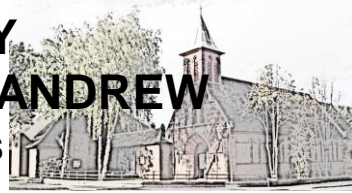


CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

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 1888

25 April – 2 May 2020 – 3rd Sunday of Easter – 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: Acts:2:14.22-33, 1 Pet 1:17-21, Lk 24:13-35

Entrance Antiphon: Cry out with joy to God, all the earth; O sing to the glory of his name. O render him glorious praise, alleluia.

Psalm: **Show us, Lord, the path of life. Alleluia!**

Intercession: We pray to the Lord

Response: Lord, hear us!

Next week: Acts:2:14.36-41, 1 Pet 2:20-25, Jn 10:1-10



Ramblings

The great hope of the two disciples returning home to Emmaus was that Jesus was the one whom God had sent to set the people of Israel free. Throughout his life and up to his death, Jesus' followers believed that he would free the people from Roman tyranny. Jesus appeared to them after his resurrection several times and eventually sent them the Holy Spirit to show them that the freedom he had won for them was a spiritual freedom – a freedom to live a life with God and for God. The disciples did not preach the gospel because they were told to by Jesus but because they wanted to. It became their greatest desire. The same Spirit urged the two disciples to return immediately to Jerusalem to tell the other disciples that Jesus had appeared to them and what he had told them. By its nature the Good News of Jesus Christ urges us to share it with others. In telling the others of the fire Jesus bright to their hearts, the two disciples would have been animated, excited and overjoyed. This is what the Good News does to people. Listen to what St Augustine wrote in his Confessions: *Late have I loved you, Beauty so ancient and so new, late have I loved you! Lo, you were within, but I outside, seeking there for you, and upon the shapely things you have made I rushed headlong – I, misshapen. You were with me, but I was not with you. They held me back far from you, those things which would have no being, were they not in you. You called, shouted, broke through my deafness; you flared, blazed, banished my blindness; you lavished your fragrance, I gasped; and now I pant for you; I tasted you, and now I hunger and thirst; you touched me, and I burned for your peace.* Fortunately, it is never too late to love Jesus.



Diary Dates

Wed 29 April

6pm – Feed Up Warm Up – Scout Hall

Providing food to families



Caritas Westminster in partnership with FUUU are now part of



the food provision group in North Herts reports a thrilled Liz Wills.

Liz, a parishioner, a Caritas development worker and the project manager with the Feed Up Warm Up initiative, has been busy throughout the whole of the lockdown ensuring that people in the community who are in need are fed or have food given to them.

Now this initiative will also be working with the family liaison team in North Hertfordshire and they will be supporting about 20 families who are struggling financially due to the impact of the Covid-19 crisis, they will do this by providing food parcels every week. Liz wants to assure any families in the parish who are in a similar position that they will support them in this way also. If you need food support or you know someone who does please email Liz at elizabethwills@rcdow.org.uk

They have also signed up to join FareShare who will deliver 50 kilos of food every week. Liz and FUUU are so grateful for the continuous support and donations they are still receiving. Please keep donating! They continue to run FUUU from the scout hut on a Wednesday evening using appropriate social distancing measures. **Thanks to Liz and all involved in this continuing initiative to help those who need food in our community.**



<https://www.caritaswestminster.org.uk/>
<http://www.feedupwarmup.co.uk/>



We pray for **Oonagh Trumble** whose funeral is on Thursday 30th April 2020 at 11am at North Herts Memorial Park and Crematorium. We also pray for **Alice Campbell** who died this week and whose funeral is on 6th May at 12pm in St John's cemetery. May Oonagh and Alice rest in peace and rise in glory and may the Lord comfort their families.

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Meet Rob Hitchcock – Sacramental co-ordinator



For those who I am yet to meet. My name is Robert Hitchcock. I am the new sacramental coordinator for the parish I am new to the area, originally from Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire. Currently a Masters student at St. Mary's university, Twickenham studying Christianity Spirituality, I have Foundation Degree in Youth Ministry and a BA in Theology, Religion and Ethics. I have been working with young people for over 10 yrs. Whilst studying for my FD I was in the middle of taking a gap year at Alton Castle, Staffordshire (next to Alton Towers Theme park). My hope is that I continue and develop the great work that already takes place in the parish by improving the provision for the youth of the parish.

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Sewing machine to borrow?

Do you have sewing machine you are not using much at the moment? We have a young parishioner who is really keen to do some fashion sewing and her parents want to borrow a machine first



before to develop the interest before buying a machine. If you are able to help please let Trish know and she can arrange for the machine to be collected.

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A local lady has been making scrubs for the NHS but has run out of material and it is quite expensive to buy online. Does anyone had any clean, old cotton bedding (sheets, quilt covers etc) they want to get rid of so that she can use these to continue to make them. If you can help let Trish know (**07801 752141**) and she can collect anything from you. Please put it in a bag and leave it on your doorstep when you have arranged for her to come. Thanks in anticipation.

