



# CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

16 Nightingale Road, HITCHIN, SG5 1QS

(In the care of the Augustinians of the Assumption)



**Our church is closed** in the current coronavirus pandemic. **Daily Mass is livestreamed at 9.30am on <https://www.facebook.com/trish.bonnett> and posted as an audio file to the homepage of the parish website by 11am daily.**



## Newsletter No 1887

18-25 April – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter – Divine Mercy Sunday – 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:** Acts:2:42-47, 1 Peter 1:3-9, John 20:19-31

**Entrance Antiphon:** Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

**Psalm:** Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.

**Intercession:** Lord hear us

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

**Next week:** Acts:2:14,22-33, 1 Pet 1:17-21, Lk 24:13-35



### Ramblings Doubt leading to Faith

The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone, we read in Acts. Miracles continue to happen today in abundance. The now famous Captain Tom Moore raised over £22 million for the NHS from a short walk. A man who had lost his job and unable to pay for a funeral led to a collection of £100,000. There are hundreds of thousands of people keeping an eye on an elderly neighbour or person in need. The NHS is saving people's lives every day. Christ is truly alive! There is no lack of miracle today. So, I ask you to hold Thomas the apostle in high esteem this week. He had the courage to voice what others only thought but kept quiet. They did not believe the women who told them Christ was risen. Peter and John had to run to the tomb to verify what the women told them. Even when Jesus appeared to the disciples, at first, they could not believe their eyes. Jesus had to appear several times before they were convinced. To doubt and to question, in the case of Thomas, led him to declare a much greater conviction of his Faith than the others were willing to openly admit. Remember that Mary asked the angel "How can this be?" Then she responded in a similar way to Thomas by opening herself fully to God which is what Thomas does in proclaiming "My Lord and my God!" As with all miracles, proclamation of faith leads to action. Mary brought forth Christ into the world, nurturing and supporting him throughout. Thomas took the Good News of Jesus Christ to India where he nurtured and strengthened the faith of the new Christians there. You all have faith. Don't fail to see the miracles taking place in your homes and round about. Christ is truly risen and his miracles happening today are proof of it. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Mass of Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March at 9.30 am will include music from the choir and psalm and acclamations from Catherine and Peregrine Muncaster.**

Words and music to the hymns will be sent out later today so that you can join in at home (any maybe practice them if you don't know them too well!)

You can see the Mass live at <https://www.facebook.com/trish.bonnett> at 9.30am or thereabouts – just be more patient than I am! You can see the mass later on the same page at any time or listen to the Mass on the soundcloud at <https://soundcloud.com/user-270729464>

### Diary Dates

**Wed 22 April**

**6pm – Feed Up Warm Up – Scout Hall**

**Thursday 23 April St George's Day**

moved to 30 April because of Easter octave

**St George (- c.303)**



He was martyred at Lydda (now in Israel) in about 303, during the persecution of Diocletian. Like so many saints of that period, the only fact that we can be certain of is his martyrdom. His cult spread quickly through both the East and the West, and the legend

of St George and the Dragon only appeared some time afterwards.

During the crusades, George was seen to personify the ideals of Christian chivalry, and he was adopted as the patron saint of several city states and countries, including England and

Catalonia. King Richard I of England placed his crusading army under the protection of St George, and in 1222 his feast was proclaimed a holiday.

### Your offerings to the parish

Please note that we have stopped the **text giving service**. This is because very few parishes had used it and the monthly fee was more than the income we were raising. Please consider using the "Donate to our Parish" section on the Parish website where you will find details on donating by bank transfer, standing order or by card together with details on how to Gift Aid your donations. Many thanks to you all for your understanding.

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### GIFT AID - TAX REBATE CLAIM

We will shortly be submitting the tax rebate claim for money donated to the Church under the Gift Aid Scheme in the tax year ending on 5 April 2020. If you have signed up for Gift Aid but no longer pay tax, please inform David Wilson, our Planned Giving & Gift Aid Organiser so that we do not submit an inappropriate claim. You can contact David through Cheryl in the Parish Office or by email at [hitchin@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:hitchin@rcdow.org.uk) If you are not sure whether or not you have signed up for Gift Aid or whether you have paid enough tax to cover what we will claim, David will be able to let you know. Similarly, if you have not yet signed up for Gift Aid, but would like to do so, it is not too late and you should contact David who will make the necessary arrangements for you. Also, can we take this opportunity to remind you that a Gift Aid donation must be made in the name of the person who pays the tax on the money that is donated; if that is not the case, please let David know and alternative arrangements can be made. Last but not least, can we again say a big "thank you" to all of you who have signed Gift Aid Declarations in favour of the Church as the tax rebate plays such an important part in financing the running of the Church – thank you.

The new boxes of Planned Giving Envelopes are made up and will be issued as soon as the CV19 restrictions are eased.

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Did you know that you could be making huge savings on your bills? Search for a better deal with #easyfundraising, you could save money on your household bills and raise BIG donations for Our Lady's RC Church Hitchin. Visit <http://efraising.org/dQKdCrbatS> to get started.

