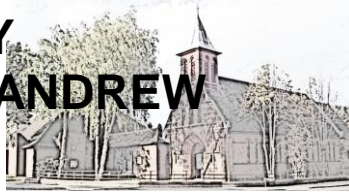




CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

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 1902

1st August – 8th August 2020 - 18th 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 55:1-3](#), [Rom 8:35.37-39](#), [Matt 14:13-21](#)

Entrance Antiphon: O God, come to my assistance; O Lord, make haste to help me! You are my rescuer, my help; O Lord, do not delay.
Psalm You open wide your hand, O Lord, you grant our desires.

Intercession: We pray to the Lord

Response: Lord hear us!

Next week: [Kings 19:9.11-13](#), [Rom 9:1-5](#), [Matt 14:22-33](#)

Ramblings We are used to number lines, quantities and statistics which we usually analyse wrongly. In scripture Numbers are symbolic. Number 5 was a symbol of God's grace, goodness and favour, and mentioned 318 times; while the number 2 conveyed the notion of a union. Number 12 was considered to be a perfect number, symbolising God's power and authority, as well as serving as a perfect governmental foundation. It can also symbolize completeness or the nation of Israel as a whole - the twelve tribes. The number 1,000 symbolizes "immensity," "fullness of quantity" or "multitude" so 5,000 stood for a very large number of people. Too often we want to explain parables and develop an understanding that is conclusive. In fact, parables are power-houses of wisdom and insight that speak of the wonder and presence of God, of God's relationship with us and our relationship with God. One of the riches of the feeding of the 5,000 is to help us see that meals together are special places in which God is particularly present, hoping to feed our hearts, our minds and our souls with his love which is present in abundance. It stresses the importance of being together and of sharing what is happening in our lives, sharing stories and discoveries, stimulating and strengthening friendship. All this is part of the treasure that is the kingdom of heaven.

Hilaire Belloc: *Ultimately the reason we should rejoice in the love of laughter as we rejoice in the love of friends is that laughter, like love, is a gift of God... From quiet homes and first beginnings, out to the undiscovered ends, there's nothing worth the wear of winning than laughter and the love for friends... Wherever the Catholic sun doth shine, there's always laughter and good red wine.*

At least I've always found it so. Benedicamus Domino!"

Diary Dates

Sun 2 – Sat 7 August
10am Mass in the church.
Mon 3 August
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.
Tues 4 August St John Vianney
Wed 5 August
6pm – Feed Up Warm Up – Scout Hall
Thurs 6 August Transfiguration of the Lord

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. For this week the times are below:

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri
3/8	4/8	5/8	6/8	7/8
4-5pm	2-3pm	3-4pm	1-2pm	12-1pm

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Numbers attending Mass We know many people are still concerned about attending Mass but the numbers attending during the week are still very low and people are welcome to come to Mass more than once Monday - Saturday:

Sat	15	Sun	61	Mon	22
Tue	23	Wed	19	Thurs	19
Fri	18	Inc 2 stewards, 1 MC and 1 at sound console.			

††††††††††

Sr Ann-Marie is celebrating 60 years of religious life on 11th August. Trish will be sending a card next week so if you would like to send her a greeting please email it to Trish before 5th August.



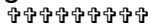
Recycling in the parish
The recycling centre in the parish is partially open. Coffee capsules in crate outside church on car park side open

all the time We are collecting: Tassimo T-DISCS and Bags, L'Or capsules, Kenco lids and refill packaging.
 (No other makes will be accepted.)

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.

All other items

(<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/recycling-in-the-parish/>) can be accepted only when the church is open for private prayer. This time varies weekly. See opening times in previous article.



The Sacrament of Reconciliation / Confession 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**



6th August: 75th Anniversary of the Bombing of Hiroshima Pax Christi - Witness outside Westminster Cathedral 10-11.30am, a silent, outdoor, socially-distanced presence. If you can safely join us, please come and stand in silence for a while. The plaza space is large so you will be able to maintain a distance. You might like to bring a candle, some flowers, or a sign, but just to be present will be enough



9th August: 75th Anniversary of the Bombing of Nagasaki Pax Christi - Witness outside Westminster Cathedral 10.00-11.30am, a silent, outdoor, socially-distanced presence. If you can safely join us, please come and stand in silence for a while. The plaza space is large so you will be able to maintain a distance. You might like to bring a candle, some flowers, or a sign, but just to be present will be enough.



6th – 9th August: Pax Christi – Hiroshima and Nagasaki Online – 8am every morning. Email Pax Christi for Zoom link: info@paxchristi.org.uk



After ordination, Fr Geoffrey Harding spent four years teaching. The rest of his life was a great example of cheerfulness while seriously ill. Over 11 years he spent much time in various hospitals mainly in London; always cheerful and welcoming. He died in 1957 and is buried in Hitchin cemetery.



Living simply & sustainably: Swap plastic bags & clingfilm for reusable foodwraps such as beeswax or soy wax wraps, available in our local supermarkets as well as in online shops or where practical use cloth (eg clean tea towel) or plates to cover food.

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 189

Growing in Conjugal Love - Marrying for Love

As a social institution, marriage protects and shapes a shared commitment to a deeper growth in love and commitment to one another, for the good of society as a whole.



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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