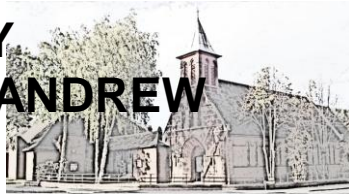




CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

16 Nightingale Road, HITCHIN, SG5 1QS
(In the care of the Augustinians of the Assumption)



From 5th July Daily Mass is at 10am for maximum 26 household groups and is livestreamed on <https://www.facebook.com/trish.bonnett> and posted as an audio file to the homepage of the parish website by 11.30am daily. **The church will remain closed outside of Mass**



Newsletter No 1899

11-18 July 2020 – 15th 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: [Is 55:10-11](#), [Rom 8:18-23](#), [Matt 13:1-23](#)

Entrance Antiphon: As for me, in justice I shall behold your face; I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.

Psalm **Some seed fell into rich soil and produced its crop.**

Intercession: We pray to the Lord

Response: **Lord, hear us!**

Next week: [Wis 12:13.16-19](#), [Rom 8:26-27](#), [Matt 13:24-43](#)

Ramblings If you have to explain a joke to someone, it has already lost its value even if it helps the person who failed to see the joke. Paintings and stories are similar: they will speak a message to you in their own right and the message you receive may be very different to that received by another. Explanations in these examples, however, open up new avenues of thought and wonder not apparent at first. In these cases, as in the case of scripture, there is also an element beyond explanation - the **experience** we have in reading, seeing or hearing them. The hearts of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus with Jesus glowed as he spoke to them. It was the experience of Jesus breaking the bread that convinced them. The story about the sower reflects the path of life that we walk. Some of it is hard and impenetrable, some of it chokes us like the thorns, at other times nothing seems to take root or our lives lose value. But, if we take time to look at our lives, we will see the vast amount of goodness in the good ground that is bearing fruit. Why, then, do we focus so much on the rocks, the brambles, or the path? Surely, we need all our energy for the good ground and want to share the abundant harvest as much as we can. After all, the seed that has been given to us is from God and given free. Sharing the abundance will allow us to receive more, and God has a limitless amount of seed. **In the Parable of the Sower**, Octavia E. Butler writes: *“Create no images of God. Accept the images that God has provided. They are everywhere, in everything. God is Change— Seed to tree, tree to forest; Rain to river, river to sea; Grubs to bees, bees to swarm. From one, many; from many, one; Forever uniting, growing, dissolving— forever Changing. The universe is God’s self-portrait.”*

Diary Dates

Sun 12 July
10am Mass in the church. Please come if this is the only Mass you can get to because you work and/or have children who go to school during the week. Be advised that we can accommodate 26 household groups only and when the church is full we are not allowed to admit any more people to fulfil social distancing measures. We apologise if you cannot get into the church today but there is a Mass each day Monday-Saturday at 10am also.
Mon 13 July – Sat 18 July
10am Mass in the church.
Mon 13 July
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 15 July
6pm – Feed Up Warm Up – Scout Hall
Thurs 16 July
12pm Funeral of Carmela De Rosa



We pray for Carmela De Rosa whose funeral is on Thursday 16 July 2020 at 12 noon. We also pray for Margaret Cwirko whose funeral is on Tuesday 21 July 2020 at 12 noon. May they rest in peace and rise in glory and may the Lord comfort their families.

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Diane Burleigh on behalf of many parishioners wanted to express thanks to everyone – Fr Tom, Fr Euloge and Fr Andrew, all the Pastoral and Admin team and all the volunteers (the readers, the stewards, the Eucharistic Ministers; the MCs and most of all the cleaners), who are enabling us to go to Mass.

Numbers attending Mass this week

Sunday	36 in 13	½ pews
Monday	20 in 14	½ pews
Tuesday	19 in 10	½ pews
Wednesday	11 in 5	½ pews
Thursday	24 in 14	½ pews
Friday	22 in 12	½ pews

You can see there is still plenty of space in the church if you want to come to Mass. We have 26 ½ pews and we have only been half full.

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Test and trace

The government has launched an [NHS Test and Trace service](#) to manage the risk of the virus re-emerging. The service:

- provides testing for anyone who has symptoms of coronavirus to find out if they have the virus
- gets in touch with anyone who has had a positive test result to help them share information about any close recent contacts they have had
- alerts those contacts, where necessary, and notifies them they need to self-isolate to help stop the spread of the virus

We have been advised by the Bishops that we **should assist this service** by keeping an accurate temporary record of visitors for 21 days, **in a way that is manageable for our place of worship**, and assist NHS Test and Trace with requests for that data if needed for contact tracing and the investigation of local outbreaks. From this Sunday we will be asking for names and contact telephone numbers of those who attend Mass. We need your consent to have

that information. This is because of the potentially sensitive nature of the data collected in these circumstances, which is protected by law.

Giving contact details is optional and is not a condition of attending our church. Our assistance in this process is a contribution to the common good and public health.

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The Bishops have also been giving us advice on other sacraments. We have information guiding us on Confession and Baptisms and we will be working on plans to introduce those sacraments very soon.

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Appointment of a Parish Youth Minister We are delighted to report that we have secured a grant from the Cardinal's Fund to pay for the employment of a Parish Youth Minister. We are further delighted to report that Robert Hitchcock our Sacramental Coordinator has been appointed to the post and has started work with effect from 6 July 2020.

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'Marriage Care' Counselling Services – Marriage Care, established in 1946 in response to the pressure on family relationships following the end of the Second World War, now offers support from trained counsellors to couples and families who need help in coping with the pressures of 'Lockdown'. Further information: <https://rcdow.org.uk/diocese/marriageand-family-life/news/marriage-care-at-75---we-are-here-for-you/>



This week we move to our sisters. Sr Paul Helene, a Little Sister of the Assumption was killed, simply for being a Christian, at the library for poor children in Algiers. May 1994. She is one of the beatified Algerian martyrs.

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 186

Growing in Conjugal Love - Marrying for Love
Love is much more than an outward consent or a contract, yet it is nonetheless true that choosing to give marriage a visible form in society, by undertaking certain commitments. shows how important it is.



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