



# 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 2045

29<sup>th</sup> April – 6<sup>th</sup> May 2023 – 4<sup>th</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:2:14.36-41, 1 Pet 2:20-25, Jn 10:1-10

**Entrance Antiphon:** The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

**Psalm:** **The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Alleluia!**

**Intercession:** We pray to the Lord

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

**Next Week:** Acts:6:1-7, 1 Pet 2:4-9, Jn 14:1-12

**Ramblings** How well does God know us, given the billions of people there are in the world? God's answer was to send us his Son, who came to live with us as one of us; we must be very special. This week Jesus speaks to us as a shepherd and shows how much he loves and cares for us.

We call Jesus the Good Shepherd because he knows each of us by name with all our idiosyncrasies, faults and failings, strengths and abilities. The questions we have about God's relationship with us are because our souls thirst for God like empty water jars. As Macrina Wiederkehr osb explains, God is only too willing to use our emptiness:

*Jesus, I come into the warmth of your Presence knowing that You are the very emptiness of God. I come before You holding the water jar of my life. Your eyes meet mine and I know what I'd rather not know. I came to be filled but I'm already full. I am too full. This is my sickness: I am full of things that crowd out Your healing Presence. I am full of things that block out Your golden grace. I am smothered by gods of my own creation. I am lost in the forest of my false self. I am full of my own opinions and narrow attitudes full of fear, resentment, control; full of self-pity, and arrogance. Slowly this terrible truth pierces my heart; I am so full, there is no room for You.*

*Emptying my water-jar, I hear you whisper, "You have become a space for God; now there is hope. Now you are ready to be a channel of Life. You have given up your own agenda. There is nothing left but God!" (Abridged Westminster Diocese)*

+++++

This Sunday the Fairtrade stall will be available after both Masses for all your needs.



## Diary Dates

### Sun 30 April



**Coffee Morning** after 8.30am and 10.30am by **Our Lady's Special Support Group**. All are welcome.

Cakes, preserves and books will be on sale as well as Fairtrade items. All are welcome.

### Mon 1 May

6pm & 7.15pm Beavers/Cubs *May Day Holiday*

### Tues 2 May

10.30am "Tuesday Chat" Hall

+++++

2pm Craft Circle LCR

+++++

7pm Confirmation Session 6 Hall

+++++

7pm Scouts Scout Hall

### Weds 3 May

4.30pm FHC Non Faith Schools Hall

+++++

6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall

+++++

7pm RCIA EC

### Thurs 4 May

**POLLING STATION ALL DAY** Hall

+++++

6.30pm Brownies Scout Hall

### Fri 5 May

10.30am-3.30pm **Community hub** Coffee after morning Mass. Do pop in.

+++++

2-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

+++++

2.30pm Scripture Fr Andrew Christopher House

### Sat 6 May

1-3pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall



There will be Mass at 7pm on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May to pray for the King and his coronation. Prayer cards for this occasion are available in the porch this weekend and there will

be prayers for His Majesty after morning Mass on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

## 🙏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 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*



Fr Andrew thanks everyone who made his celebration on Tuesday evening such a wonderful event. The Mass was very moving and he particularly thanks the choir for their beautiful singing. The Mass can be seen [Fr Andrew's Mass](#). The tributes were very fitting and the Bring and Share supper was delightful and satisfying to say the least. Many thanks to everyone who set up and cleared and to all who brought food to share. Thanks also to Tanina Osborne for her picture boards which can still be seen in the hall the next couple of weekends and are well worth looking at to see Fr Andrew through the ages! It was a splendid parish event and we hope to share many more.

\*\*\*\*\*

We welcome into the Family of the Parish, through the Sacrament of Baptism, **Eleanor White**: we pray for her and her Family as they start this important time in her life – the life of Faith.



### Time moves on but it also catches up . . .

At a recent council meeting of the European Assumptionist Province a decision was made to send Fr Justin Kasereka a.a to Hitchin and replace me as Parish Priest. I will however remain in the parish and live in the flat above Fr Andrew in Christopher House which probably means you will still be suffering from my terrible jokes. The move will take place at the beginning of September. As I am beginning to slow down, am less agile and a little more forgetful, this is a wise decision. I know that you will give Fr Justin the generous and loving support you have given me. Blessings. Fr Tom



We pray for George Sherriffs (Don), whose funeral is on **Friday 12 May 2023 at 2pm**. May he rest in peace and rise in glory and may the Lord comfort his family.

\*\*\*\*\*

Monday is 1<sup>st</sup> May and the beginning of the Month of Mary. You can find resources to use with your children at home at [Marian Resources](#) and there are copies of a treasure hunt to use at home and a story of Mary in the porch for you to take home this weekend and share with your children.



\*\*\*\*\*

**Do you want the 5pm Sunday Mass to return?** We have carried out two surveys of the parish to see if there is sufficient support to have the 5pm Mass return as a regular Sunday Mass. Both surveys only yielded less than 10 people who would regularly attend and only 2 people who would be prepared to read. We need to have at least 30 people to have it sanctioned for celebration on a Sunday. We will also need the following people for each Sunday to help:

- 1 MC to set up, serve during the Mass and clear after.
- 1 Minister of the Word for the readings, bidding prayers and announcements.
- 1 Eucharistic minister to help with the distribution of communion from the chalice.
- 1 person to take the collection.

So to be able to consider offering this time again we need to ensure we have these people in place for every week which will be organised within the rotas we currently have for the other Masses.

If you would like to attend this time Mass and are willing to help in any of the ways listed please contact Trish by email or text **07801 752141**. With sufficient support we would trial this until July and make a final decision then.

