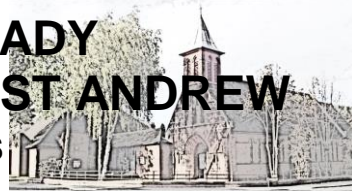




# CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

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 2083

20<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – Third Sunday in Ordinary Time - 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** [Jonah 3:1-5.10](#), [Cor 7:29-31](#), [Mark 1:14-20](#)

**Entrance Antiphon:** O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. In his presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in his holy place.

**Psalm:** Lord, make me know your ways.

**Intercession:** We pray to the Lord

**Response:** Lord, hear us!

**Next Week:** [Deut 18:15-20](#), [Cor 7:32-35](#), [Mark 1:21-28](#)

**Ramblings** At the conclusion of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy a few years ago, Pope Francis set up "a Sunday given over entirely to the **word of God**, so we could appreciate the inexhaustible riches contained in that constant dialogue between the Lord and his people". He wanted the Church to experience anew how the risen Lord opens up for us the treasury of his word and enables us to proclaim its unfathomable riches. This was to be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the year. This Sunday therefore we are encouraged to strengthen our bonds with the Jewish people and to pray for Christian unity. The celebration of the Sunday of the Word of God (this Sunday) has ecumenical value, since the Scriptures point out, for those who listen, the path to authentic and firm unity. In Hitchin we exchange pulpits. The week of prayer for Christian Unity begins on 18<sup>th</sup> January each year.

The various communities are invited to find their own ways to mark this Sunday with a certain solemnity. It is important, therefore, that in the Eucharistic celebration the sacred text be enthroned, in order to focus the attention of the assembly on the normative value of God's word. On this Sunday, it would be particularly appropriate to highlight the proclamation of the word of the Lord and to emphasize in the homily the honour that it is due. Renewed efforts should be made to provide members of the faithful with the training needed to be genuine proclaimers of the word, as in the case of acolytes or extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion. Pastors could also find ways of giving a Bible, or one of its books, to the entire assembly as a way of showing the importance of learning how to read, appreciate and pray daily with sacred Scripture, especially through the practice of *lectio divina*. (Aperuit Illis)

### Diary Dates

#### Sun 21 January



**Coffee Morning** after 8.30am and 10.30am will be provided by the One World/Live Simply Group for the charities they support. Cakes, preserves and books will be on sale. All are welcome.

#### Mon 22 January

9.30am Parent & Toddlers Hall

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6pm & 7.15pm Beavers/Cubs – Scout Hall

#### Tue 23 January

10.30am "Tuesday Chat" Hall

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2pm Craft Circle LCR

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7pm Scouts - Scout Hall

#### Weds 24 January **St Francis de Sales**

4.30pm FHC Non Faith Schools Hall

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6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall

#### Thurs 25 January **Conversion of St Paul**

1pm Italian Club Hall

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6.30pm Brownies - Scout Hall

#### Fri 26 January **Sts Timothy & Titus**

2-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

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2.30pm Scripture Fr Andrew Christopher House

#### Sat 27 January

1-3pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall



Opportunities for communal prayer

**Tuesday** 11.30am **Meditation** Emmanuel Centre  
**No** 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*

**KISS Coffee Morning** - thank you to all those who prepared, baked, helped, and supported last Sunday's KISS Coffee morning which raised **£223** – Thank you to our generous parish community and a big thank you to all those wonderful people who give their help on the day - in the raffle, tidying up and clearing away tables.

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**CHARISMATIC GROUP** A small group of parishioners meet on a Wednesday at 12 noon in the Upper committee room.



We sing and Praise the Lord and have prayer intentions. Listen to music on occasion and sometimes have a biblical reading. Come along and join us. If you want to know more ring Mary on 0775 9195487. All welcome.

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We welcome into the Family of the Parish, through the Sacrament of Baptism, **Ralph Digby** (Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>) and **Bobbi Lidgitt** (Saturday 27<sup>th</sup>); we pray for their Families as they start this important time in their lives – the life of Faith.

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Our next **Baptism Preparation Course** is **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February 3-4.45pm** in the parish hall, followed by Mass at 5pm

where the first anointing will take place for all the children to be baptised. This is for those who wish to have their child baptised in the coming months. If you have been on a course within the past three years you do not need to attend. Please email [Trish](mailto:Trish@rcdow.org.uk) if you plan to attend.

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**Recycling News** - Unfortunately, Colgate has made the difficult decision to close the programme. On behalf of Colgate, we appreciate all of the effort you have made and would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has supported this programme and collected packaging. We have been asked to only collect till the Sun 4<sup>th</sup> Feb 2024 the toothbrushes,



toothpaste tubes and caps, and all other items currently being collected in this waste stream and then send to them the last parcel accepted under this scheme. Thank you to all that have supported us so far with your contributions; please be aware that after Feb 4<sup>th</sup> 2024 we will not be able to handle this type of waste any more, other than to send it to landfill.

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**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** started on the 18th January. The theme this year, proposed by the churches of Burkina Faso, is **You shall love the Lord your God ..... and your neighbour as yourself**, based on the story of the Good Samaritan. Material on the theme that can be used personally or in services and fellowship groups is available on the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland website - link [Christian Unity Week](http://www.churchestogether.org.uk)

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**28<sup>th</sup> January Racial Justice Sunday**, the theme is: "All are included in the mission of Christ and His Church. Let us walk together, pray together and work together" It reflects the role each of us must play in promoting the mission of Christ and His Church and look towards a future of justice, healing and reconciliation. **There is a retiring collection after each Mass next weekend.**

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If you have a life-limiting illness, or if a family member, friend or someone you work with is facing the end of life. If so, consider calling the **Anne Robson Trust Telephone Support Line** on **0808 801 0688** It's completely confidential to use.

**Other dates**

**28<sup>th</sup> Jan 4pm** St Mark's is hosting a service on the theme for Christian Unity week, using music and reflections in the style of the Taize ecumenical community in France. All are welcome to come along to this and stay for the refreshments afterwards.

	<p>Reflections of Fr d'Alzon. (Apostolic life) The goal of the apostle is to give birth to Jesus Christ in souls. – Let us love , and let us invite others to ardently love Jesus Christ and the Church. Everything else will follow.</p>
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	<p><b>Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 368</b> Pastoral Perspectives - Proclaiming the Gospel of the Family Today All this in no way diminishes, but rather complements, the fundamental value of spiritual direction, the rich spiritual treasures of the Church, and sacramental Reconciliation</p>
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**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

Administrator	Cheryl Saunders cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk }	press 2
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