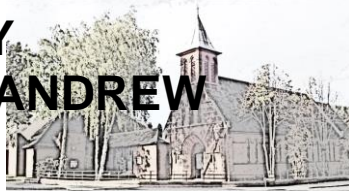




# CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

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 2067

30<sup>th</sup> September – 7 October 2023 – 26<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** To think that God would become man is already beyond imagination, but to be told that God emptied himself to become fully human, become fully one of us with all the positives and the negatives of being human, beggars belief. God must have thought so much of humanity and loved humankind so deeply that he was not ashamed to join us. Rather than belittle God in any shape or form, it raises the level and importance of humanity and the sacredness of life. The incarnation offers us a profound reason for living our lives in the example of Jesus. What can sometimes be overlooked, however, is that Jesus never did anything for himself; always, always he lived for others including a brutal and appalling death. We can do the same if we put our mind to it and allow Jesus and others to help us.

Be clear, however, doing good for others brings its own rewards: helping someone out of a difficult situation, not bearing a grudge against someone who has snubbed you, supporting others in their good works, journeying with the elderly as a companion and friend and so much more. Wouldn't it be a good idea to see any charitable or good work as both a privilege and an honour. This is what Jesus really asks of us.

Why envy or want a life like the rich and famous or those who do well materially as something blessed or desirable in some way when they often experience all kind of worries and challenges that deep down make their lives miserable, purposeless or meaningless. The media constantly uncovers the hidden turmoil and destructiveness of their lives. There are far better and more rewarding ways to live life despite its challenges and difficulties. Living the Way, the Truth and the Life of Jesus is one of them. Blessed be God.

**Readings:** Ez 18:25-28, Phil 2:1-11.27, Matt 21:28-32

**Entrance Antiphon:** All that you have done to us, O Lord, you have done with true judgment, for we have sinned against you and not obeyed your commandments. But give glory to your name and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.


Psalm: **Remember your mercy, Lord.**

**Intercession:** Lord, hear us

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

**Next Week:** Is 5:1-7, Phil 4:6-9, Matt 21:33-43

### Diary Dates

<b>Sun 1 October</b>	
	<b>Coffee Morning</b> after 8.30am and 10.30am will be provided by SPUC. All are welcome.
<b>Mon 2 October Holy Guardian Angels</b>	
6pm & 7.15pm Beavers/Cubs – Scout Hall	
<b>Tue 3 October</b>	
10.30am “Tuesday Chat” Hall +++++	
2pm Craft Circle LCR +++++	
7pm Scouts - Scout Hall	
<b>Weds 4 October St Francis of Assisi</b>	
4.30pm FHC Non Faith Schools Hall +++++	
6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall +++++	
7pm RCIA EC	
<b>Thurs 5 October</b>	
10.30am St Pio Hall +++++	
1pm Italian Club Hall +++++	
6.30pm Brownies - Scout Hall +++++	
7pm Liturgy Meeting LCR	
<b>Friday 6 October</b>	
2-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall +++++	
2.30pm Scripture Fr Andrew Christopher House	
<b>Sat 7 October Our Lady of the Rosary</b>	
<b>NO PANTRY today</b>	

**We need help taking up collection at 6pm Saturday and 5pm Sunday Masses.**

Last weekend no collection was taken up at either of these Masses. If you regularly attend these Masses can you please let [Trish](#) know so she can brief you on what is required. The Sunday collection is the only income the parish receives and we cannot afford to miss out on 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*

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**CAFOD**  
just one world

Last Saturday's quiz night was attended by about 50 guests including a team of 6 from another church and a team of 6 from another faith group. The questions were carefully compiled and presented by John Scott. A raffle was also run by Peter Rock. The evening raised £225 which goes to CAFOD specifically to aid the people of Morocco and Libya in their time of crisis. All who came will agree we had a fun and not too challenging evening. All are welcome to any future events the parish hosts.

Last Sunday's coffee morning raised £200 at the cake sale on Sunday. Thanks to all who helped and contributed. The chosen charity is for Guild Of Our Lady Of Good Counsel. It is a wonderful charity that supports pregnant mothers in need!

The Season of Creation event which was supposed to happen on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> (a pilgrimage by Oughton Head) has had to be cancelled as the organiser Ann, is not well. Please keep her in your prayers.

### Exploring the Catholic Faith

- Are you interested in learning more about the Catholic faith?
- Would you like to be baptised?
- Have you been baptised in another Christian church and want to join the Catholic church?
- Are you an adult who has not been confirmed yet?
- Have you received all the sacraments but still ponder on questions you may like to ask?

