



# 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 2055

8<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> July 2023 – 14<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:** Zech 9:9-10, Rom 8:9.11-13, Matt 11:25-30

**Entrance Antiphon:** Your merciful love, O God, we have received in the midst of your temple. Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the ends of the earth; your right hand is filled with saving justice.

**Psalm:** I will bless your name for ever, O God my King.

**Intercession:** Lord hear us

**Response:** Lord graciously hear us!

**Next Week:** Is 55:10-11, Rom 8:18-23, Matt 13:1-23

**Ramblings** "Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light." Yokes speak of burdens to be carried; the picture of oxen pulling on a yoke makes the burden look difficult, heavy and unwanted. What if it could be seen in a different light? An athlete will set up a programme of exercises and a regime of nutrition as well as a lifestyle that means going without many pleasures and restricting one's leisure time. However, they embrace this regime or should we call it a yoke because it helps them become better at the sport they follow. Jesus says the same thing to us. Accepting his yoke, we will learn something about the difficulties and challenges he faced in life and how he was strengthened by them. Rather than separate himself from people, it brought him closer to them. He came to understand why and how the Father loved them and learnt to love them in the same way. Doing this, strengthened him for his final ideal.

It is insufficient for us to be told that the Holy Spirit has taken up residence within us if we have no experience of how that presence influences our lives and works within us. It is impossible to live the Way, the Truth and the Life of Jesus unless we actually do it. That means offering shelter, warmth and welcome to asylum seekers and refugees seeking sanctuary among us. Offering food to those unable to feed their family; welcoming and supporting the homeless. Then, as Jesus discovered, we will learn from those we help how God is present in their lives and discover a wisdom among those we encounter that can be breath-taking at times. Who wouldn't want a yoke that enriches, that humbles and then brings us closer to God???

## Diary Dates

### Sun 9 July



**Coffee Morning** after 8.30am and 10.30am Masses is in support of **Cystic Fibrosis**. All are welcome.

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**6.30pm Hitchin Theological Society** St Mary's Church. A conversation between Stephen Copson and Charmaine Sabey-Corkindale on the theme **Tradition and superstition**. All welcome.

This is the last meeting in the current session - we start again in September.

### Mon 10 July

**6pm & 7.15pm Beavers/Cubs**

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**7pm PPC Meeting** LCR

### Tue 11 July

**10.30am "Tuesday Chat"** Hall

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**2pm Craft Circle** LCR

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**7pm Scouts** Scout Hall

### Weds 12 July

**10.30am Praise Group** LCR

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

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**7pm RCIA** EC

### Thurs 13 July

**6.30pm Brownies** Scout Hall

### Fri 14 July

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

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**2.30pm Scripture** Fr Andrew Christopher House

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**6pm Youth Group** Hall Food, Fun and Faith

### Sat 15 July

**12 noon Mass** Year 6 – Hall

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

**Our Lady School Summer Fayre** Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July 12-4pm Fair stalls, bouncy castle, music, bbq and drinks £1 entry. Raffle tickets £1 each for great prizes including an ipad and hampers.

 **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 - 8pm*

Many thanks to all who came and supported the Coffee Morning last week in support of Cancer Research UK. A total of £144.90 was raised. Thank you all for your ever continued generosity.

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We welcome **Rafaelli Maurello** into the Family of the Parish, through the Sacrament of Baptism; we pray for him and his Family as they start this important time in their lives – the life of Faith.



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**Helping Herts Homeless** has received the £103 raised for them from Nov 2022 to April 2023 via your recycling efforts. Thank you to the parish.

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**For those who still bring in empty blister packs** – we are no longer collecting them but there is a Recycling Point at Superdrug 39/41 Queensway, Stevenage, SG1 1DN (besides Boots Chemists and opposite Primark) Superdrug say on their website:

<https://www.superdrug.com/dgfs/waste-recycling>

Only return empty, and only personal and household medicine blister packs

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**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

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**Parents and Toddlers Group** This group has not come back since covid and we have plenty of equipment and still have space on a Monday morning for a group to meet. If you are interested in supporting such a group for the parish and its younger children please sign up on the notice board in the porch.

**Other Dates**


**15th July** 10am-2pm **Hitchin Eco Day** in Market Place following the success of last year's event. There will be stalls, displays, fun events and much more, all promoting a more sustainable community here in Hitchin. Churches Together has been involved in the planning and members of all churches are welcome to come along with friends and families. Further information from John Richardson on 07505 426876


**Other items of interest**

Pansion “Blue” Medjugorje is reopened after renovation on 1st May 2023 for pilgrims. For details go to [Pansion Blue](#)


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**Art of Liturgical Prayer** Jo Boyce (CJM music) will share in this course, staying rooted in the tradition of the Church, while also being creative and giving young people the opportunity to grow in faith and understand the language of the liturgy is more of an art than a science. **Wednesday 11 October, 4:30-8pm** DON BOSCO HOUSE, COLESHILL, B46 3EA Option to attend in-person or attend online, via Zoom. [Book here](#)

 To love Jesus Christ for himself, to love in order to be united with Jesus Christ, to be sanctified, to attract souls to Jesus Christ, to make him known, to glorify God in the loftiest way possible..... this is the goal of the Eucharist. (E d’Alzon, reflections)

 **Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 342** *Love made fruitful - Life in the wider family - Being sons and daughters* Fraternity in families is especially radiant when we see the care, the patience, the affection that surround the brother or sister who is frail, sick or disabled. (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>
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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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