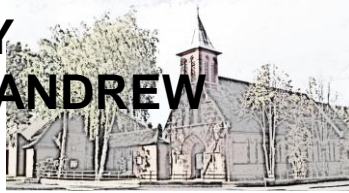




# CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

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 1895

13-20 June 2020 – CORPUS CHRISTI – 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:** Deut 8:2-3.14-16, Cor 10:16-17, John 6:51-52

**Entrance Antiphon:** He fed them with the finest wheat and satisfied them with honey from the rock.

**Psalm:** O praise the Lord, Jerusalem.

**Intercession:** Lord in your Mercy

**Response:** Hear our Prayer!

**Next week:** Jer 20:10-13, Rom 5:12-15, Matt 10:26-33

### Ramblings

Sr Macrina Wiederkehr OSB writes about her early morning stroll: *"It is just dawn. Standing still for a moment, I see the first rays of sunlight shimmering through a silver maple tree. It is truly a moment of wonder, resplendent with light. I stand gazing as if in the midst of a vision. Suddenly*



*I am uncertain whether those golden arms swaying in the morning sunlight are tree branches or angel wings. Such shining I find overpowering. My wondering heart is filled with joy. And then, in a twinkling, I'm certain. I am standing before a tree full of angels dazzling me with their glorious presence. Bright wings of fire all aglow. Such beauty! Celestial bodies trembling in the trees! Trembling in awe over the beauty of a world that I take for granted. A tree bespangled with glory! Radiant Light! Angel wings, like stars, glistening in every branch. There is gold and silver everywhere I look. Know that your heart was made for deep things. Your entire being was designed for visions. Artists are those who have visions and there is something of the artist in each of us. Artists have hungry eyes and hungry hearts, and on some days when they are purifying their eyes and hearts for deeper seeing, they choose to have hungry stomachs as well. Fasting empties them so that they can see the truth more clearly. The poets and the saints, artists of all kinds, are ripe for visions because they are always hungry. They are hungry for truth. Their entire beings are filled with a hunger to know, to understand, to create. They are hungry to see the depths of things." May we all have hungry eyes and hungry hearts, possess purified eyes and hearts that enable us to see more deeply into the bread and the wine, the Body and Blood of Christ. Be dazzled with the wonder and beauty that is present, and be*

overpowered with the glorious presence of the divine.

### Diary Dates

Wed 17 June

6pm – Feed Up Warm Up – Scout Hall

Fri 19 June **The most Sacred Heart of Jesus**

**Our church is open on Monday from 4.30pm-6pm for private prayer.** You should have received an email detailing the guidelines when you come to the church. You will find the church rather barren as everything has been taken of the walls as painting starts on Monday also. However it is a real step in the right direction that we can open up even for a short time. Please ensure you follow all the guidelines you have been sent.

**Cardinal Vincent has said about the re-opening** *Not every Catholic church will be open on 15th June. Local decisions and provision have to lead this process. But it is a great blessing, for individuals and for the benefit of all in society, that church doors will again be open to all who long to pray there for the peace and grace we need today.*

*'This first step enables us to learn and prepare for those that will take us to a fuller use of our churches, for the celebration of Mass and other sacraments. We await that time with deep longing but patient understanding that the protection of the health of our society, especially of the most vulnerable, is a proper cause for caution and care.'*

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Other churches in our area are opening also: **Letchworth Garden City** From Monday 15th June, **St. Hugh of Lincoln** open 5 - 6.30pm. As soon as we can we shall also open 10am - 1pm, keeping our evening slot.

**Baldock** Opening 15th June **Holy Trinity and St. Augustine of Canterbury** Monday- to Thursday and Saturday 11am-1pm - Sunday 11.30am - 1.30pm

**Stevenage** From 15th June **St Hilda's, Shephall** Saturday 6-7pm; Sunday 10am-12 noon; Mon/Tue/Fri: 10-11am and **Transfiguration, Old Town:** Saturday 5-6pm; Sunday 10am-12 noon; Monday & Friday: 10-11am

From Sunday 21st June **St Joseph's, Bedwell** Sunday 10am-1pm (whole church); Monday-Saturday (except Tuesday): 8am-8pm (porch)

Details of churches in the deanery are on the newpage of the parish website.

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The **Cardinal** will celebrate **Mass for Corpus Christi** from Westminster Cathedral on BBC Radio 4, Sunday, 14 June, 08.10-08.55

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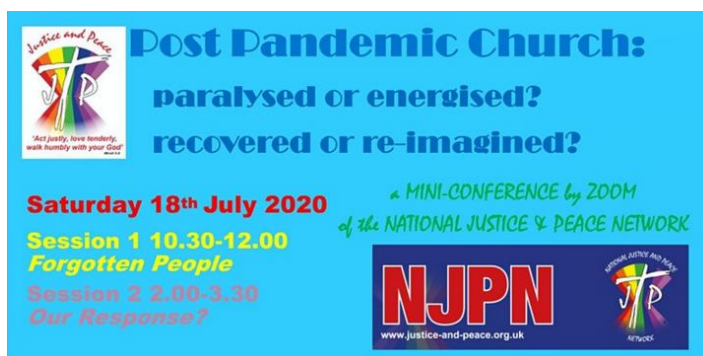
**Offertory Envelopes** We have now completed the issue of new boxes of Offertory Envelopes. If you use Envelopes and have not received yours, please contact Cheryl in the Parish Office. Thank you.

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You can make big savings and raise donations for Our Lady's RC Church Hitchin, when you shop online for summer beauty and fashion with #easyfundraising! <http://efraising.org/62eqdFHiXx>



**Life Stream Saturday 13th June** March for Life UK's Life Stream 20 online event. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/events/678041039438168/> for details



Following the postponement of this year's NJPN Annual Justice and Peace Conference at Swanwick to July 23-25 2021, the planning team are in the process of developing a Mini-Conference via Zoom.



Father Leonard Larocque was a member of our American province with a gift for changing what needed changing. I well remember that we had prepared a liturgy in rather a hurry. He came into the sanctuary wearing a guitar around his neck and altered everything we had prepared. Much to our gratitude.

**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 182**

Our Daily Love - Conjugal Love - Joy and Beauty It is a joy and a great consolation to bring delight to others, to see them enjoying themselves. This joy, the fruit of fraternal love, is of lovers who delight in the good of those whom they love, who give freely to them and thus bear good fruit.

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](mailto:hitchin@rcdow.org.uk)  
Website: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/>

**Parish Administrator** Cheryl Saunders [cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk)  
**Pastoral Assistants** Robert Hitchcock [roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk)  
Trish Bonnett [trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:spiritualcare.enh-tr@nhs.net)