RCIA

If you answer yes to any of the above questions, why not come along to a RCIA (rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) session any **Wednesday evening at 7.30pm-9pm** in the Emmanuel Centre. For more details, please contact Rob Hitchcock at [roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk) or on 07862 764884.



### First Reconciliation & Holy Communion

The first meeting of this year's programme for all children in Year 3 or above who have not yet received the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist, was last Tuesday. It is not too late to enrol for the programme and the first Parent and Children Workshop is on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October 10 – 11.30am.

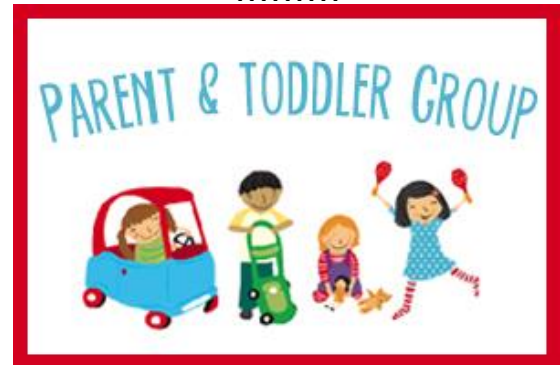
Please complete in advance the application form which can be found on the parish website at [First Holy Communion](#)

If you have any questions please email [Robert Hitchcock](mailto:Robert.Hitchcock@rcdow.org.uk).

The next **Baptismal Course** will take place here on Saturday 14 October 2023 from 3.30pm and 5.30pm. To register, please visit the website [Baptism Course](#) or contact Rob Hitchcock.



The next **Marriage Course** will take place in the church hall on Saturday 28 October 2023 from 10am–4pm. To register, please visit [Marriage Preparation Course](#) or contact Rob Hitchcock. Cost is £75.00 per couple.



**Had its first gathering last Monday** Thanks to Seaneen for getting it up and running again. Come along this Monday 9.30-11.15am. Be prepared to play, read, sing and chat. Refreshments provided. Help will be needed to set up and clear up before and after the session. Please contact Seaneen 07899 921735 if you can offer help.

**Your help needed** – After Christmas this year you all generously supported a parishioner who was moved to a house with her three children with many items that she needed. After another move she has finally been offered a house for her to finally settle in. This house is unfurnished

however and she needs a few items to make it work. If you can help with any of the following please let [Trish](#) know (07801 752141) and I can arrange to pick them up.

- 3-4 single bedframes for the children
- 1 single mattress ( we have sourced 3)
- 1 double bed for the mother
- Carpets for downstairs
- Carpets or rugs for upstairs
- *And other items the family need*
- Winter boots size 10
- Winter coat size 16
- Winter shoes or boots size 4.5 / 5

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### Update on needs for Needham House Hotel

If anyone knows a hairdresser who could help with the ladies hair (there are barbers among the residents for the men's hair) please let [Trish](#) know and she will forward details to the lady who is co-ordinating this. The ladies in the hotel would also welcome donations of new nail varnish, new lipstick and salve, and new eyeliner please. The ladies have few supplies but enjoyed an afternoon of nail painting recently and it is something simple to help with. All donations can be left in the box in the porch.

Two sisters who are from the Sanctuary seeking families in Hitchin are starting at Fearnhill School in Letchworth on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October. They need lifts to and from school – arrival 8.30am and pick up at 3pm, for the next week until County Education Department sort their transport. If you are able to offer a lift in one or other direction for any of the days next week please let [Trish](#) know asap.

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There is an event in the Hall and Committee Rooms on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October until 6pm. Please be mindful of Car Parking limitations when coming to Mass that evening.

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### Homeless Sunday falls on 8th October.

The purpose of World Homeless Day (10<sup>th</sup> Oct) is to draw attention to homeless people's needs locally and provide opportunities for the community to get involved in responding to homelessness, while taking advantage of the stage an 'international day' provides.

Caritas Westminster is using this year's Homeless Sunday to launch our campaign to raise awareness, and offer outreach and support, to all those people who are living in temporary accommodation.

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### WORLD MISSION SUNDAY: 22.10.23

'Hearts on fire, feet on the move' - cf. Luke 24:13-35

World Mission Sunday is a globally celebrated moment of grace. It's a chance to pray and give to support our sisters and brothers in Christ who live in areas of poverty, conflict and oppression. Every parish, school and community is invited to join this special event. And every penny, pound and prayer you give to Missio helps missionaries everywhere continue their work. Please take an envelope in the Porch.