\*\*\*\*\*

Canon Newby from the Diocese Art and Architecture committee visited the church to look at the potential locations for the Stained Glass Windows and he advised that the location should be in the corner opposite the Sanctuary. It is hoped that the project will be completed by the summer.

\*\*\*\*\*

Thank you to everyone for raising donations for Our Lady's RC Church Hitchin with #easyfundraising! It's easy and completely FREE to sign up. 7,400 brands will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to do your everyday online shopping - at no extra cost to you! Every donation you raise makes a difference to us so please sign up & share today. [Easyfundraising](#)

**Adult faith formation** There are various free Faith development opportunities in the Diocese and online courses which are listed on the parish website at [Adult faith formation](#)

**Other Dates**

**30<sup>th</sup> June - 2<sup>nd</sup> July 'The Art of Accompaniment'** a conference open to all those involved in evangelisation and catechesis. It will take place at Liverpool Hope University. Please contact [kinga.kosterska@cbcew.org.uk](mailto:kinga.kosterska@cbcew.org.uk) for further information and to register an interest in attending.

**Other items of interest**

There are a number of job vacancies in the Diocese of Westminster. You can see them all at [Job Vacancies](#)


\*\*\*\*\*  
**Priest Training Fund** This Sunday is Good Shepherd Sunday, the day we pray for priests and for vocations to the priesthood. The annual collection for the Priest Training Fund will take place next weekend. This fund pays for the priestly formation of men for the Catholic priesthood. There are currently 48 men studying at Allen Hall seminary, 14 of whom are from our own Diocese, and two men are studying in Rome, also from our Diocese. Last year 8 men who studied at Allen Hall were ordained to the priesthood to serve as our future priests. This fund also supports the ongoing enrichment and formation of our ordained priests. Your generous donation helps ensure we can support these men who are called to be like Christ the Good Shepherd. Please continue to pray for vocations and for our priests. You make your donation online by visiting [www.rcdow.org.uk/donations](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/donations). Thank you for your generosity.

\*\*\*\*\*  
 If you are concerned about the state of the Waterways in our country and would like to see


the industry nationalized there is a petition you can sign. Go to [Waterways](#) to find out more.


\*\*\*\*\*  
**Citizens Advice** is now open in Hitchin every Tuesday from 9.30 am to 12 midday at St Mary's Church House. This is in addition to its Advice Line on 0800 144 8848. All are welcome to call.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Fiddle Blankets** - an invitation from Helen Richardson, St Mark's. I have recently come across a craft group making Fiddle Blankets for people living with dementia. Squares of old fabric are sewn together as an attractive background and then items such as zips, tassels, ribbons, old watches, buckles, lace, etc, are sewn on to fiddle with. I've started sessions for anyone interested in making these on Mondays (Bank Holidays included) at 2 pm for a couple of hours in St Mark's church hall. My aim is to make a few and then take them as samples to our local care homes ,or for any individual orders for people living at home. If you'd just like to come along to find out more, or be part of the work , do please join me, or share this invitation with others.If you could bring old material for the basic blankets, then we can make a start on cutting out squares.  
 Helen Richardson [helenwrich@btinternet.com](mailto:helenwrich@btinternet.com)  
 07880 682681


\*\*\*\*\*  
 **The Food Storage Container and Reusable Bottle Free Recycling Programme:** (placed in the **Blue bin** with home hygiene packaging) All brands of (rigid) plastic food storage containers and lids including the take away food containers. All brands of reusable plastic water bottles and caps. The accepted plastic has this symbol on it.  
**Waste that is NOT accepted:**  
 + Glass containers and lids  
 + Glass bottles and caps  
 + Flexible plastic containers and bottles



 For our Assumptionist province one brother has been admitted to final vows, three will be ordained deacon and one priest. Please remember them in your prayers that they may persevere in their wish to work for the coming of the Kingdom.

 **Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 333** *Love made fruitful - Life in the wider family - Being sons and daughters* Many people can testify that they owe their initiation into the Christian life to their grandparents. (Relatio Finalis 2015,18.)

**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> }

01462 459126 press 4



**Book your tickets**

At [Book your tickets](#)

The greatest story of all time is movingly recreated with authentic detail, outstanding quality sound and music. The Life of Christ is a passion play not to be missed. It is both educational and entertaining, amusing and serious.

Watch as hundreds of actors bring the story of Jesus to life in an open-air epic production set in stunning Surrey countryside.

Young and old from all walks of life will be mesmerised as the story unfolds across three captivating acts from 10am to 3.30pm.

The retelling of this evocative story against the peaceful backdrop of the Wintershall grounds has a profound effect on visitors.

Perfect for schools, families, faith groups or theatre lovers, The Life of Christ is highly entertaining and unforgettable. Book your visit now.


Please note, school bookings and groups over 30 people will require a deposit of 25%, with the balance payable 4 weeks prior to the performance date.

Diocese of Westminster

# 'Called by Name'

(Isaiah 43:1)

Is God calling you to the priesthood?



[vocations@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:vocations@rcdow.org.uk)



**Prayer for King Charles  
on the occasion of his coronation**

**O Lord, save Charles, our King.**  
R/And hear us on the day we call upon you.

**O Lord, hear my prayer.**  
R/And let my cry come before you.

**The Lord be with you.**  
R/And with your spirit.

Almighty God, we pray, that your servant Charles, our King, who, by your providence has received the governance of this realm, may continue to grow in every virtue, that, imbued with your heavenly grace, he may be preserved from all that is harmful and evil and, being blessed with your favour may, with his consort and the royal family, come at last into your presence, through Christ who is the way, the truth and the life and who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.