



# 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 2043

15<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2023 – 2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER - 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 Acts:2:42-47, 1 Peter 1:3-9, John 20:19-31**

**Entrance Antiphon:** Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

Psalm: **Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.**

**Intercession:** Lord, hear us

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

**Next Week: Acts:2:14.22-33, 1 Pet 1:17-21, Lk 24:13-35**


**Ramblings** Karl Rahner believed that God is not hidden, we just do not have the eyes to see God because our eyes aren't attuned to that kind of reality. *"We are just discovering today that we cannot picture God to ourselves as an image that has been carved out of the wood of the world. This experience is not the genesis of atheism, but the discovery that the world is not God."*

Thomas raises the important question of belief, of faith and trust especially when God does not fit into our picture of him. Nicholas Lash believes *"God" is the mystery, announced in Christ, who breaths all things out of nothing into peace. This means that all things have to do with God. That God is in every move and fragment of our being whether we notice this and suppose it to be so or not.*

Despite its history that includes seriously questionable times, including the recent scandal of abuse over more than a century, the Church not only exists but performs outstanding works of mercy and love for people who are starving, homeless, unwanted; people suffering from the effects of war and the misuse of power. All this is largely due to the faith, love and trust in Christ, of the laity. Because the presence of God pervades our whole being, like the apostles and disciples to whom Jesus gave the power to forgive sins, so too, we are all called to be instruments of his mercy. Like Thomas, we all want some better proof that Christ is risen, something more concrete and that concrete presence is all around us. It is in the kind acts we experience, in the love, care and charity of others, in the humour, compassion and empathy we experience in others and in ourselves. Jesus is truly risen; he is risen indeed and we are called to be the instruments of his Divine Mercy today!

## Diary Dates

### Sun 16 April

 **Coffee Morning** after 8.30am and 10.30am by the the One World/ Live Simply group. Proceeds will go to Pax Christi, the Catholic organisation which works for peace throughout the world. All are welcome. Cakes, preserves and books will be on sale along with a range of religious artefacts.

### Mon 17 April

**No Beavers/Cubs Inset Day**

### Tues 18 April

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 5 Hall

### Weds 19 April

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 20 April

6.30pm Brownies Scout Hall

### Fri 21 April

10.30am-3.30pm **Community hub** 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

### Sat 22 April

10-4pm **Marriage Course** Hall

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April at 10.30 is our next **Children's Mass** celebrated by Fr Tom. Please do bring your children. There is no under 5's and parents liturgy this Sunday as Trish is away but there is children's liturgy for the older children.

 **Prayer diary** 

Opportunities for communal prayer

- Tuesday 11.30am Meditation** Emmanuel Centre  
**NO Eucharistic Service**
  - Wednesday 9.30am Rosary** Church  
**2pm Charismatic Prayer** UCR
  - Thursday 6.30pm Meditation** Emmanuel Centre
- All are welcome for private prayer at any time in the church which is open 8.30am - 7pm*

**25<sup>th</sup> April 7pm** There is still time to sign up for Fr Andrew's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination Mass and Bring and share supper. If you have a memory or anecdote you would like to share about Fr Andrew please send it to [Trish](mailto:Trish@rcdow.org.uk) asap. There will also be a card for him to sign in the porch after all Masses the next two weekends.

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The next Marriage Preparation course in Hitchin Parish is on **Saturday 22nd April 2023**. The course will start at 10am-4pm. To book a place please email your full names (both parties) to [roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk). The fee is £75 per couple.



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**Quarterly offertory figures – November 2022, December 2022 and January 2023**

Figures in brackets are for the previous quarter

<b>Envelopes</b>	<b>(£3434.91)</b>	<b>£3164.34</b>
<b>Standing Orders</b>	<b>(£18018.25)</b>	<b>£18,073.25</b>
<b>Offertory Online</b>	<b>(£ 815.00)</b>	<b>£930.00</b>
<b>Offertory Loose Plate &amp; Contactless</b>	<b>(£4739.96)</b>	<b>£3952.17</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>(£27008.12)</b>	<b>£26,119.76</b>


**Other Dates**


**16<sup>th</sup> April 6.30-7.30 pm Hitchin Theological Society** in St Mary's Church. The theme is *The Power of Story*. Kieran Murphy of Phase and Kate Middleton of St Mary's will look at how beliefs are expressed in stories and there will be the usual opportunity for conversation in the second part of the meeting. All welcome

**20<sup>th</sup> April 10am – 4pm Westminster Cathedral Hall** (Lunch provided) Caritas **Animating Parish Senior Groups** in-person conference, a day of networking and inspirational speakers, including Debbie Thrower, journalist and TV presenter, who founded Anna Chaplaincy. This is for those who run groups with or support older people in your parish. There are a few places left for those who are passionate about supporting older people to attend. You can register on line [www.caritaswestminster.org.uk/event-list.php](http://www.caritaswestminster.org.uk/event-list.php) or call 020 7931 6077 and speak to Susannah Marcot.


**22<sup>nd</sup> April Quaker Quiz night on 22 April - 7-9.30 pm** at Church House, Churchyard, Hitchin SG5 1 HP. Tables of 4, 6 or 8. £10 per person. In aid of Hitchin Peace Garden to install a wheelchair-friendly path around the garden. Raffle and light supper provided. Bring own drink. If interested, please let Cheryl in the office know. Many thanks.

**23<sup>rd</sup> April 3pm** The 27<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of Helping Herts Homeless (North Herts Sanctuary) will be held on: in our church Hall, also remotely via Teams. The meeting will include formal business and end with a presentation by a speaker from OneYMCA. All are welcome to attend and hear more about the work of this important local charity.

 The first condition for advancing in God's service is joy. Move to the back all sad and discouraged souls who get lost in fears and regrets. The second condition is perseverance. Happy the community where each heart decides to bring joy in the spirit of Jesus Christ, in charity and even more in peace. (Fr E d'Alzon, a collection of thoughts)

 **Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 331** Love made fruitful - Being sons and daughters  
The elderly help us to appreciate 'the continuity of the generations', by their 'charism of bridging the gap'. (St. John Paul II, Address to Participants in the International Forum on Active Ageing, 5.9.1980)

**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>
<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> }