The **Mass for Matrimony** for those celebrating significant anniversaries on 30th June at the cathedral has been **cancelled**. I am sure they will invite those who would have attended to come to the next one they organize.

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**UPDATE** All charities are facing challenges in this difficult time and the Trustees have now taken the tough decision to currently furlough

most of our staff to protect our finances. We have allowed for capacity in collaboration with schools to make some on-line mentoring available for the most vulnerable students. We recognise that when schools re-start, there will be a huge demand for mental health mentoring and general wellbeing provision for young people and we are committed to providing support.

Therefore, we are now launching a Phase Covid-19 Fund via Virgin Money Giving to help offset our anticipated shortfall. We are aiming to raise £15k to cover the 3-6 months loss of fundraising over this period. If you are able to contribute and share this with your congregations as you see fit that would be really appreciated. <http://virginmoneygiving.com/fund/phase-covid19>

We appreciate these are difficult times for everyone and we would be grateful if you could continue to pray for our mission..



We have a parishioner who has a supply of about 40 packets of Complian, variety of flavours, which are well within use by date. If you could use these or know of anyone who could can you please let Trish know. They are happy to deliver.

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**Mass for the sick and their families, NHS front-line workers and those working in social care.** The Catholic Bishops of England and Wales recognise that this time of the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting every person in our countries. Those who are sick, and their families, are suffering many hardships of isolation from contact with those they love.

Our front-line workers in hospitals and in care homes all over our lands are giving exceptional service to those who are vulnerable at this time. In order to show a spiritual solidarity with all those who are involved in the ways described above, each week from next Thursday, a Catholic Bishop

will celebrate Mass in their Cathedral which will be live-streamed for people to join.

**23 April**

Cardinal Vincent Nichols

Westminster Cathedral

Westminster Cathedral on [churchservices.tv](http://churchservices.tv)



For those of you who are not with Neighbourhood watch the following article might be of interest

**Closure of Household Waste Recycling Centres [HWRCs] due to COVID-19**

The link below takes you to the relevant press release concerning closure of the HWRCs:

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/about-the-council/news/news-archive/hwrc-coronavirus-closures>

In essence, journeys to your local household waste recycling centre are not currently classed as an essential journey and therefore no residents should be trying to access the HWRCs.

**Fly Tipping**

Fly Tips should be reported to your local district council. The link [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/flytipping](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/flytipping) provides various ways you can report fly tipping in your local district, including online reporting, email and telephone numbers.

**Skips** are still in operation and this is a secure way of depositing waste. An invoice from the skip company fulfils the obligation for a householder's duty of care. Please check with the skip company as some are happy to drop the skip but it could take two to three weeks to collect.

The following link will help you identify approved carriers:

<https://environment.data.gov.uk/public-register/view/search-waste-carriers-brokers>

**Burning of Waste**

With regards to burning waste, this is a NO, as what it is being burnt could be harmful to the atmosphere. However, a bit of common sense means that if you burn garden waste and wood then this is a normal bonfire. On days where the weather is good, please consider your neighbours who may hang out washing or have open windows.

Here is the official Government Bonfire Guidelines. Breaches should be reported to your local Council.

<https://www.gov.uk/garden-bonfires-rules>

	<p>The anniversary we remember this week is of Fr Francois Picard. One of the first Assumptionists. He was second Superior General (1880~1903) and founder of our contemplative branch the Orantes of the Assumption</p>
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	<p>If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other ... <i>Mother Teresa, 1910–1997, Nobel Peace laureate</i></p>
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**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

	<p><b>AMORIS LAETITIA THE JOY OF LOVE 176</b> Our Daily Love - Conjugal Love - Joy and Beauty Tenderness is a sign of a love free of selfish possessiveness. It makes us approach a person with immense respect and a certain dread of causing them harm or taking away their freedom.</p>
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	<p>If you have a need for prayer, please contact <b>Mary</b> on <b>07759195487</b> and let her know your prayer intentions</p>
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<p><b>Parish Priest</b> Fr Tom O'Brien 07547 171570</p>	<p><b>Assistant Priest</b> Fr Euloge Kasine 07424 004647</p>	<p><b>Parish</b> <b>01462 459126</b> E-mail: <a href="mailto:hitchin@rcdow.org.uk">hitchin@rcdow.org.uk</a> Website: <a href="https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/">https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/</a></p>
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<p><b>Parish Administrator</b> Cheryl Saunders <b>Pastoral Assistants</b> Robert Hitchcock Trish Bonnett</p>	<p><a href="mailto:cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk">cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk</a> <a href="mailto:roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk">roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk</a> <a href="mailto:trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk">trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk</a></p>
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<p>This week's counting teams: <b>Sunday Team: Monday Team:</b></p>		<p>If you are going into hospital please notify the Chaplain on Tel: <b>01438 285519</b> or Email: <a href="mailto:spiritualcare.enh-tr@nhs.net">spiritualcare.enh-tr@nhs.net</a></p>
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