



# 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, 5pm  
Monday – Saturday 10am  
Reconciliation Saturday 10.30am  
during Exposition. All Masses are  
livestreamed [Livestream Mass](#)

## Newsletter No 2053

24<sup>th</sup> June – 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023 – 12<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year A

**A Prayer for Asylum Seekers and Refugees:** Lord Jesus, you call us to welcome members of God's family who come here to escape oppression, poverty, persecution, violence, and war. Help us not be fearful, doubtful or suspicious. Help us welcome migrants and refugees with joy and generosity, realize that you call us to learn the ways of peace and justice, share of our abundance and witness to your love for everyone, as we celebrate the many gifts they bring. We make this prayer in Jesus' name. Amen.

**Readings:** Deut 11:18,26-28,32,Rom 3:21-25,28, Matt 7:21-27

**Entrance Antiphon:** The Lord is the strength of his people, a saving refuge for the one he has anointed. Save your people, Lord, and bless your heritage, and govern them for ever.

**Psalm:** In your great love, answer me, O God.

**Intercession:** Lord in your Mercy

**Response:** Hear our Prayer!

**Next Week:** Kings 4:8-11,14,16,Rom 6:3-4,8-11, Mat 10:37-42

**Ramblings** Faith in God, in Jesus Christ, is full of paradoxes. We are asked to fear God but not fear death. Using fear in reference to God is about showing God the utmost respect, the greatest honour and to put God in first place. Jesus encourages us not to fear death in a way that debilitates us, that freezes us from life, that creates a sense of hopelessness and despair. But death does demand respect because it offers us the ultimate opportunity to place our lives totally in God's hands and having complete trust in Him.

Macrina Wiederkehr osb, who died not long ago, wrote:

*There is something in me that is not content to hang about directionless along the edge of the path ... A thirst in me so deep it will move aside the rocks, seeking moisture. There is a yearning that is intense in its desire to put God first. It may take a lifetime, but I have no doubt this unnameable Mystery within, the seed that fell at the beginning of creation, will finally crowd out the thorns. Yes, there is One who believes in me enough to continue singing up the country of my heart.*

The One who believes in her eventually sang her into heaven. She died leaving these words:

*O Light of Revelation, when dawn shows its face and when the shades of twilight enfold me, may I receive the peace that comes from being in communion with you. You who are a window to the eternal, hold me in your view. Don't ever let me out of sight. Death will hold no terror for me, sheltered under your wings. May I rest in peace in life and in death."*

## Diary Dates

### Sun 25 June



**Coffee Morning** after 8.30am and 10.30am in support of **Diapalante**.

Proceeds will go to support Diapalante's education centre in Senegal. All are welcome. Cakes, preserves and books will be on sale.

### Mon 26 June

6pm & 7.15pm Beavers/Cubs

\*\*\*\*\*

7pm **Young adults Social - Parish Pals** A young adults social (18-35) inside Church. A chance to meet like-minded people and have a moment to connect with God.

### Tue 27 June **St John Southworth**

10.30am "Tuesday Chat" Hall

\*\*\*\*\*

2pm **Craft Circle** LCR

\*\*\*\*\*

7pm **Confirmation Session** 13 Hall

\*\*\*\*\*

7pm **Scouts** Scout Hall

### Weds 28 June **St Irenaeus**

6pm **Feed Up Warm Up** Scout Hall

\*\*\*\*\*

7pm **RCIA** EC

### Thurs 29 June **St Peter & Paul**

**Holy Day Masses** 7.30am, 10am and 7.30pm

\*\*\*\*\*

6.30pm **Brownies** Scout Hall

### Fri 30 June

10.30am-12pm **Community hub** Coffee after morning Mass. Do pop in. **Closed after today until end of August.**

\*\*\*\*\*

2-4pm **Hitchin Pantry** Scout Hall

\*\*\*\*\*

2.30pm **Scripture** Fr Andrew Christopher House

### Sat 1 July

1-3pm **Hitchin Pantry** Scout Hall

Next weekend after all Masses parents from Our Lady's School will be selling raffle tickets for the school summer fayre which is on 8<sup>th</sup> July.

 **Prayer diary** 

Opportunities for communal prayer

- Tuesday 11.30am Meditation** Emmanuel Centre  
**No Eucharistic service this week**
  - 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 - 8pm*

This Sunday 10.30 Mass is a **Children's Mass** with music and liturgy focused on our younger parishioners. Fr Tom will deliver a reflection to the children in front of the Sanctuary and we will all benefit greatly too!

+++++

**Friday morning coffee** is taking a break over the summer and we will see if there is the demand and volunteers come September. Thanks to all who have been helping with this.

+++++

**Cook required for Priests during the week** The lady who has been cooking for our Priests over the past few years is leaving the area and we need to find someone who is interested in providing this service which is a paid position. A main course and simple pudding to be provided by 1pm Monday-Friday. You can cook in the presbytery kitchen or cook in your own home and bring to the church. It is possible to bring cooked meals for two days at a time if that works better. If this is of interest to you please contact Cheryl in the parish office in the first instance – [cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk) or on 01462 459126

+++++



**Saturday morning Church Cleaners needed.** We have a shortage of people on the teams who help with

the church cleaning so could do with a few more. This is to keep the porch area and the church clean and tidy for our parishioners to worship in. It is a very satisfying way of serving our Lord and our parish. If you can help once every 5 weeks for 90 mins on a Saturday morning please let [Trish](#) know asap.

**Other Dates**

**12<sup>th</sup> July 7 pm The Prayer of Prayers** An exploration of the Our Father Fr Adrian Graffy explores this prayer of Jesus found in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. In person event at Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest Brentwood Road Gidea Park RM2 6DH. No booking necessary.


**Other items of interest**


**Message from Bishop Paul** - At the request of several groups throughout the country we will host a webinar to advance the work that has taken place around Racial Justice Sunday in recent years. The webinar will take place on **Tuesday 11th July 14.00 – 15.30.**

The material provided in 2022, Image and Likeness of God, and this year's resources Walking Together, Praying Together, and Working Together, have been well received in parishes and schools.


The webinar on July 11th will provide an opportunity for those working in the area of racial justice to learn from one another, share experiences and initiatives. It will also help inform the Bishops' Conference in the ongoing mission of promoting racial justice.

Register for the event by following the link below. <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/webinar-racial-justice-in-the-church/>

 Fr Baudouin Ngoa Y Tshihemba has been elected Superior General of our Assumptionist Congregation. He was novice master in the Philippines. We wish him well and promise our prayers. We thank Fr Benoit Griere for his twelve years as Superior General and hope he will be able to have a break before for his next appointment.

 **Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 341** *Love made fruitful - Life in the wider family - Being sons and daughters* From the initial experience of fraternity in our families, nourished by affection and education at home, fraternity radiates like a promise upon the whole of society. (Catechesis 18.2.2015)".

**We are a Safeguarding parish** EduCare (now part of Tes) safeguarding leaflets can be downloaded from our website at <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/diocese/safeguarding-in-our-parishes/>  
**Safeguarding representatives: Trish Bonnett and Maria Greene via 01462 459126**

 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 Tatsidjoudoung 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> }