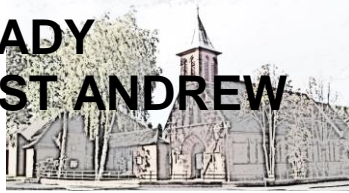




# CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

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 2096

20<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> April 2024 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - 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:** Acts 4:8-12, 1 John 3:1-2, John 10:11-18

**Entrance Antiphon:** The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

**Psalm:** The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone. Alleluia!

**Intercession:** Lord, hear us

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

**Next Week:** Acts 9:26-31, 1 John 3:18-24, John 15:1-8

**Ramblings** The earliest Christian art in the catacombs in Rome has an image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd. Jesus is portrayed as a young beardless man with a sheep draped around his shoulders. A sheep stands to his right and a goat to his left. Obviously, the image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd spoke to the Christians of the early church.

This image communicates a sense of the close personal connection that the shepherd has with his individual sheep. The shepherd had gone to look for a sheep that had wandered off. Having found it, he takes it back to the flock on his shoulders indicating a personal bond between the shepherd and this one sheep. This is why Jesus says that he knows his own and his own know him, just as the Father knows him and he knows the Father. Jesus tells us that he has a special relationship with each one of us as intimate as the relationship that he has with his heavenly Father. When it comes to the Lord, we are not just one in a crowd, lost in a sea of faces, but that the Lord relates to us in a very personal way and that he invites us to relate to him in a very personal way.

In recognising Jesus as our Good Shepherd, our response is to ask how we can best show our love and gratitude to him. Jesus asks us to fulfil his mission given to us in baptism, to live and preach the Gospel by the way we live. On this Vocation Sunday, this mission lies at the heart of every vocation and why we proclaim today: "Here I am Lord, I come to do your will!"


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We welcome into the Family of the Parish, through the Sacrament of Baptism, **Benedict Jitto Chittilapilla**; we pray for his Family as they continue this important time in their lives – the life of Faith.

**21 April 3.30pm**

### Diary Dates

<b>Sun 21 April</b>
 <b>Coffee Morning will be provided by the One World/Live Simply Group.</b> proceeds after 8.30am and 10.30am
<b>Mon 22</b>
<b>9.30am Parent &amp; Toddlers</b> Hall +++++
<b>6pm &amp; 7.15pm Beavers/Cubs – Scout Hall</b>
<b>Tue 23 April St George</b>
<b>10.30am Tuesday Chat</b> Hall +++++
<b>2pm Craft Circle</b> LCR +++++
<b>7pm Scouts – Scout Hall</b>
<b>Weds 24 April</b>
<b>6pm Feed Up Warm Up</b> Scout Hall
<b>Thurs 25 April</b>
<b>1pm Italian Club</b> Hall +++++
<b>6.30pm Brownies – Scout Hall</b>
<b>Fri 26 April</b>
<b>2pm-4pm Hitchin Pantry</b> Scout Hall +++++
<b>2.30pm Scripture</b> Fr Andrew Christopher House
<b>Sat 27 April</b>
<b>1pm-3pm Hitchin Pantry</b> Scout Hall

### **Prayer diary**

**Tuesday** 11.30am **Meditation** Emmanuel Centre  
**Next Eucharistic Service** 30<sup>th</sup> April

**Wednesday** 9.30am **Rosary** Church  
12pm **Charismatic Prayer** Church

**Thursday** 6.30pm **Meditation** Emmanuel Centre  
*All are welcome for private prayer at any time in the church which is open 8.30am - 8pm*

This Sunday is **Good Shepherd Sunday** and our second collection will support the **Priest Training Fund**. The fund pays for the priestly formation of men for the catholic priesthood. There are currently 49 men studying at Allen Hall Seminary, 13 of whom are from our own Diocese. We also

have one Seminarian in Valladolid and one at Beda, presently on pastoral placement in Ruislip. There are also two on a propaedeutic year at Redemptoris Mater. Last year, 3 deacons were ordained for Westminster Diocese. The Priest Training Fund also supports the ongoing enrichment and formation of our ordained Priests. Your gift ensures we can provide training for these men responding to Christ's call to dedicate their lives to serve God's people. Please be as generous as you can. Please also pray for vocations and for all our Priests. Donation envelopes are at the back of the Church. You can use the QR code to make your donation online or visit [www.rcdow.org.uk/donations](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/donations).

