



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 1890

9 May – 16 May 2020 – 5th 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: 6:1-7, 1 Pet 2:4-9, Jn 14:1-12

Entrance Antiphon: O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

Psalm: May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you. Alleluia!

Intercession: We pray to the Lord

Response: Lord, hear us!



Next week: Acts: 8:5-8, 1 Pet 3:15-18, Jn 14:15-21

Ramblings Way, Truth and Life

St Peter says to us: "you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light. (1 Peter 2:9). What more could we want??? With great gifts and great honours come even greater responsibilities. These responsibilities, however, are not burdensome any more than it would be for a person to help someone whom they loved deeply, for whom nothing was too much.

A man sees a chap walking towards him carrying a man on his shoulders. "You have a heavy burden there!" he says to him. The chap walks by with a broad smile on his face and says "He's not a burden, he's my brother!"

Maybe Jesus wasn't carrying a heavy, burdensome cross, he was carrying US! Which is why, we, who follow his Way, are supported by him every step of the way. Not a stumbling block for us but a solid support and a sign of reassurance. In following the Way and living a life of service, like Stephen and his companions, we discover that the Truth is something that is lived and in living the Truth we discover the Life Jesus wants for us. It is clear that Jesus believed that the Father lived and worked through him because he gave himself fully to accomplishing the Father's will. In following Jesus, the Way, the same Father will live and work in us. Pope Francis: *Christians are called . . . to conduct their entire lives - both words and actions - as a witness to the Truth that is Jesus Christ. . . . The truth finds its full realization in the very person of Jesus, in his way of living and dying, in the fruit of his relationship with the Father. As children of God, people are given this same access to truth, sent through the Holy Spirit, who is the Spirit of*

truth, and who testifies to our hearts that God is our Father.

Diary Dates

Wednesday 13 May

6pm – Feed Up Warm Up – Scout Hall

Thursday 14 May

Feast of St Matthias, Apostle



In the 1960s Hitchin Council of Churches, as it was then named, participated in the House to House collection and this has continued ever since till last year. The decision to cease doing this was due to a number of reasons, falling numbers of volunteers, cashless society, not answering the door to strangers etc, which meant the amount collected had dropped from £25,000 in the 1990s to £12,000 last year.

It was decided instead to take up Christian Aid's other suggestions, the Big Breakfast being one. In Hitchin a number of events were planned with Big Breakfasts in various churches, the annual quiz, afternoon tea and organ recital at Christchurch, lunch time jazz at a Pirton pub among others. It was agreed to still have envelopes in all the churches for congregations to contribute. I ordered all the materials in January!

However, the virus has stopped these events, but in consultation with those organising these events we decided to hold the ideas and rearrange dates whenever we are able to be out and about for

such things. Christian Aid exists all year round so money is always needed.

Christian Aid has put a number of virtual ideas on its website including a service and an e envelope. If people still wish to donate during the Week the information to do so is on the website as is the service. Christian Aid also has a facebook page with links there too. I hope this is helpful for as ever, the poorest of the poor will suffer badly during this time of Covid 19. I do hope you will be able to support the events once they can be rearranged.

Helen Richardson
CTH Hitchin & Villages Organiser



[Presence - Poetry & Music Open Mic \(online event\) - St Ethelburga's](#)

We hope you will join us for Presence – Poetry & Music Open Mic which for the time being is being held online on Zoom. Everyone is welcome, either to perform or simply to join the audience. The vibe is friendly, informal and inclusive.

<https://stethelburgas.org/event/17-05-20-presence-poetry-music-open-mic-online-event/>



Your photos are needed As those of you on email will be aware Trish is sending out daily

pictures with little thoughts. Many of these pictures are now being supplied by parishioners. If you have taken a picture that connected you with the wonders of God then please email it to Trish for future use. Many thanks

Our parish buddy group can offer you the same help also. Let Trish know if you need a buddy.

 A parishoner visiting the cemetery noticed the name **Geoffrey Harding** on one of our Assumptionist graves. Who was he? Fr Geoffrey spent most of his life being ill. He suffered from chest infections. He is a wonderful example of the person who perseveres in his vocation despite facing permanent problems.

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 179
 Our Daily Love - Conjugal Love - Joy and Beauty
 Loving enables me to seek another person's good even when they cannot belong to me, or when they are no longer physically appealing.

 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