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### Quarterly offertory figures – May, June, July 2023

Figures in ( ) are for the previous quarter

<b>Envelopes</b>	<b>(£3,102.59)</b>	<b>£1,895.35</b>
<b>Standing Orders</b>	<b>(£18,084.25)</b>	<b>£18,609.25</b>
<b>Offertory Online</b>	<b>(£ 775.00)</b>	<b>£ 755.00</b>
<b>Offertory Loose Plate &amp; Contactless</b>	<b>(£3,451.07)</b>	<b>£3,899.43</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>(£25,412.91)</b>	<b>£25,159.03</b>

### Certificate of Catholic Practice for children who wish to start at the St John Henry Newman School in September 2024



All admission applications for Catholic children require a Certificate of Catholic Practice and this year we are inviting people to meet with Fr Justin to discuss this with him. **Dates Monday 9<sup>th</sup> Oct, Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> Oct and Friday 13<sup>th</sup> Oct from 4–5.45pm** (15 minute visit)

You can sign up for your meeting on the sheets in the church porch. You need to bring a photo of your child and their baptism certificate.

### Other dates

**8<sup>th</sup> Oct** 6.30 to 7.30 pm Hitchin Theological Society meets in St Mary's Church. The Rev Chris Bunce, Rector of St Mary's, will give a presentation on Culture shapes religion and there will be the usual opportunity for conversation on the theme. All welcome.

**12<sup>th</sup> Oct** 7.30pm Churches Together in Hitchin Council at our Church. We begin with the Annual Update from Phase, always a good event, then at 8pm we will have some CTH business, including a short Annual General Meeting, followed by a session in which a number of ministers who have recently taken up appointments in Hitchin will share their first impressions and their hopes for their ministry here.

**16<sup>th</sup> Oct Escorted Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine, Ireland**, £699 per person sharing. Price includes flight, all transfers, 4 nights' in Knock House Hotel with full board. All entertainment and excursions included. Day trips to Westport, Ballintubber Abbey, Croagh Patrick, Fr. Peyton Centre & National Museum. Single supplement £150.00. Contact Patricia or



Natali on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email [knockpilgrimages@gmail.com](mailto:knockpilgrimages@gmail.com).

**4<sup>th</sup> Nov 11am Anointing of the Sick Mass at St Hugh of Lincoln, Letchworth** Refreshments served afterwards in Fortescue Hall. All welcome.

**Other items of interest**

**FINDING NEW LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINARS**  
Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> Oct for 6 Thursdays at Our Lady Help of Christians Church Hall, Luton. Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start. Course booklet £6 available on the first evening. More information on 01582 519333



**Experience the Christmas story in a new way.**

Walk with Mary, Joseph and the donkey on the winding, steep road to Bethlehem. Register for the census and journey with other travellers, Roman soldiers and shepherds as you enter the stable to watch the miracle unfold. The Nativity is an unforgettable experience, bringing the true meaning of Christmas to life for the whole family. Adult tickets start from £24.

Once again Trish will be playing the unwelcoming Innkeeper but she mellows in the end. If you want to give yourself and family a treat this Christmas go to [Wintershall Nativity](#) to book your tickets. You won't regret it.

**Book your tickets**

Small groups and Individuals please book here – groups over 30 people please call 01483 892167 to book


14th December 2023 17:00


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Adult £24.00

Child (3-18yrs) £14.00

Family (2 adults, 2 children) £63.00

 It is in our union with the glorified yet continually immolated body of the Saviour in the Sacrament of his love that we will find the strength to die enough to ourselves so as to work for his glory and the growth of his Mystical Body. (Fr d'Alzon, reflections)

 **Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 354** Pastoral Perspectives - Proclaiming the Gospel of the Family Today  
It is important that people experience the Gospel of the family as a joy that 'fills hearts and lives'.

**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 Justin Kasereka 07438 793351	<b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:hitchin@rcdow.org.uk">hitchin@rcdow.org.uk</a>
<b>Asst Priest</b>	Fr Adams Tatsidjoudong 07438 408350	<b>Website:</b> <a href="https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin">https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin</a>
<b>Retired Priest</b>	Fr Tom O'Brien 07547 171570	<b>Parish Tel no</b> 01462 459126

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