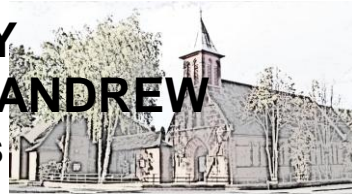


CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

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 1892

23-30 May 2020 – 7th 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: Acts 1:12-14, 1 Peter 4:13-16, John 17:1-11

Entrance Antiphon: O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you; of you my heart has spoken: seek his face; hide not your face from me, alleluia

Psalm: **I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living!**

Intercession: Lord in your Mercy

Response: Hear our Prayer!

Next week: Acts: 2:1-11, 1Cor 12:3-7, 12-13, John 20:19-23

Ramblings Jesus said to his disciples: *Eternal life is this: to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.* Where know means to have a relationship or friendship with God, with Jesus Christ. He goes on to say that “*in them I am glorified.*” Jesus means **us**. Take a moment to reflect on this. Jesus is glorified in us. This is both a privilege and an honour – *Jesus glorified in us.* Maybe the closest we ever come to experiencing this is when we make the discovery of a lifetime that fills us with such joy and happiness because it is something for which we have yearned. It will radiate from our presence and demeanour. It will captivate all those we encounter even if they do not understand why (until you tell them, of course). All those who met the apostle after Pentecost would have been struck by this presence which eventually led many to become baptised. Our question is not so much how do we radiate this glory of Christ but *how can we best do this?*

The word “glory” in scripture refers to the essential worth, beauty and value of people, created things and, of course, the Creator Himself. The Hebrew word for glory is a word meaning weight, substance, and at the same time, brilliance or radiant beauty. To glorify someone is to recognise their intrinsic worth and beauty, and acknowledge it publicly. To glorify God is to acknowledge the wonder, goodness, beauty and supreme love of God and proclaim this as we do in our prayer, especially in the Eucharist.

Extracts from a poem *Opening my eyes* by Gracie Knoll

Such diversity	Such creativity	Such extravagance
Such beauty	Such complexity	Such an abundance
Such intentionality	Such personality	Such a God!
Such love	Such mercy	Such grace

Nothing I can do will ever separate me from the love and mercy and grace of this God.

Diary Dates

Wed 27 May

6pm – Feed Up Warm Up – Scout Hall

Sat 6 June

10.30am All First Holy Communion Parents there is a Zoom session planned to take place. Rob Hitchcock will be sending your details of the meeting nearer the time. You can contact him at roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament daily live streamed.

There will be exposition of the Blessed Sacrament live streamed from our church through <https://www.facebook.com/trish.bonnett> daily from 10.30-11am. This will begin this Monday 25th May. A chance to spend some quiet reflective prayer time with the Lord.

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The Diocese has updated the “**Donate to Parish**” section on the website. If you do **online banking**, the quickest and most direct way to donate is with a bank transfer. If you can, please also consider a monthly gift by standing order. Our account details are:

Account Name: Westminster Roman Catholic Diocese Trustee,
Our Lady Immaculate & St Andrew, Hitchin. (This is the Parish account's full name in the banking system. You only need quote the first line).

Sort Code: 40-05-20

Account Number: 81094610

Please add your Surname and First Name as a reference. Many thanks.



We pray for **James Devaney** whose funeral is on Monday 1st June at 11am at St John's cemetery.

We also pray for **Terence O'Keefe** whose funeral is on Wednesday 3 June 2020 at 1pm at North Herts Crematorium and Memorial Park.

May they rest in peace and rise in glory and may the Lord comfort their families.

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As the important Solemnity of Pentecost approaches, the Cardinal assures you that he holds you in his prayer. He has sent us a message. In it, he reflects on the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, particularly in the context of the circumstances in which we are living at the moment. The video is available online at <https://vimeo.com/421046273> or on the parish website on the Positive prayers and readings page.

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Preparation to reopen our churches

Fr Tom received a letter from the Cardinal this week about the future re-opening of our churches. An extract from that letter is below:

The time has come for us to begin to prepare for the opening of our churches. Exactly when that opening may be is not known, but you are aware of the indicative date of 4 July and, given the current discussions, some more limited opening may be possible before then. You and I also know the thirst that our people have to return to pray before the presence of Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament even before the resumption of the celebration of the Mass. There are many things to be attended to before that can happen as we have a duty to ensure that our churches are as free as possible of the risk of spreading the virus. While some are eager to enter the church, others are fearful. We must help people to move from seeing the church as another place of risk to one where they can find peace and sanctuary. This is a demanding and necessary service. It is indeed part of our ministry of giving witness to the Lord's ways of grace and salvation in which we put our trust. The place of sacraments in the Catholic faith is one of its great and distinguishing gifts. It is the intention of the Government's 'Places of Worship Taskforce' to produce guidance which 'supports places of

worship across England to open safely' (HMG press release, 15 May 2020). This guidance will shape our responsibilities, together with any more specific guidance about our own churches. Even before this guidance is published, there are things we can do to prepare for the reopening of our churches.

Just to assure all parishioners that we are preparing for this re-opening and putting together a plan for how this will happen and what we will all have to do. We will share this with you as soon as we are able.

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Little Sisters of the Poor
Caring for the elderly - inspired by our faith

You are asked your kind help and prayer, for the residents, staff and all at St. Anne's Home, who are making an emergency appeal to support their residents and staff. Due to the recent Government restrictions, St Anne's Care Home in Stoke Newington has been forced to implement emergency measures to aid efforts to fight the Coronavirus pandemic. Unfortunately, along with suspending residential visitations, this also includes cancelling charity events and collections which has had a massive impact on the donations they rely on to help with our increasing running costs. Can you help? For full details go to <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/news/> or donate directly at www.littlesistersofthepoor.co.uk/donate-here/

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Climate Change and Religion: Politics, Perceptions and Radical Potentials



Date and Time: **Wed, 3 June 2020 12:30 – 19:00 BST** Co-hosted by the Woolf Institute and the Faraday Institute for Science and Religion. To register for free: [Climate Change and Religion: Politics, Perceptions and Radical Potentials](https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/news/)

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Jesuit prayer support for Ascension and Pentecost

We keep in prayer all those working to fight the pandemic and all those grieving the loss of loved ones. We also pray for the families you serve, as

they learn new ways of living as the domestic church.

Ascension and Pentecost

Ascension and Pentecost are the two great feasts that signal the end of the Easter season. Celebrate using these ideas from Loyola Press.

Click below to take you to the webpage for these activities including a lovely game for children.

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



Fr Andre Seve, a small quiet man who spent his life working for Bayard (The Assumption printing house) and writing books on spirituality for everyone, for example, a commentary on the second readings in the Sunday liturgy. Sadly none of his work has yet been translated into English.

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
Much hurt and many problems result when we stop looking at one another.

We often hear in families: 'My husband acts as if I were invisible.' 'My wife only has eyes for our children.' 'In my home nobody cares about me, they don't even see me.'



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