



# 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 2058

29<sup>th</sup> July - 5<sup>th</sup> Aug 2023 – 17<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:** Kings 3:5-7-12, Rom 8:28-30, Matt 13:44-52

**Entrance Antiphon:** God is in his holy place, God who unites those who dwell in his house; he himself gives might and strength to his people.

Psalm: **Lord how I love your law!**

**Intercession:** Lord, hear us...

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

**Next Week:** Dan 7:9-10,13-14, 2 Peter 1:16-19, Matt 17:1-9

**Ramblings** Wouldn't we all wish to be wise like King Solomon? His reign is a high point in the history of the people of Israel. For us, the challenge is that we are only fully aware of the wisdom of a decision after it has happened and sometimes it can be years later before we truly understand its significance. A couple of stories to help:

*"Is there such a thing as One Minute Wisdom?"  
"There certainly is," said the Master.  
"But surely one minute is too brief?"  
"It is fifty-nine seconds too long."*

To his puzzled disciples the Master later said,  
*"How much time does it take to catch sight of the moon?"*

*"Then why all these years of spiritual endeavour?"*

*"Opening one's eyes may take a lifetime, while seeing is done in a flash."*

Very often we see things as **we** are and not as **they** really are! We look at events, people, things and happenings through *our own filters and biases* thus missing perhaps what is there to be revealed to us.

Are you going through life with "eyes wide shut"?  
(Anthony de Mello sj.)

**Second story:**


A chap buys a newspaper every day from a newsstand on his way to work. The newsstand vendor is always rude to him, so, his friend says to him, *"Why do you buy your paper from this man? He's always rude to you. Why don't you buy it from someone else just up the road?"*

The chap replies, *"Why should the news vendor decide where I buy my newspaper? Why should he have the power to decide that?"*

The gift of wisdom we receive from God helps us see things as they really are and guides us in making positive decisions just like Solomon!!

## Diary Dates

### Sun 30 July

 **Coffee Morning** after 8.30am and 10.30am is provided by the choir and funds raised will help to provide new music sheets and hymnals.

### Tue 1 August

**No 10am Mass** - the Mass of the day is below:  
**11.30am Funeral Mass of Barbara Hobbs** followed by coffee in the hall for all attendees and a reception with the family later. This replaces the normal *Tuesday chat*.

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**2pm Craft Circle LCR**

### Weds 2 August

**6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall**  
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**7pm RCIA EC**

### Thurs 3 August

**10.30am St Pio Meeting Hall**

### Fri 4 August

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

### Sat 5 August

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

## 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  
12pm **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 weekend we welcome into the Family of the Parish, through the Sacrament of Baptism, **Alice Bull**; we pray for her and her family.



We need cleaners to help on a Saturday morning with general cleaning of the church. **Can you give an hour a month to help with this?** This includes

- Sweeping or dry mopping between the pews to remove debris.
- Dusting the altars and statues
- Vacuuming the church including the sanctuary
- Washing the front porch floor.

If you can help with this vital ministry to keep our church clean please contact Alan at [alanom@btinternet.com](mailto:alanom@btinternet.com)

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**Cook required for Priests during the week** The current cook for our Priests is leaving in two weeks and we need to find someone who will provide this service. 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. Please contact [Cheryl](#) in the parish office on 01462 459126

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Fr Adams will be away from the parish from 2<sup>nd</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> August. We pray that he finds his time restful and refreshing.

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**Books will be given away** in the church hall after Sunday morning Masses in August. Mostly, they have been donated but are not to be added to the parish library. Some are duplicates of books already in the library. Please come into the hall and take anything that you want. Also, please borrow books from the library!

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**Parents and Toddlers 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. Please note this also includes parishioners who would not bring children but would be willing to help provide an activity or help with coffee.

### Other dates

**5<sup>th</sup> August** 10am-2pm the postponed **Hitchin Eco Day** in Market Place. 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

**5<sup>th</sup> August** Pro-Life **Walsingham Pilgrimage** Places cost £25 for an adult and £10 for a child/student. A coach will depart from Harpenden and will stop at St Albans and Letchworth. Would you like to take part? Contact Geraldine on 07971 028415


### Other items of interest


**Rob Hitchcock** our Sacramental co-ordinator is looking for a room from October in a house locally with access to the kitchen, happy for a shared bathroom. If you are able to help can you contact him at [Rob Hitchcock](#)

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**'Meeting Needs through God's love'** is back up and running post Covid times. Click on the video link below if you'd like to hear how Stephanie Kirby was prompted by God to start this up and how it continues to help those in real need. Learn, too, how we can all help in a small way by contacting her before we decide to take furniture and household items to the tip!

<https://youtu.be/mPJfErOQx9I>

 August is an important month for us as our Assumptionist patrons are celebrated during this coming month. The Assumption of Our Blessed Lady is on the 15<sup>th</sup>, Fr d'Alzon wanted our spiritual life to be based on the love of Jesus and those things He loved most, His mother and the Church. The 28<sup>th</sup> is the feast of St Augustine of Hippo. The Rule that he wrote for religious life is followed by many religious orders. He also, even as bishop, followed a community life. May these two patronal celebrations inspire and strengthen us all in our spiritual life.

 **Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 345** *Love made fruitful - Life in the wider family - Being sons and daughters* Children do need to be patiently taught to treat one another as brothers and sisters. This family experience, at times quite demanding, is a true school of social development.. (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

**Parish Priest** Fr Tom O'Brien 07547 171570  
**Asst Priest** Fr Adams Tatsidjoudung 07438 408350  
**Parish Tel no** 01462 459126

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