



# 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 **No 5pm**  
Monday – Saturday 10am  
Reconciliation Saturday 10.30am  
during Exposition. All Masses are  
livestreamed [Livestream Mass](#)

## Newsletter No 2061

19<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> August 2023 – 20<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year A

### Prayer for those seeking sanctuary

Lord Jesus, we pray for those members of God's family who come here to escape oppression, poverty, persecution, violence, and war. Let them not meet with fear, doubt or suspicion from the local population. May those seeking sanctuary in our country receive a warm and generous welcome as they settle-in and commence their new life. Joyfully, we welcome the many gifts they bring to us. We make this prayer in Jesus' name. Amen.

**Ramblings** Justice, integrity and faith are called upon this week. Faith in Christ will most certainly lead to justice and integrity which are two of the most important qualities needed by a government but, in reality, are often absent.

*'Integrity is doing the right thing, even when no one is watching.'* **C. S. Lewis**

*'The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.'* **Martin Luther King, Jr.**

**Pope Francis** addresses young people: *You have a significant contribution to make through the challenge of integrity. "Challenge" can be understood negatively, as a temptation to act against your moral convictions, what you know to be true, good and right. Our integrity can be challenged by selfish interest, greed, dishonesty, or the willingness to use other people.*

*But "challenge" can also be understood positively, as an invitation to courage, a summons to bear prophetic witness to what you believe and hold sacred. The challenge of integrity is something which you have to face now, at this time in your lives. Even now you are challenged to act with honesty and fairness in your dealings with others, young and old alike. Do not avoid the challenge!*

**Pope Francis:** *It is now, more than ever, necessary that political leaders be outstanding in honesty, integrity and commitment to the common good. Thus, they will be able to marshal the moral resources needed to face the demands of the present and to pass on to coming generations a society of authentic justice, solidarity and peace.*

*The Gospel calls individual Christians to live lives of honesty, integrity and concern for the common good; to create circles of integrity and networks of solidarity which can expand to embrace and transform society by their prophetic witness.*

**Readings:** [Is 56:1.6-7](#), [Rom 11:13-15.29-32](#), [Matt 15:21-28](#)

**Entrance Antiphon:** Turn your eyes, O God, our shield; and look on the face of your anointed one; one day within your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

**Psalm:** **Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.**

**Intercession:** Lord, hear us

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

**Next Week:** [Is 22:19-23](#), [Rom 11:33-36](#), [Matt 16:13-20](#)

### Diary Dates

#### Sun 20 August



**Coffee Morning** after 8.30am and 10.30am Proceeds from the **One World Live Simply** will go to support

**Strawberry Hill Overseas and Community Concern**, a group which supports schools, hospices and other projects in South Sudan and Tanzania. Cakes, preserves and books will be on sale. All are welcome.

#### Tue 22 August

10.30am "Tuesday Chat" Hall

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2pm Craft Circle LCR

#### Weds 23 August

6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall

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**No RCIA**

#### Thurs 24 August

1pm Italian Club Hall

#### Fri 25 August

**No Hitchin Pantry**

#### Sat 26 August

**No Hitchin Pantry**

There will be a **CAFOD** collection after all weekend masses. Giftaid envelopes will be available from the collectors. July's collection amounted to £349:66, much of it Gift aided. Many thanks for your generosity.

### 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*

**Please note there is no Mass at 5pm throughout August. The next 5pm Mass will be September 3<sup>rd</sup>**

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**Mass of Welcome for Fr Justin & Thanksgiving for Fr Tom on 8th September.**

29 people have signed up. Surely most of the parish will want to attend this important occasion to welcome our new Parish Priest and give our heartfelt thanks to Fr Tom. Sign up on the sheet in the porch to register your attendance. Donations are welcome for Fr Tom's gift.

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We pray for Christine Withers whose funeral is on Tuesday 5 September 2023 at 10am. Christine was a parishioner and longstanding member of the Bethany club. Her funeral will be followed by coffee in the hall with the 'Tuesday Chat' group which is the successor of the Bethany Club. May she rest in peace and rise in glory and may the Lord comfort her family.

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For those who are planning to get married in the Catholic church we offer a **Marriage preparation course** which is required by the Diocese. Our next course is Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October from 10am-4pm in the parish Hall. Please complete an online registration form - [register here](#) and contact [Rob Hitchcock](#) for more information



**Counting our collection** is a vital service to the parish. This is the only income that we get and we are dependent on our parishioners not only to make their contributions to the parish but to count them too! We are in need of at least three people. The commitment is only once every four weeks on a Tuesday



morning (can be flexible). If you are willing to help in this important way can you let [David Wilson](#) or [Cheryl](#) know as soon as possible. Many thanks.

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**Books and other items to be given away** are still 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!

**Update on Sanctuary Seekers at Needham House Hotel**

Trish has visited the hotel and greeted many of the residents. Two car loads of clothes and other items have been taken there. They were immensely grateful. The money we collected earlier this year for School uniform and shoes for the children still has a balance which will go towards providing these items for the children there.


They still need the following:


- Educational resources including **small tables and chairs. Pencils/pens** for the children.
- **Winter** clothes for all ages. In particular **children's ages 9-14.**
- **Adult underwear** specifically for ladies and gentleman is the most in need when considering adult attire.

**Please leave all items in the box in the porch.**


Some people have asked about making a financial donation. Payments can be made via the parish bank account using the reference **Asylum NHH**

Name: Our Lady Immaculate & St Andrew  
Sort Code: 40 05 20  
Account Number: 81094610

 Hope at the Heart of our life; You know that I am fond of repeating, in season and out of season, that the Assumption hasn't spoken its last word. It is my profound conviction that our small religious family remains fully relevant in the world and in the Church. The Assumption community exists for the coming of the Kingdom. (Benoit Griere, former Superior General)

 **Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 349** *Love made fruitful - Life in the wider family - A big heart*  
This larger family should provide love and support to teenage mothers, children without parents, single mothers left to raise children, persons with disabilities, needing particular affection and closeness.

**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 Tatsidjoudong 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>Administrator</b>	Cheryl Saunders	<a href="mailto:cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk">cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk</a> }
<b>Pastoral Assistants</b>	Robert Hitchcock Trish Bonnett	<a href="mailto:roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk">roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk</a> } 01462 459126 press 4 <a href="mailto:trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk">trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk</a> }