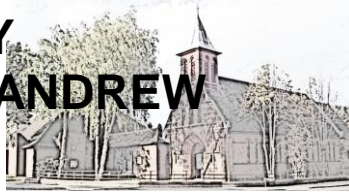




CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

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 1893

30 May – 6 June 2020 – PENTECOST SUNDAY – 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: 2:1-11, 1Cor 12:3-7.12-13, John 20:19-23

Entrance Antiphon: The Spirit of the Lord has filled the whole world and that which contains all things understands what is said, alleluia.

Psalm: Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.

Intercession: We pray to the Lord

Response: Lord hear us!



Next week: Ex 34:4-6.8-9, Cor 13:11-13, John 3:16-18

Ramblings We are really a weird and wonderful people. We often pray to God for some kind of miracle usually for someone we love, for health and healing, but other things too. When making our request of God, we also remember the words of Mary to the Angel Gabriel and join her in saying, *“Not my will but thine be done.”* Our real hope is that God’s will is in line with our own. This year we will have many requests to place before the Holy Spirit especially concerning the Covid crisis. Think again what happened to the Apostles and disciples in that upper room on Pentecost Sunday. Jesus had promised them the Spirit, an Advocate who would lead them into all truth. The Spirit came not with answers and not with any specific powers except to help them speak in a language that their hearers would understand; a language that spoke to the heart, to the very essence of people’s lives and that opened them to the truth. Perhaps what the Spirit will bring is patience in the present state of the lockdown; the ability to do the right thing and not flaunt the rules of social distancing because of our care and concern for others. Perhaps the Spirit will help us reflect carefully and thoughtfully on what shape the Church should take in the future as it emerges from Lockdown - a Church that is more caring, more sensitive to the needs of people, particularly the vulnerable and marginalised; a Church in which clergy and laity work more closely together. Will not the Spirit help us move forward with greater respect and thanks for our key workers especially in health-care, in hospitals, surgeries and care homes? The future will not just be about maintaining the good that has arisen from the lockdown but improving and deepening it in our communities along with all other Faith and caring communities. Most of all, the Spirit will want to inspire us to work much harder in caring for and nurturing a

creation that has done so much to keep us sane through these difficult times.

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Pentecost reflection

A prayerful, meditative reflection comes from Fr James Harvey SJ, former Master of Campion Hall, Oxford and currently serving in Rome at the Jesuit Curia. Click [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9CMOKXvk5CU) to hear. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9CMOKXvk5CU>



Diary Dates

Wed 3 June
6pm – Feed Up Warm Up – Scout Hall

Reopening the church for private prayer – this hopefully will be happening soon and we are working on a plan to ensure this will happen safely for all users of the church. More detail will be given to us soon but in the meantime we will need to plan for volunteers to help. We will need stewards during the time the church is open for private prayer and we will need people to help clean the church daily after use. At present this excludes those who are deemed vulnerable (over 70 years, and/or with certain pre-existing health conditions, self-isolating or shielding) We will put out a formal call but in the meantime if you are willing to help as a steward or cleaner please email Trish asap. trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk

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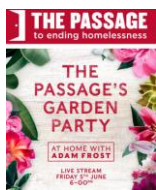
Offerings Many Parishioners were asking how they could make their donations and weekly offerings to the Priests and the Parish. Due to remote working, we made the decision to send out this year’s weekly offertory envelopes. Some of you may now be making your donations by Standing Order or by other means. If this is the

case and you no longer wish to have these or any future envelopes, please let Cheryl or David Wilson know. Please don't worry if you cannot get your donations or unused envelopes to the Parish during these unprecedented times. There will be plenty of opportunity once our Church is re-opened at some point. Also, if any Parishioners have not received their boxes of envelopes, please let Cheryl or David know. We would like to thank all of you who have made donations/offerings since the lockdown. If you have sent in donations by cheque, please be assured that they will be processed in the coming weeks. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

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You could raise even more for Our Lady Immaculate and St Andrew Church - Hitchin this week! A great selection of retailers are offering increased donations, when you shop online with **#easyfundraising** for fashion, gifts, electrical and more. You can even get a triple donation when you shop on Etsy! See the full list of retailers here: <http://efraising.org/y9ZOnguN69>

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The Passage is delighted to invite you to our first ever virtual event; **The Passage's Garden Party: At Home with Adam Frost**. Join our live stream from a computer, tablet, or phone on Friday **5th June from 6pm**, to

commemorate 40 years of The Passage and its work helping people to overcome homelessness. Register at <https://passage.org.uk/get-involved/events/virtual-garden-party/>

THY KINGDOM COME – PENTECOST CELEBRATION



Archbishop Angaelos
Coptic Orthodox Church

Rev. Abi Thompson
Sub Dean St Albans Abbey

Ros Hancock
Methodist District Thy Kingdom Come Prayer Champion

Join us online at the following link from 6pm on Sunday 31st May

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOR364-KwEgko9Sq5i7jsw>

With music and prayer from around the region

Churches Together In Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire

Thy Kingdom Come Beacon Celebration, normally hosted in St Albans Cathedral, this year online and premiering at 6 pm on 31st May at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOR364-KwEgko9Sq5i7jsw>

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Take part in the Friends of Westminster Cathedral **Lockdown Online Quiz on Tuesday 2 June at 6.30pm** on the Friends of Westminster Cathedral Facebook Page. The quiz is free to enter but we are asking if you might make a £5 per head donation. All monies raised will help to support Westminster Cathedral. Parish virtual teams are welcome and may communicate using Zoom, Microsoft Teams, What's App etc. For more details and to enter email christinawhite@rcdow.org.uk



Fr Octavien Caron was one of four brothers who all became Assumptionists. Octavien (known as Ocki) spent most of his priesthood as assistant novice master. He was a most kind and helpful man. A Latin scholar he used to correct the Latin in the breviary.



Living in solidarity: with Creation. Sign the CAFOD petition to the Prime Minister asking him to stop overseas support for large-scale agriculture that harms the environment and fossil fuels. See the Campaigns section of CAFOD's website.

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 180

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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