Thank you for your continued generosity.

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Our next Baptism Preparation Course is **Saturday 18th May 12-2pm** and **Saturday 25th May 9.30-11.30am (Both dates to be attended)** If you have been on a course within the past three years you do not need to attend. Please email Ciara O'Reilly [ciaraoreilly@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:ciaraoreilly@rcdow.org.uk) if you wish to attend the next course.



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The next **Marriage Preparation** course in this parish is on Saturday 4th May 2024 10am until 4pm in the parish hall. If you have already registered for this Marriage Preparation course please email [ciaraoreilly@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:ciaraoreilly@rcdow.org.uk) immediately, as due to IT issues we are not able to access the

registration forms. To book a place please email the Ciara O'Reilly with your full names (both parties) to request a registration form.

The fee is £80 per couple this is paid in cash on the day or electronically.

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**Are you a teenager wanting to explore your faith and be part of the community?** Then why not try our fortnightly Sycamore group on Tuesday nights at 19:00-20:30 in the Parish Hall? Sycamore is an informal course about the Christian faith and its relevance for life today. It gives you space to meet other young people, share ideas, explore your beliefs, and think about questions that really matter. Each session involves a short film and time for discussion. Everyone who is currently 14-18 years old is welcome. Look at the newsletter for dates.

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**Quarterly offertory figures – Jan, Feb, Mar 2024** Figures in brackets are for the previous quarter 2023

	Previous Qtr	This Qtr
<b>Envelopes</b>	<b>£3,347.06</b>	<b>£2,735.62</b>
<b>Standing Orders</b>	<b>£17,529.25</b>	<b>£17,616.25</b>
<b>Offertory Online</b>	<b>£ 965.00</b>	<b>£ 895.00</b>
<b>Offertory Loose Plate &amp; Contactless</b>	<b>£7,312.78</b>	<b>£6,026.41</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£29,154.09</b>	<b>£27,273.28</b>



**Prayers for our intercession** We pray for people suffering from illness especially: **Prayers for our intercession** We pray for people suffering from illness especially: Pauline Lanaway, the Fennell & Conetta families, Stella Patterson, Maria Victoria Lahitte-Martins, Regine Hallinan, Evie Roberts, Niall Heffron, Ann Milner, Ann Harte, Joe Darby, Antoinette Fernandes, John Clark, Greg Knight, Owen McFarlane, John McGill and Margaret Noel.

**We pray for those whose anniversary is about now:** Don Sherriffs, Alice Campbell, Ciro Niali, Doree Levitt, Margaret Sawyer, Marian Cook, Peter Skeet, John Reilly, June Welbury, Damiano Urso and Berna Duffy. We pray for Vera Adamson who died recently.

**Need for prayer? Contact Mary on 07759195487 with your prayer intentions.**



The man who prays humbly is already in the truth because he stands before God as if he were nothing. But this conviction is ever so rare! Nevertheless as soon as we realise that we are in God's presence, humility emerges from the comparison between what we are and what God is, and our resolutions are strengthened when we consider our nothingness. (Fr d'Alzon. Humility)



**Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 381** Pastoral Perspectives - Preparing Engaged Couples for Marriage Pastoral initiatives helping married couples grow in love and in the Gospel of the family, help their children's future married 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**

<b>Parish Priest</b>	Awaiting news	<b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:hitchin@rcdow.org.uk">hitchin@rcdow.org.uk</a>
<b>Asst Priest</b>	Fr Adams Tatsidjodoung 07438 408350	Website: <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 <a href="mailto:cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk">cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk</a>	} press 2
Pastoral Assistants	Ciara O'Reilly <a href="mailto:ciaraoreilly@rcdow.org.uk">ciaraoreilly@rcdow.org.uk</a>	} 01462 459126 press 5
	Trish Bonnett <a href="mailto:trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk">trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk</a>	} press 5