



CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

16 Nightingale Road, HITCHIN, SG5 1QS

(In the care of the Augustinians of the Assumption)



Daily Mass is at 10am for 26 household groups and 12 singles 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. There is limited opening for private prayer. See below



Newsletter No 1901

25 July – 1st August 2020 – 17th 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: Kings 3:5.7-12, Rom 8:28-30, Matt 13:44-523

Entrance Antiphon: God is in his holy place, God who unites those who dwell in his house; he himself gives might and strength to his people.

Psalm **Lord how I love your law!**

Intercession: Lord in your Mercy

Response: **Hear our Prayer!**

Next week: Is 55:1-3, Rom 8:35.37-39, Matt 14:13-21

Ramblings G.K. Chesterton, the master of paradox, believed that we do not live in the best of all possible worlds, but that we live in the best of all *impossible* worlds. Quite rightly he understood that the whole of life was full of paradoxes. The most famous paradox being that Jesus gave away his life in order to gain life not just for himself but for us all. In giving away our lives to God, we gain the fulness of life. Newton's 3rd Law of Motion states that *"For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction."* Thomas Aquinas said the same thing differently, *"for every choice there is a renunciation."* The stories Jesus tells us this week about the kingdom speak to our deepest desire which is our desire for God, although we often mistake it for something else. It is nevertheless true that we will sacrifice everything for something we truly desire – those we love, our burning passion, our desire for justice, our desire for peace, living more simply to help heal creation etc. Maybe the paradox this week is to see ourselves as God's treasure. Not a treasure to be owned but a treasure to be loved. A treasure for which God will do anything, even sacrifice his own Son. So, our prayer should be that of Solomon. To pray for an understanding heart capable of discerning good from evil. We are often better at discerning the evil in our lives than we are the good. Yet, it is the good (which we are) that reflects the presence and love of God. Our true treasure, then, is our love for God. Once we discover this we will also discover, as St Paul wrote to the Romans (8:28) that *"all things work for the good for those who love God."* And also, that the **impossible** can become real!

Diary Dates

Sun 26 July – Sat 1 August

10am Mass in the church.

Mon 27 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 29 July St Martha

6pm – Feed Up Warm Up – Scout Hall

Fri 31 July St Ignatius of Loyola

Additional guidelines for those coming to church

We have received two further pieces of guidance coming out of government legislation and guidelines as below

Worshippers should limit their interactions with anyone they are not attending church with, i.e. if they are attending corporate worship with one other household, wherever possible they should maintain social distancing with anyone outside of this group.

Face Coverings

Face coverings are currently mandatory on public transport and will be mandatory in shops and in supermarkets from 24th July 2020. People are also strongly encouraged to wear face coverings in enclosed public spaces where there are people they do not normally meet, such as a church.

We would stress then that all Mass attenders are **strongly advised** to wear a face mask when attending church. We know from feedback from parishioners who are watching Mass online that there is concern about inconsistent use of facemasks by people attending and many people are not coming to Mass until they are assured that all attendees are wearing masks. I would appeal to you to please do everything you can to help increase confidence in people about the safety of coming to worship in our church.

Private prayer in church Monday – Friday We can offer limited opportunities for the church to be open for private prayer in addition to the Mass. Rob or Trish will be stewarding so it is dependent on their availability and we will include the times in the newsletter and on the website. For this week the times are below:

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri
12-1pm	1-2pm	2-3pm	3-4pm	4-5pm

Numbers attending Mass We know many people are still concerned about attending Mass but the numbers attending during the week are still very low:

Sat	10	Sun	56	Mon	18
Tue	17	Wed	17	Thurs	17
Fri	20	Inc 2 stewards, 1 MC and 1 at sound console.			

You are able to sit quite far away from people with a minimum of 2 metres distance.

CAFOD has joined with the UK Disasters Emergencies Committee to help millions of people whose lives are at risk, as coronavirus spreads across refugee camps and countries suffering conflict. You can donate at cafod.org.uk/coronavirus to help CAFOD scale up its coronavirus response through our global Church family. Or use CAFOD's Summer of Hope fundraising ideas with your family and friends to transform lockdown and raise money for the appeal: cafod.org.uk/summerofhope.



Tassimo T-DISCS and Bags, L'Or capsules, Kenco lids and refill packaging (No other makes will be accepted) is back: Please place these items directly in the crate outside of the porch. **Do not contaminate** the recycling with cardboard materials even if it says Tassimo on it or not, and also **no carrier bags at all**, as they are made of a very different plastic, and spoils the recycling process.

Retrouvaille' – a lifeline for married couples – offers a Virtual Programme to help couples under pressure, commencing with a *Retrouvaille Weekend*: Thurs 30th & Fri 31st July (evenings) and Saturday 1st & Sunday 2nd August (days). For further information, please call in confidence and without obligation 0788 729 6983.

Website: www.retrouvaille.org.uk
Email: retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com

Other Dates

30th July: Pax Christi, Catholic Nonviolence Initiative – Spreading the word and the vision 5.30-7.00pm. An event led by Pat Gaffney. Come and learn more about the Initiative. Book by email info@paxchristi.org.uk or online from website



Fr Jean Babin was one of those people who always see the good in others. As a teacher at our school at Tarbes he was much appreciated by staff and pupils. His life came to a sudden end when a car tried to overtake him on a bend. He and his mother were killed instantly.

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 188

Growing in Conjugal Love - Marrying for Love

Marriage is a means of expressing that we have truly left the security of the home in which we grew up in order to build other strong ties and to take on a new responsibility for another person.



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

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