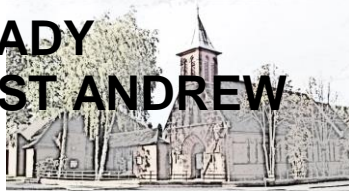




CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

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 2081

6th – 13th January 2024 – The Epiphany - 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 Isaiah 60:1-6, Eph 3:2-3.5-6, Matt 2:1-12

Entrance Antiphon: Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

Psalm: All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

Intercession: Lord hear us!

Response: Lord, graciously hear us!

Next Week: Is 49:3.5-6, Cor 1:1-3, John 1:29-34

Ramblings There is something captivating about this feast and the Magi. There are many, many stories about the Magi because Matthew says little except that they came from the east bearing gifts and they followed a star. Whichever story we like, the Epiphany is a feast close to our hearts because, like us, the Magi were searchers and it was a bright light, a star, that eventually led them to Jesus, our light. As searchers, like them, we journey through the many difficulties and challenges of life and there are times we want to give up which the Magi certainly would have experienced crossing a hostile desert.

William J. Bausch suggests that the Magi teach us that we need to journey together. We can't search, we can't travel and we can't find on our own. We need one another. Alone we tend to become idiosyncratic, distorted and lost. We need the collective wisdom of the community. We need the collective support and prayers of our fellow pilgrims. There's always more than the sum total of people when we sing "*Lord, have mercy on us!*" and search the scriptures together. We are a caravan. We are a church. We listen together, we pray together. We cry out together. We are strengthened and comforted by each other. In fact, there is no other way to travel.

The Magi did not have all the answers. Neither do we. They had the wicked King Herod after them. In many ways so do we in the many challenges and diversions thrown at us by society and the media. But, on their life travels, the Magi did have fellowship and the light of Christ in the star that was their guide. And so do we in Christ who is our light. But the best part of the wondrous Magi story comes at the end: they left us a promise. **For at last they found what they were looking for and so shall we!!**

Diary Dates

Sun 7 January Epiphany



Coffee Morning after 8.30am and 10.30am will be provided by **Parkinsons UK**. All are welcome.

6.30pm Hitchin Theological Society meeting in St Mary's Church. The theme is 'Living Together' with presentations by Doral Hayes, Principal Officer for Ecumenical Development and Relations at Churches Together in England, and Ali Sheriff of our local Islamic community. There will be the usual opportunity for questions and comments at the end. All welcome.

Mon 8 January Baptism of the Lord

9.30am Parent & Toddlers Hall

No Cubs or Beavers in Scout hall – out of action

7.30pm PPC LCR

Tue 9 January

10.30am "Tuesday Chat" Hall

2pm Craft Circle LCR

No Scouts in Scout hall – out of action

Weds 10 January

4.30pm FHC Non Faith Schools Hall

6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall

Thurs 11 January

1pm Italian Club Hall

No Brownies in Scout hall – out of action

Fri 12 January

2-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

2.30pm Scripture Fr Andrew Christopher House

Sat 13 January

10-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

Cardinal Vincent Nichols has asked all churches to have a collection this Sunday for relief for those suffering from the conflict in the Holy Land. This will be a retiring collection.

 **Prayer diary** 

Opportunities for communal prayer

- Tuesday 11.30am Meditation** Emmanuel Centre
- No Eucharistic Service** Church
- 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

Help needed at 10.30 Mass 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.**

+++++



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

Sacramental Co-ordinator update We do not yet have a date from our HR department when our new co-ordinator Ciara O'Reilly will be starting. However Fr Justin is keen that we continue delivering existing programmes and make plans for the Baptism and Confirmation Courses. This will be discussed with Ciara and dates and applications will be published in the next couple of weeks so keep your eyes on the newsletter and the [Sacramental page](#) on the website for further updates. Just to let you know that Rob is settling in to his new job in Wimbledon well and everyone is very friendly.

+++++

Crib Offerings will support the Catholic Children's Society who is helping local families in crisis struggling to put food on the table, keep warm and provide a safe home for their children. Our parish will be donating our Crib Offering to support this important work. You can donate at the Crib or via the CCS website www.cathchild.org.uk/crib

Other items of interest

'Finding a way through the Energy Crisis' Thursday 18th Jan 6-7.15pm aims to help you learn ways to ensure people can stay on top of the situation, how to maximise income, how to find help if needed, and finally some ways to save energy and money in general. More details and sign up here - [Energy](#)

+++++

13th Jan 4pm Tilehouse Street Baptist Church screening of the Silent Movie "**Safety Last**" starring Harold Lloyd with live musical accompaniment provided by Clifton Hughes on the organ. Refreshments will be served during the interval. Donations for church funds.



The school which Dr d'Alzon acquired at Nimes was already named College de l'Assomption. Fr d'Alzon kept that title and made Mary our patron. The spirit of the Assumption family is summed up in the simple formula. 'Love of our Lord and the things he loved most, His mother and the Church'.



Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 367 Pastoral Perspectives - Proclaiming the Gospel of the Family Today
Good pastoral training for working with families is important 'especially in light of emergency situations arising from domestic violence and sexual abuse'.

Relatio Finalis 2015,77.

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

Parish Priest Fr Justin Kasereka 07438 793351
Asst Priest Fr Adams Tatsidjodoung 07438 408350
Retired Priest Fr Tom O'Brien 07547 171570

E-mail: hitchin@rcdow.org.uk
Website: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin>
Parish Tel no 01462 459126

Administrator	Cheryl Saunders	cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk }	press 2
Pastoral Assistants	Ciara O'Reilly starts 8 th Jan 2024	01462 459126	press 5
	Trish Bonnett	trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk }	press 5