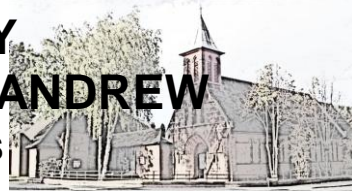




CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

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 1896

20-27 June 2020 – 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time – 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: Jer 20:10-13, Rom 5:12-15, Matt 10:26-33

Entrance Antiphon: The Lord is the strength of his people, a saving refuge for the one he has anointed. Save your people, Lord, and bless your heritage, and govern them forever.

Psalm: In your great love, answer me, O God.

Intercession: We pray to the Lord

Response: Lord hear us!

Next week: Acts 12:1-11, Tim 4:6-8, 17-18, Matt 16:13-19

Ramblings If told that we face a life-threatening illness and have only a certain amount of time to live, we still have a choice. We can choose to prepare for *death* and get everything in our life sorted out and wait for the moment to arrive. Or, we can choose *life* and see every new day as a new opportunity to do good and to accept challenges we would otherwise let slip by. For all of us, whether healthy or not, we are going to die one day. The question is: *Are we just going to let life pass us by or will we choose life and see every new day as an opportunity for good?* It is too easy to cruise along safely through life and lose out on the many opportunities that pass our way. Living life more fully, however, involves taking risks and can lead to suffering and angst we could have otherwise avoided. If we avoid the risks, our lives would be mediocre at best and we would be unfulfilled. Jesus, on the other hand, not only encourages us to take risks, he almost insists that we take up the challenges that come our way. At the same time, he reassures us that we will never stand or walk alone. He will always be there by our side. *“Only those who will risk going too far can possibly find out how far one can go.” T. S. Eliot. “Life is either a daring adventure or nothing at all.” Helen Keller. “Two roads diverged in a wood and I - I took the one less travelled by, and that has made all the difference.” Robert Frost. “Fear not that your life shall come to an end, but rather fear that it shall never have a beginning.” St John Henry Newman*


Opening of church Our Lady’s was opened on Monday for private prayer. We have had exposition of the Blessed Sacrament each day. Numbers have been small to start, with a maximum of 9 people throughout the 90 minutes of being open but the delight of people coming has been huge!

We will be open again this week from 4.30-6pm each day and then from 29th June we will be open from 10.30am-12pm Monday-Saturday and 11am-12.30pm on Sunday.

Everyday all the pews that have been sat in are thoroughly cleaned with hot water and detergent and then sprayed with anti-bacterial spray and wiped again. Only half of the pews are available each day to allow the cleaned area to rest for a day. We are doing everything we can to ensure our parishioners can come into the church to pray without risk of infection. We encourage everyone to come with some form of face covering and gloves.

We look forward to welcoming you back soon.

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 If you would like a prayer to be included in the book of intercessions please write it down and put it in the basket as you come into the church or you can email the prayer to Trish and it will be written in our book and placed on the altar during the Masses.

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If you have an intention you would like to have a Mass said for please let us know and we can arrange it. Stipends can be dropped into the church at anytime in the future.

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Pope encourages seafarers amid Covid-19 difficulties Between 150,000 and 200,000 seafarers are currently stranded at sea. They are not allowed to disembark because of coronavirus.

Diary Dates

Mon 22 June Sts John Fisher & Thomas More

Wed 24 June Birthday St John the Baptist

6pm – Feed Up Warm Up – Scout Hall

For details of what the Pope has said and what Stella Maris are doing to support these seafarers please go to <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/news/>

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Are you a good cause looking to raise funds but can't fundraise in person? Register your cause with #easyfundraising and you can raise donations every time you and your supporters shop online. Online retailers will give you a free donation at no extra cost. If you register before 14th July Our Lady's RC Church Hitchin will gain an entry to WIN a £500 donation! Register now: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/register-your-good-cause/?invite=1D7YMG&referral-campaign=c2c>

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OUR LADY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL The Diocese of Westminster Academy Trust A Catholic Academy Old Hale Way, Hitchin, Herts, SG5 1XT www.ourladysherts.sch.uk

Dear Parishioners

It has been wonderful to see how the pupils at Our Lady School have embraced home learning in recent months. However, this has been a huge struggle for those families with no access to IT – either a laptop, iPad or internet access. Whilst the school has tried to support with printed material this is not a long-term sustainable solution for these disadvantaged families within our school community.

We have investigated the government's promise to provide over 200,000 disadvantaged pupils with IT equipment, however primary school children do not qualify. With the pressure that was already on school finances before COVID-19 and the removal of our income streams (i.e. letting the school premises to various clubs), we are unable to fund additional IT equipment from either Our Lady School funds, or from our wider Academy Trust. The Governing Body have also investigated many other areas for support including corporate sponsorship but at this time none is forthcoming in a difficult economic climate.

Having spoken with the Chair of the PTA, Dean Boon, we have agreed to come together as a Governing Body and PTA to directly appeal to our parent body, our parish of Our Lady Immaculate and our school alumni for help in supporting those pupils who deserve the same access to education as their peers.

We have set up a just giving page - <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/olspta> -

where we would be appreciative of any donation you can spare at this time, large or small.

