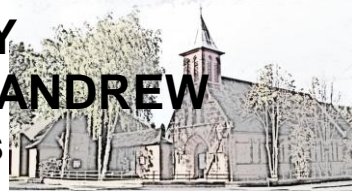




# CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

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 1900

18-25 July 2020 – 16<sup>th</sup> 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:** Wis 12:13.16-19, Rom 8:26-27, Matt 13:24-43

**Entrance Antiphon:** See, I have God for my help. The Lord sustains my soul. I will sacrifice to you with willing heart, and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

**Psalm** O Lord, you are good and forgiving.

**Intercession:** Lord hear us

**Response:** Lord, graciously hear us!

**Next week:** Kings 3:5.7-12, Rom 8:28-30, Matt 13:44-52

**Ramblings** It seems that the parable of the tares (the weeds) addressed a common cultural theme of the day: **revenge**. An enemy would seek revenge for something done in the past. The tit for tat then continued throughout history. Rather than seek revenge, however, the landowner in the parable allows the weeds to grow up with the wheat since they looked very similar to each other in early growth. At first the landowner would appear to be shamed at the harvest but he ends up not only with his wheat crop but also with fuel for his furnace. He is much better off for not seeking vengeance. Isn't that a lesson for us all?? The farmers would have understood the lesson of the story. In the explanation provided, the story is applied to the Christian community which had both good and bad members within it. Jesus does not want us to root out the bad members believing that, if we lived our lives faithfully, we might even convert them. Those who believe God would never condemn people to an eternal fire have a point because evil people choose to live in an eternal state of bitterness, hatred and fear - a life lacking in goodness. Living in heaven would be hell for them. Evil isolates, creates fear, promotes cruelty and abuse, makes friendship impossible, imposes a life of suffering while pretending to offer the fulfilment of a person's deepest desires. Compare this with kindness, gentleness, caring, empathy, compassion, temperance, forgiveness and inexplicable joy and happiness. The latter are far, far easier to live than the former. Or, do you disagree???

wins, he reflected for a moment and replied, 'The one I feed the most.'"

### Diary Dates

<b>Sun 19 July – Sat 25 July</b>
<b>10am Mass in the church.</b>
<b>Mon 20 July</b>
<b>Parish Pantry 12pm–4pm</b> for those in the parish (or any neighbours you know) who are in need of food. Come to the kitchen door of the hall.
<b>Wed 22 July St Mary Magdalen</b>
6pm – Feed Up Warm Up – Scout Hall
<b>Thurs 23 July St Bridget of Sweden</b>
<b>Sat 25 July St James, Apostle</b>

### The Sacrament of Reconciliation / Confession

We are now able to offer the sacrament to parishioners by appointment. This will take place in the Doris Harris room (next door to the presbytery with an external door). Please use the alcohol gel on arrival in the room. You will be sitting at one end of the room with the priest at the other. Please wear a mask. The Priest will be wearing one also. If you have a hearing problem please let us know in advance and we can make arrangements to help. We would be grateful if you could clean your chair after you have finished, with the cleaning materials provided. If you wish to access the sacrament then please can you ring:

**Fr Euloge** on **07424 004647** or

**Fr Tom** on **07547 171570**

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**Audio books for free** – a parishioner has a number of audio fiction books (along the lines of Agatha Christie) to give to anyone who would like them. If you have a need please let Trish know on 07801 752141.

*"A Native American elder once described his own inner struggles in this manner: Inside me there are two dogs. One of the dogs is mean and evil. The other dog is good. The mean dog fights the good dog all the time. When asked which dog*



## GIFT AID TAX REBATE = £21,760.67



A big "THANK YOU" to everyone who has signed up to Gift Aid their Mass Offerings and other donations to the Parish. We have now received the Gift Aid tax rebate for offerings and donations made in the last tax year and this came to an amazing total of **£21,760.67** which, in practical terms, will help keep the Parish running for nearly 8 weeks!! The return reflects really really well on the fact that so many of you have signed up to Gift Aid your Offertory donations and choose to Gift Aid your other donations, including Mass Stipends, all of which make a valuable 25p in the £1.00 addition to our claim. Income from the Gift Aid tax rebate plays a very important part in financing the work of the Parish and, if you haven't signed already up to Gift Aid your offerings, it is never too late to do so – all we need is a signature and there's nothing else you need do; moreover, it's all done in confidence and you don't need to commit to making an offering .....**AND IT WON'T COST YOU A PENNY MORE!!** To sign-up or to check whether or not you have already signed up or to get more information, please contact David or Elizabeth, our Planned Giving & Gift Aid Organisers, on telephone: 01462-627784 or by email through the Parish Account: hitchin@rcdow.org.uk **THANKS AGAIN.**

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**Online Gaming Safety Advice for Parents and Carers from the Police** Online gaming can offer many positive experiences. It can give children and young people the chance to escape into a virtual world, to learn, and to connect with others. However, there is a risk of children and young people viewing inappropriate content in games and being contacted by adults seeking to exploit them.

This week the activity pack for parents and carers to deliver to their children explores how they can stay safe while gaming.

Click on <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/useful-websites-please-find-information-below-which-may-be-of-use/> and scroll down to the OWL messages.

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**A Catholic Response to George Floyd and Black Lives Matter - Friday 24th July 2020, 7.30-8.30pm** Join us for a deeper look at how the death of George Floyd and Black Lives Matter protests across the globe impact on us as Catholics. Our guest speakers, **Baroness Scotland** (London, UK) and **Leslye Colvin**(Alabama, USA), will guide us in a reflection on our responses and what action to

take. To join, please register with Eventbrite and you will receive a Zoom link closer to the event:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/a-catholic-response-to-george-floyd-and-black-lives-matter-tickets-112811815176>

*We welcome parishioners, priests, deacons, religious, catechists, educators, activists, supporters and friends from our Diocese and beyond to join us for these events.*

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COVID Symptom Study

The recent lockdown of Leicester has highlighted the need for earlier hotspot detection, particularly as lockdown measures are eased

and life begins to return to 'normal'. It is thanks to the ongoing support and daily logging in of many people that they are now able to detect potential new COVID hotspots in the UK.

With [COVID Symptom Study data now flagging up potential hotspots](https://www.covidjoinzoe.com/), it will allow for greater surveillance and more focussed testing that could detect new outbreaks much earlier. To do this successfully, we need more people to join us by using the app each day. Get the app by going to <https://covid.joinzoe.com/> and report daily.

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The foodbank started to give food parcels again from 3rd July; therefore the warehouse started

accepting donations also. All donations are very welcome, The items listed are the most urgently needed. \* Shampoo \* Shower Gel \* Toilet Rolls \* Deodorant \* Toothpaste \* Size 5 & 6 Nappies. \* Sponge pudding \* Tinned Rice Pudding \* Tinned Custard

Thank you for your continued support.

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**And finally a picture to make you smile.**



Peter and Bridget Rock have ensured during lockdown their garden is cheerful and colourful – even more so with the addition of a few organ pipes from our old organ!





This week a veteran of the World War. Fr Marie-Michel Kerboul blinked continuously as a result of shell shock at Verdun in the First World War. Despite this disability he was an ardent apostle,curate in one large parish and responsible for two others. A great example to us all.



Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed.  
*US President Dwight D Eisenhower, 1890-1969*

**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 187**  
*Growing in Conjugal Love - Marrying for Love*  
Marriage manifests the seriousness of each person's identification with the other and their firm decision to leave adolescent individualism behind and to belong to another.



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)