> Website: <a href="https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/">https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/</a></p>
<p><b>Parish Administrator</b> <b>Pastoral Assistants</b></p>	<p>Cheryl Saunders Robert Hitchcock Trish Bonnett</p>	<p><a href="mailto:cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk">cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk</a> } <a href="mailto:roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk">roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk</a> } 01462 459126 press 4 <a href="mailto:trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk">trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk</a> }</p>