It all adds up and hopefully will enable us to purchase IT equipment (laptops, iPads, Chrome books) for as many families as we can raise funds for, to allow them to continue their education and fulfil their potential. The page has been set up by one of our governors but has the full support of the entire Governing Body and PTA, and all funds raised and spent will be overseen by the PTA and available for independent audit. Additionally, if anyone has fully functioning IT equipment available, perhaps due to an upgrade, we are happy to accept physical donations as well as monetary.

Please email the school if this is the case. We know our school community are generous in spirit and heart and would ask you to please be as generous with this fundraising initiative as your circumstances allow.

Yours sincerely

Louise Worbey, Chair of the Operations committee on behalf of the Governing Body of Our Lady School, and Dean Boon, Chair of the PTA of Our Lady School

This will be 2 sessions on Saturday 18th July 10.30 to 12 and 2 to 3.30.

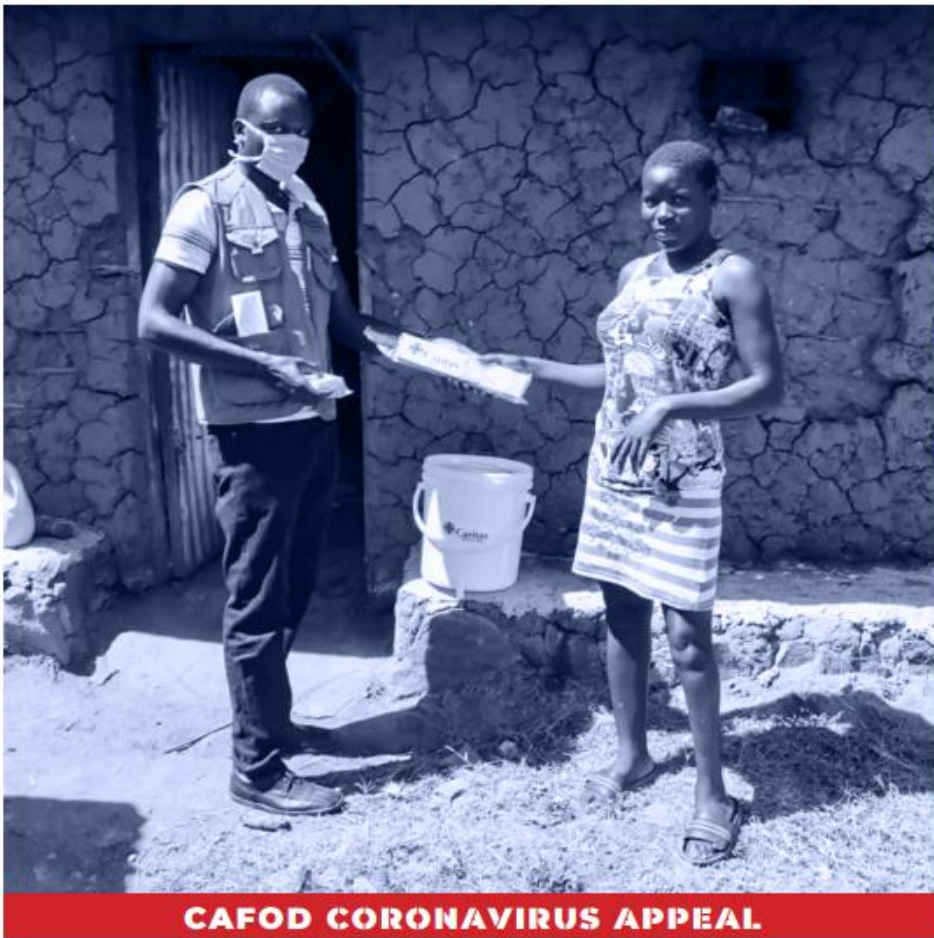
Preparing for a new world order. How do we, as Church, move to an alternative model of being. In the light of the Gospel message and Pope Francis Catholic Social Teaching documents (laudato Si', Evangelii Gaudium) How do we begin to build and 'Care for Our Common Home'. This will lead us into preparing for '2021 – Action for Life on Earth', the new name for our postponed '2020 Vision: Action for Life on Earth' conference.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/post-pandemic-church-paralysed-or-energised-recovered-or-re-imagined-tickets>

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There are several petitions of interest to us and our world on our Justice and Petition page. Please click below to view them and consider signing them.

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/justice-and-peace-information-and-petitions/>



CAFOD CORONAVIRUS APPEAL

survive
rebuild
heal

Coronavirus is a crisis that affects us all. Help families in poor communities survive.

GIVE NOW TO SAVE LIVES.

cafod.org.uk/coronavirusappeal

CAFOD Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

Charity no 1160384 and a company limited by guarantee no 09387398.

Go to <https://cafod.org.uk/Give/Donate-to->



If you visit Nottingham you might see Emmanuel House. This social centre was founded by Fr Killeen in the 1970s when such places were few and far between. His idea was to provide shelter and food for those homeless who had nowhere to go on Sundays and Bank Holidays.

Today it is a thriving centre. Fr Roger persevered with this work despite leg amputations.



An eye for an eye would make the whole world blind.
Mahatma Gandhi, 1869–1948

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 183

Our Daily Love - Conjugal Love - Joy and Beauty

Joy also grows through pain and sorrow. After suffering and struggling together, spouses are able to experience it was worth it, they have achieved some good, they have learned something as a couple, come to appreciate what they have.



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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