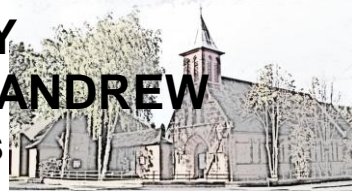




CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

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 1897

27 June – 4 July 2020 – Ss PETER & PAUL Apostles – 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 12:1-11, Tim 4:6-8, 17-18, Matt 16:13-19

Entrance Antiphon: These are the ones who, living in the flesh, planted the Church with their blood; they drank the chalice of the Lord and became the friends of God.

Psalm: From all my terrors, the Lord set me free

Intercession: Lord hear us

Response: Lord, graciously hear us!

Next week: Zech 9:9-10, Rom 8:9, 11-13, Matt 11:25-30

Ramblings What do Ss Peter and Paul tell us about Jesus? He chose them for leadership, and they were certainly forceful characters. Neither of them could be ignored. It is probably easier to identify with Peter because, in accompanying Jesus, he made more errors than good judgement - probably the best training he could have had! Paul on the other had a mid-life crisis. From persecuting and having Christians put to death, he became one of their greatest advocates and nothing could deter him from preaching the good news which he did right up to the day he died. They teach us about courage and commitment, perseverance and persistence, about having complete trust and confidence in Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Peter is the one who admitted and owned his mistakes, did not give up, but sought forgiveness and moved on the stronger for them. Paul is the one who cannot thank Jesus enough for his conversion and commits the rest of his life to sharing his conversion with others in order to bring them into the Christian family. In celebrating their feast, we are challenged to follow in their footsteps. No. Not as the Pope or as a great orator and theologian but in the mission to which Jesus has called each of us. Just as Jesus guided, inspired and encouraged Peter and Paul so too will Jesus help, guide and sustain us. They challenge our commitment and dedication to fulfilling our mission. Unsure what your mission is? Every day is filled with opportunities to respond to God's invitation to show care and love, to inspire hope, encourage and affirm others. Opportunities to be forgiving and seek reconciliation. To bring light and life into the lives of those we encounter with a good word here or there. So! Wake up each morning and say: *Jesus, what have you in store for me today!!!*

Diary Dates

Mon 29 June

10.30am-12pm Private prayer in front of the Blessed sacrament. Monday-Saturday

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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.

Tue 30 June

6-7pm Hitchin Town Talk via Zoom

This is your opportunity to discuss any matters of interest or concern with your District and County Councillors. Open Zoom and select "join meeting" You will then be asked to enter the meeting ID and password The Meeting ID is 847 2203 9195 The meeting Password is 607452

If you are unable to attend the Town Talk this time, please email any discussion topics to community@north-herts.gov.uk by 5pm on Friday 26th June with 'Hitchin Town Talk' in the subject.

Wed 1 July

6pm – Feed Up Warm Up – Scout Hall

Friday 3 July St Thomas



Recycling in the Parish We can now start collecting Tassimo, Kenco and L'Or coffee pods again for recycling. Please place the items

directly inside the crate thus reducing our need to handle them. **Please also do not contaminate the recycling with cardboard materials even if it is labelled "Tassimo". Please also do not place any carrier bags into the crate as they are made of a very different plastic and spoils the recycling process.** We are not able to collect any other items for recycling until further notice.

Thank you for your understanding and patience and for your continued efforts of recycling when you can.



We pray for Frank McGennity whose funeral is on **Friday 10 July 2020 at 12 noon**. May he rest in peace and rise in glory and may the Lord comfort his family.

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Coronavirus, Church & You (Roman Catholic UK) - This survey is assessing responses to the Covid-19 crisis among Catholics in the UK. It is part of a wider survey that is also being run in England, Scotland and Wales by York St John University. Please consider taking part because they are keen to include a diversity of responses - please respond before 15 July 2020: https://yorks.jeu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_benDeIzrnXlmlGR

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Opening our church for Mass Those of you who receive this newsletter by email will also have received the messages from Cardinal Vincent and the letter from the Archbishops. For those who get this as a hard copy they will be attached to this newsletter.