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Praying with art There is a reflection on our positive readings and prayer page which is a reflection with art on the Emmaus story. Written by Reverend Charmaine Sabey-Corkindale who used to be Vicar at St Faiths.



<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/prayers-and-positive-readings-and-liturgy-support-for-adults-and-children/>

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The Difference team who developed the Reconciliation course we ran in the parish last year is now looking at new ways to reach people in this time of lockdown. They invite you to join their webinars for practical guidance, tips and deep theology on how our faith can make a difference to the fractures we're seeing in our community and all around us.

You'll hear from expert guest contributors with theological and activist backgrounds. There will be opportunities to interact, as well as time for Q&A.

Join these webinars, and in doing so join a community of Christians learning together how we navigate the situation we're facing and put our faith into action.

To register for any of these webinars go to <https://difference.rln.global/webinars>

Webinar 1 - Difference: The power of faith in a conflicted world

Date and time: Tuesday 28th April, 3.00pm - 4.15pm

Description: See afresh the brokenness and fracture we encounter every day and how we can respond as followers of Jesus.

Webinar 2 - Difference: Be Curious

Date and time: Tuesday 5th May, 8.00pm - 9.15pm

Description: Explore how being curious can help us build relationships across divides and transform our approach to conflict and disagreement.

Webinar 3 - Difference: Be Present

Date and time: Tuesday 12th May, 3.00pm - 4.15pm

Description: Explore how engaging our whole, unique selves can help us deepen our encounters.

Webinar 4 - Difference: Reimagine

Date and time: Tuesday 19th May, 8.00pm - 9.15pm

Description: Explore how rooting ourselves deeply in God can enable us to find hope in the places we long to see change.

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NHDC Healthy Hub have tailored their service to provide guidance on the support available during COVID-19 as well providing health & wellbeing advice.

From helping to ensure you have access to essential items such as food and/or medication to supporting your mental and physical health, they are there to help! Call **01462 474111** (Mon to Fri, 9am-5pm), email healthyhub@north-herts.gov.uk or visit <https://www.healthyhubnorthherts.co.uk/> for more information.

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The National Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) team have told us that their third #OnlineSafetyAtHome pack is now available with new activities for parents and carers to use at home. To support parents during COVID-19 and the closure of schools, CEOP we will be releasing new home activity packs each fortnight with simple, age appropriate, 15 minute activities you can do with your child to support their online safety at a time when they will be spending more time online at home.

The activity packs can be accessed here:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/home-activity-worksheets/>

Professionals and parents and carers have reported that children are using video-chatting apps and sites to access learning and keep in touch with friends and family.

Two new Parent Information articles look at some of the things parents and carers should think about to ensure their child's experience of video chat is safe and fun:

[Video chatting: a guide for parents and carers of primary school-age children](#)

[Video chatting: a guide for parents and carers of secondary school-age children](#)

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The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health have issued advice for parents and carers when a child is unwell to support you to make the right decision.

If you are in the **GREEN** section care for them at home or ring 111 if you are worried, if you are in the **AMBER** section ring your GP or 111, if you are in the **RED** section go to nearest Emergency Department or ring 999.



For further detail click on <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/coronavirus-information-and-updates/> on the parish website

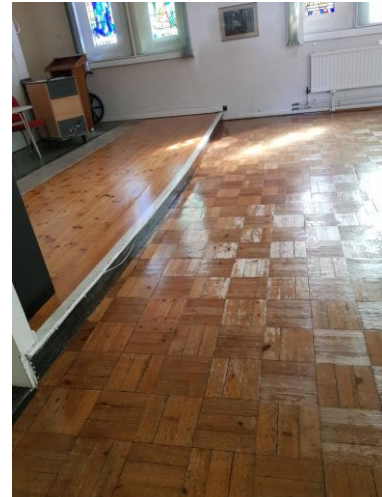
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A **Buddy system** is still operating in the parish though it would seem that there is not too much call for it as the good news is that most parishioners seem to have good support from family and friends.

If you need help with shopping, prescriptions or just someone to chat to you occasionally please let Trish know as there are many people in the parish ready to help. If there are parishioners who live in the Shefford/Henlow/Stondon areas that need some practical help, we have another parishioner living there who would be happy to help.

We are delighted to say thank you to parishioner Steve King whose company has varnished the floor in the hall. We were able to have this done without causing any inconvenience to user groups!

Great thanks go to Steve and his team and also John and Frances Chamberlain who painstakingly removed the worn rubber feet from all the chairs in the hall and replaced them so they no longer scrape the floor. When we get back to using the hall it will be there gleaming in the sunshine for us!



Fr Marie Felix Dufau was a tutor in theology at our study house near Agen. Well past normal retirement age he would not give up his lectures. At lunch time he would always play petenque (French bowls). On exam days he had to win otherwise everybody failed their exam. A very lovable old man.

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 177

Our Daily Love - Conjugal Love - Joy and Beauty
Loving another person involves the joy of contemplating and appreciating their innate beauty and sacredness, which is greater than my needs.



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: Monday Team:



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