



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

Exposition Thursday 7pm-8pm

Reconciliation Saturday 10.30am
during Exposition

Newsletter No 1883

21-28 March – 4th SUNDAY OF LENT Year A – the gospel according to Matthew

Parish Prayer: Lord Jesus, as the world copes with coronavirus, help us to remember that you are always with us. Grant wisdom to decision makers and bless all health workers. Bring healing to the sick; give peace to the anxious and comfort those who are sad. Stir us to show your love and mercy most especially to the poor and weak. This we ask in your name. Amen.

Readings: [Sam 16:1-6-7-10-13](#), [Eph 5:8-14](#), [John 9:1-41](#)

Entrance Antiphon: Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

Psalm: **The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

Intercession: Lord, hear us

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

Next week: [Ez 37:12-14](#), [Rom 8:8-11](#), [John 11:1-45](#)

Ramblings Wisdom suggests that seeing is believing but this is not always the case otherwise Jesus would not have been rejected. For the blind man in our story, seeing did change everything. Whenever Jesus gives sight, he gives much more than just seeing. The sight that Jesus offers brings faith with it - faith and belief so that what is seen is seen in all its wonder, beauty, colour and magnificence, because it encaptures the presence of the Creator. This sight that comes with faith takes everything around us out of the ordinary into the extraordinary. Everything and everybody created by God is extraordinary and we need faith to discover that. The coronavirus can rightly be called a plague, but, despite the hardships and challenges, it is bringing communities together, inspiring great love and support for the isolated and elderly, and promoting a true family spirit across the land. Lent reminds us that Jesus faced down death and won life for us all. We can do the same through all the acts of kindness and help we offer. Br Richard Hendrick (OFMCap) writes: Yes, there is fear – yes, there is isolation – yes, there is panic buying – yes, there is sickness – yes, there is even death. But, in Wuhan, after many years of noise, you can hear the birds again. The sky is no longer thick with fumes but blue and grey and clear. In Assisi people are singing to each other across empty squares, keeping their windows open so that those who are alone may hear the sounds of family around them. A hotel in Ireland is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound. Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples are preparing to welcome and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary. All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting, looking at their neighbours in a new way and waking up to a new reality to how big we really are. God IS watching over us!

Coronavirus update

Celebration of daily and Sunday Masses stops after Friday 20th March evening. Details of the advice and guidance from the Cardinal can be found on the Coronavirus page on the parish website or copies are available in the porch. The church will remain open during the day for private prayer.

Every day 10am-11am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Reconciliation in the church. Please sit well apart from anyone else and do not queue by the confessional. Just move from your place to the box when the last person vacates. You are asked to use the cloth and gel to wipe the handles both sides of the confessional door as you exit. Thank you

We are continuing the Novena to St Raphael and St Jude until 26th March and a new one will begin on the 27th. All prayer material will be emailed and hard copies left in the porch for those not on email.

If you are social distancing (to protect yourself) or self-isolating (symptomatic and protecting others) **please let us know** in the parish so we can keep in touch. We have a buddy system in place so parishioners can ring each other and offer support over the phone or practically. Many people are eager to help in any way possible.


If you are social distancing yourself then Fr Euloge is able to visit with the sacrament of the sick and communion should you need it. Other Eucharistic ministers will be available to bring communion. We have devised a short Eucharistic service which involves no physical contact with you and the minister can be in and out within 8-10 mins.

Please let Trish know if you want support in this way. 07801 752141 or trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk




Diary Dates *if it is not in the diary then it is not happening.*

Mon 23 March
Christian Meditation Group 11.30am Hall
Tue 24 March
10am-6pm – Drop In EU Meeting for Italians – LCR
Wed 25 March
10.30am – CTH Lent Course – Hall ††††††††††
6pm – Feed Up Warm Up – Scout Hall
Thurs 26 March
Christian Meditation Group 6.30pm Hall



**Light a candle of hope
at 7pm this Sunday:
A national call to prayer**

In the midst of the Coronavirus pandemic,
Presidents of CTE are calling all churches
to a National Day of Prayer & Action
on Sunday 22nd March



cte.org.uk/calltoprayer

This Mothering Sunday, 22nd March, all churches


are called to a National Day of Prayer and Action. At such a time as this, when so many are fearful and there is great uncertainty, we are reminded of our dependence on our loving Heavenly Father and the future that he holds.

At 7pm this Sunday, light a candle in the windows of your homes as a visible symbol of the light of life, Jesus Christ, our source and hope in prayer. More details on parish website events page.

Offertory In light of the current situation we need to make new arrangements for parishioners to make their offerings. We will be sending out a letter very soon with details of what you can be doing but just to assure you that those of you who use the planned giving envelopes - we will be popping them through your door over the next couple of weeks. You can drop them in to the church office if you are passing.

- Other things to consider are Standing orders (paperwork is available and easy to complete)
- Use the text facility to make a cash donation by mobile phone: text **Parish HITCH** to **70800** to donate £5.
- Maximise your donation by signing up to Gift Aid your donations if you have not already done so (again paperwork available)

But, in these worrying times, you should not be concerned if, for whatever reason, you are not able to make your donation.

 Brother Damian Clemas was born in West Bromwich and joined the Assumption in 1955. He had experience in carpentry and spent many years working in the Congo. After a short period back in England he went for 16 years to our house in Jerusalem where he was responsible for keeping the large garden and grounds in order for the benefit of the many pilgrims. He also lived in our parish for a short while.

**To donate to Our Lady's through text giving on your mobile phone !!
Just text **Parish HITCH** to **70800** to donate £5.**

Faith Development Helpline

If you (or someone you know) needs to chat about your faith or have been feeling lost ring

07398821315

Tues/Wed/Thurs 8pm-10pm.
Confidential service provided.
No need to identify yourself



AMORIS LAETITIA THE JOY OF LOVE 172

Marital joy can be experienced even amid sorrow; it involves accepting that marriage is an inevitable mixture of enjoyment and struggles, tensions and repose, pain and relief, satisfactions and longings, annoyances and pleasures, but always on the path of friendship... to care for one another.

If you have a need for prayer, please contact **Mary** on **07759195487** and let her know your prayer intentions

Parish Priest Fr Tom O'Brien 07547 171570	Assistant Priest Fr Euloge Kasine 07424 004647	Parish 01462 459126 E-mail: hitchin@rcdow.org.uk Website: https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/
--	---	--

Parish Administrator Cheryl Saunders cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk	Pastoral Assistants Robert Hitchcock roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk Trish Bonnett trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk
--	--

This week's counting teams:
Sunday Team: 2 Monday Team: 1



If you are going into hospital please notify the Chaplain on Tel: **01438 285519** or Email: spiritualcare.enh-tr@nhs.net