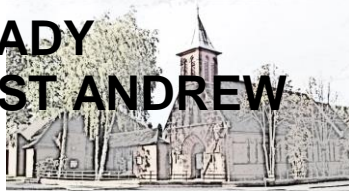




# CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

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 2080

30<sup>th</sup> December 2023 – 6<sup>th</sup> Jan 2024 – The Holy Family - Year B

### 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.

**Readings** Gen 15:1-6, 21:1-3, Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19, Lk 2:22-40

**Entrance Antiphon:** The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger

**Psalm:** He, the Lord, is our God.  
He remembers his covenant for ever.

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

**Next Week:** Isaiah 60:1-6, Eph 3:2-3, 5-6, Matt 2:1-12

**Ramblings** Pope Francis: *God chose a humble and simple family in which to come into our midst. None of us was born wondrously, with a magic wand. Each of us has our own story and the family is the story from which we originate. Jesus too is the son of a family story. It is beautiful to see Jesus inserted into the fabric of familial affections, which were born and grew in the caresses and concerns of his parents. We come from a story that was woven with bonds of love, and the person we are today was born not so much out of material goods but from the love that we received, from the love in the heart of the family. We may not have been born into an exceptional family without problems, but this is our story — everyone must think: this is my story — these are my roots: if we cut them off, life dries up! God did not create us to be lone rangers, but to walk together. Let us thank him and pray to him for our families. God thinks about us and wants us to be together: grateful, united, capable of preserving our roots. And we have to think about this, about our own story.*

### A Prayer for families (Ps 128)

Father in heaven  
we know you bless those who follow you.  
You provide for all of our needs.  
Please bless all families on this special feast day.  
Help them grow in faith and be fruitful.  
Help them to trust in your holy will  
and be close to you.  
May our families see many happy days  
of joy and love and laughter.  
Be with us all of our families  
and grant peace to their homes. Amen.

### Diary Dates

<b>Sun 31 December</b> The Holy Family
No coffee this morning. Back to normal next week!
<b>Mon 1 January 2024</b> New Year's Day Mary, the Holy Mother of God
Bank Holiday. Mass at 10am
<b>Tue 2 January</b> Sts Basil and Gregory
10.30am "Tuesday Chat" Hall *****
2pm Craft Circle LCR
<b>Weds 3 January</b>
6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall
<b>Thurs 4 January</b>
1pm Italian Club Hall
<b>Fri 5 January</b>
2-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall *****
2.30pm Scripture Fr Andrew Christopher House
<b>Sat 30 December</b>
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  
7 – 8pm Exposition Church

*All are welcome for private prayer at any time in the church which is open 8.30am - 8pm*

Last Sunday's coffee morning run by Stephanie and Barbara raised £32.18 which will go to the Hitchin Pantry. Thanks to them for providing coffee and all those who helped them. There is no coffee this Sunday after morning Mass. Back to normal next weekend.

**We really need your help to keep the church clean.**

Are you looking for a worthy New Year's resolution? How about cleaning the church once a month? We have two vacancies for people to help keep the church clean. Please let [Trish](#) know asap if you can help on a Saturday morning for about an hour.



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**Help needed at 10.30 Mass**

We need help in two ways:

① **We are in acute need of a person (MC) to help set up for Mass at 10.30am on a Sunday and guide the altar servers** - so you would need to be here at 10am. This role will be to support Philippe who is the regular server at this Mass and who works best in a partnership with someone else. Full training and a manual are available to help and if more than one person offered it would not have to be a weekly commitment. Ideally we would love to have 5 people which would cover us for all months including those with 5 Sundays. The commitment then would only be once a month. With the number of people who regularly attend the 10.30 Mass I really hope this will be possible to achieve. **Please let [Trish](#) know if you are able to help in this way even once a month.**

② After the collection is taken at the Mass at the end of Mass we need someone to bag-up the Collection money and put it the safe as the MCs are busy with clearing the church. If you are willing to help with this even occasionally can you speak to [Trish](#) please asap.



We pray for **Margaret Smyth** whose funeral is on **Thursday 11 January 2024 at 10am**. May she rest in peace and rise in glory and may the Lord comfort her family.

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A final thought and prayer for the end of the year from Pope Francis

**A Prayer For Our Earth**

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe

and in the smallest of your creatures.

You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.

Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this Earth, so precious in your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the Earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize

that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light.

We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace. Amen.



**When was the Assumptionist order founded ?** In 1845 Fr d'Alzon and his companions started their life together but it was not until Christmas 1850 that the bishop gave them permission to make vows. At the midnight mass Fr d'Alzon pronounced his vows and then received those of his companions.



**Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 366** Pastoral Perspectives - Proclaiming the Gospel of the Family Today Courses and programs planned for pastoral workers, can help integrate a premarital preparation program into the broader dynamic of parish life.

**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** with your prayer intentions

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<b>Asst Priest</b>	Fr Adams Tatsidjodoung 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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