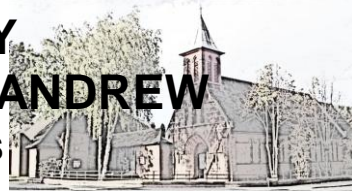




CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

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 1894

6-13 June 2020 – THE MOST HOLY TRINITY – 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: Ex 34:4-6.8-9, Cor 13:11-13, John 3:16-18

Entrance Antiphon: Blest be God the Father, and the Only Begotten Son of God, and also the Holy Spirit, for he has shown us his merciful love.

Psalm: **To you glory and praise for evermore.**

Intercession: Lord hear us

Response: **Lord graciously hear us!**

Next week: Deut 8:2-3.14-16, Cor 10:16-17, John 6:51-52

Ramblings We are inquisitive beings. From our early days, we ask question after question after question. It is because of this questioning that discoveries are made that shape and change future development. When it comes to questions about God, the questions are never ending and yet our image, understanding and knowledge of God is far from complete. As St Paul said, “*now we see in a glass darkly.*” Ultimately, all answers to questions about God and in particular the Trinity boil down to how we experience God, the Trinity. It certainly motivates us to develop a more personal relationship with God; with Jesus - a brother, with God as Father, and with the energy and power of the Holy Spirit. A relationship that can never adequately be reduced to words, however good we may be at using them. God is both uniquely personal and yet a God who is family, which is why we are not only rational beings but social beings too. Words, presence and action are all important elements of any relationship. Because God comes to us as a community, we need to come into his presence as a community too – which is why the Lockdown has been so hard. We have recently entered the season called ordinary time, although no time is ordinary with God – we wear green (colour of HOPE). When we celebrate mass in church, the monitor shows your presence with green lines across the screen. These are lines of hope. You are the hope of today and of the future and your presence at these celebrations has become vital and important. The readings speak of “*a God of tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, rich in kindness and faithfulness.*” But the same words apply to you too, because you are tender, compassionate, kind, and faithful. You have been living what St Paul ask for “*by helping one another, being united; living in peace.*” So, rest

assured that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the *God of love and peace will be with you always!*

Diary Dates

Mon 8 June
Parish Pantry 12pm–4pm for those in the parish (or any neighbours you know) who are in need of food. Come to the kitchen door of the hall.
Wed 10 June
6pm – Feed Up Warm Up – Scout Hall
Thurs 11 June St Barnabas
Sat 13 June St Antony of Padua



We pray for Michael Bell whose funeral is on Wednesday 17 June 2020 at 2pm at Hitchin Cemetery. May he rest in peace and rise in glory. May the Lord comfort his family.

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This Sunday would have been our **healing and wholeness service**. If you have a need for healing prayer or have a family member or friend you would like prayer for, please let Trish know on **07801 752141** or trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk. Members of the healing ministry team will be praying on Sunday for anyone in need of the Lord's healing help.



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Thank you from Susanna So many thanks to everyone for your wonderful gifts and messages on the occasion of my retirement and ('significant') birthday. I was very moved by the gifts and by the words that came with them. I won't be gone from Hitchin for a while yet, though, and look forward to seeing you all when we can gather safely, when I hope to be able to let you all know how much you have meant to me.

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. So **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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Bishops stand in solidarity with US sisters and brothers as they challenge the evil of racism and the brutal killing of George Floyd

Bishop Declan Lang, Lead Bishop for International Affairs and Bishop Paul McAleenan, Lead Bishop for Racial Justice have issued a statement in which they condemn racism and the brutal killing of George Floyd. The Bishops pray for God's help to overcome racism in all its forms and that we might protect everyone who suffers its consequences.

For full statement go to <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/news/>

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On **Sunday 14th June**, the **Sunday Worship Programme**, which airs at **8.10am** on BBC Radio 4, will broadcast Mass celebrated by the Cardinal in Westminster Cathedral. This news should be particularly welcome with parishioners and family and friends who do not have access to the internet and are thus unable to watch livestreamed Masses.

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Parishioners that do not wish to donate using online banking and would like to donate by cheque, please continue to make cheques payable to "Our Lady's Church" or "Our Lady Immaculate & St Andrew's Church". Many thanks for your ever generous donations.