We are working towards opening our church from 5th July for daily Mass at 10am (Sunday – Saturday) If possible we also want to offer an additional Mass at 4pm on Sunday. Our ability to do so depends entirely on us being able to have cleaning teams in place which we are working on. We have to completely clean the church after each service.

We have been given detailed guidance from the Bishops as to what we have to have in place to be able to have Mass and we are working hard towards achieving this. We are able to maintain social distancing of 2 m and we can accommodate 26 household groups (any people who live in the same house which does not necessarily mean same family) So we could have 26 one person households as a minimum. Typically we get a lot of smaller families and couples so my estimate is the numbers at Mass can be 50-80 people at one time. We no longer have a Sunday obligation so we need to encourage those who can come during the week to do so leaving the Saturday and Sunday Mass for those who can only come at the weekend because of work and/or school commitments. It may also be that you have to commit to coming to Mass just on that day each week for the time being.

Initially whilst we determine how many people are coming to Mass you should only come once in the week.

We appreciate though that for many people they do not feel that the time is right for them to come to church because the virus is still at large and/or because of their health they are still isolating.

When we know what the volumes are coming to Mass then we can give further guidance for people who would wish to come more frequently.

We are not entirely sure yet how we are going to make sure that only 26 household groups come to any one Mass. It would be very sad to have to turn anyone away. The Diocese are working on some form of booking system which we will find out about this week. We know this won't help any one who does not have a computer and cannot access things online. We will find a way of making it fair so that everyone can have a pew at a Mass during the week. We will email or write to you to let you know what we decide to do.

We also need help from Eucharistic Ministers at all of the Masses and also Ministers of the Word. If you are part of the weekday or Sunday teams (in the past) and are willing to help on the day of the week that you choose to come to Mass please let Trish know on **07801 752141**.

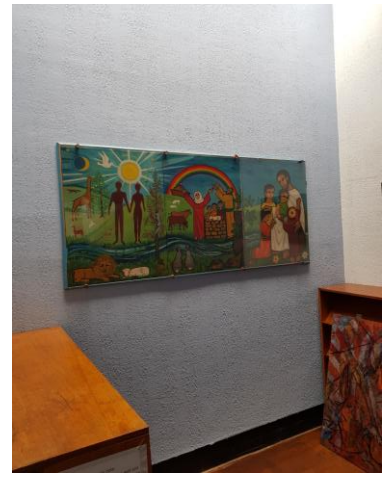
This is an exciting time for us but we have to prepare ourselves for the fact the Mass will be different, shorter, and the movement in and out of the church will be directed by Stewards. This is to make sure everyone can come together to worship safely. We pray that it will not be for long and is a step towards the joyful community celebrations that we are used to.

We look forward very much to welcoming you all back to Our Lady's church.

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When you get to the church what a change you will see. Great thanks to John Scott who took everything off the walls and then cleaned them, and is almost finished putting everything back too. Thanks also to Alan Swain who has done a wonderful job painting the walls, white with a soft blue in the alcoves. It looks so fresh and clean. Thanks also to Mark Gardener who had been cleaning the church hall and rooms for us before lockdown. He has sanded, varnished and waxed the wood in all the alcoves so they look beautiful too. Finally thanks to Janina who has restored our statues in the past. She has cleaned the Theodor Kern paintings. The painting of Jesus is so wonderful with colours I had not seen in a long time. What talented and generous people we have in our parish.

See pictures below.



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Fr Paul Gautier was one of those people who seemed to be always happy and keen. He was one of the few students with a knowledge of English and helped us to cope during our first weeks in France. He was a great actor and played an important part in stage productions in the study house. Hit by serious illness he died aged 52. A great and cheerful friend

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 184

Our Daily Love - Conjugal Love - Joy and Beauty
Few human joys are as deep and thrilling as those experienced by two people who love one another and have achieved something as the result of a great, shared effort.



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