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Call to those who would like to train to be a minister of the Word - Readers at our Sunday Masses Whilst we don't know when Sunday Mass will start again there is no reason why we cannot prepare for that future. We would normally have held a training course for new readers in our church. We are proposing to offer such a course via ZOOM. If you would like to take part in this

course then please let Trish know of your interest and we will sort out mutually convenient times to run this course.

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Sea Sunday 2020 In light of the continued uncertainty around church reopenings, the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales have decided to

postpone Sea Sunday 2020 from July to December. The date has not yet been finalised, but it is likely to be either Sunday 13 or Sunday 20 December. As you know, the income generated from Sea Sunday is crucial in maintaining our support for seafarers and fishers, but it is also an excellent opportunity to spread awareness of our work to others. They are very grateful that the Bishops have found a way to rearrange Sea Sunday and they look forward to celebrating seafarers and fishers in churches with you in December. If you want to donate before then you can do so at <https://www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk/donate-now>

Virtual Support

Information Advice and Guidance for Young People in North Herts and Stevenage during Covid-19

We are operating remotely and providing support to young people 1:1 or in group projects by phone, WhatsApp, email, social media and through video calls.

If you are aged 11-17 (up to 24 with a learning disability) and want help, text the word **SUPPORT** followed by:-

- **LOCKDOWN** for help with emotional wellbeing (how to cope during lockdown)
- **ANXIETY**
- **SEXUAL HEALTH**
- **LGBT+**
- **CONFIDENCE**
- **HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS**
- **OPTIONS** for help with options after year 11
- **CAREERS**
- **CV** for support with CV writing
- Any **OTHER** issue

Follow us on Twitter
@NorthHertsTeam @StevenageTeam

For further information on YC Hertfordshire Services for Young People and for updates on our response to COVID-19 please visit www.ychertfordshire.org

YC HERTFORDSHIRE Hertfordshire



Trish just bought a box of clothing to help workers in Bangladesh. She will let you know when it arrives. In case you want to find out more and/or order a box yourself go to <https://loststock.com/> Clothes box bid to help Bangladeshi workers - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-52698088>



Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND) Information, Advice and Support – Response Questionnaire (opened 23rd March and closes **14th June 2020**)
<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/about-the-council/consultations/childrens-services/special-educational-needs-or-disabilities-send-information-advice-and-support-consultation.aspx#>

Fr Euloge's reflection from Mass this week

A clear conscience. Paul says to Timothy, “Night and day I thank God, keeping my conscience clear.” Paul is proud and happy to have a clear conscience. True, Paul fought a good fight and kept the Faith. Now he is encouraging his true child in the faith, Timothy to do the same. He said to his child: “God’s gift was not a Spirit of timidity, but the Spirit of power, and love, and self-control” Here, we can understand that a clear conscience is a conscience with the power and love of God, a conscience with self-control.

A clear conscience is a conscience which allows one to shut up, when one has nothing constructive to tell people.

A clear conscience is a conscience, which makes one be human and have compassion on a person who needs help in crying “I can’t breathe”, please, help!

A clear conscience is a conscience which, even in deep pain, speaks loud with love and hope: “Stop violence!!!; what are you doing?!; react peacefully, violence will resolve nothing!!!”.

A clear conscience is a conscience which allows one to face and hug a person who suffers from human cruelty and cries for justice, peace and love.

The full reflection can be found on the home page of the parish website.



Fr Rémacle Thibaut was professor of dogmatic theology at our Assumptionist study house at St Gerard near Namur, Belgium. His lectures were always interesting but he would never answer questions in case he covered your query during the talk. At the end he always checked to make sure that you were satisfied. He was also a musician and played the organ at all our services. He was a native of St Gerard and used to enjoy telling tales of his childhood games in our abbey before it had been restored.

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 181

Our Daily Love - Conjugal Love - Joy and Beauty
 Love opens our eyes and enables us to see, beyond all else, the great worth of a human being. The joy of this contemplative love needs to be cultivated.



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
Pastoral Assistants Robert Hitchcock
 Trish Bonnett

cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk
roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk
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