



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 1903

8th – 15th August 2020 - 19th 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 19:9.11-13, Rom 9:1-5, Matt 14:22-33

Entrance Antiphon: Look to your covenant, O Lord, and forget not the life of your poor ones for ever. Arise, O God, and defend your cause, and forget not the cries of those who seek you. Psalm **Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.**

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

Next week: Acts 1:1-11, Eph 4:1-13, Mark 16:15-20

Ramblings STORY: There were two youngsters who were always getting into trouble for taking things. Their mother decided to send them to the priest. The first brother went in and the elderly priest stood there, rather awesome and overpowering. He looked at the boy and said rather sternly, "Where is God? Where is God?" The boy looked startled, stood up and ran out of the room to his brother and said. "We're in real trouble now. They have lost God and they think we are the ones who stole him!!!!" So, where is God? The simple answer is everywhere but we want and need something much more concrete and tangible. The answer to where God is cannot be found in the head or in some theological definition because it is in an experience. Elijah experienced Wind, Fire and Earthquake but he only experienced God in the gentle breeze. That's our challenge this week: to experience God in different ways not just in our head but in our hearts and souls. God in the simple and ordinary encounters in life, in flora and fauna but most especially in those who are closest to us. The pandemic has provided us with plenty of opportunities to discover God in our families. It is in these simple but profound experiences, all unique in their own way, that, when we gather them all together, they help us build up a mosaic of God; a mosaic that is ever changing and evolving into something more beautiful and wonderful as we add the new encounters and experiences we have each day. **Where is God? Closer than you think!**

Diary Dates

Sun 9 – Sat 14 August
10am Mass in the church.
Mon 10 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.
Wed 12 August
6pm – Feed Up Warm Up – Scout Hall

Feed Up Warm Up – Feeding the community - Feed Up Warm Up has provided over 1,500 hot meals and delivered over 1,500 food parcels to families in need since the beginning of Covid19. A fantastic achievement made possible by all the helpers, volunteers and food donations from the local community.

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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	19	Sun	56	Mon	16
Tue	19	Wed	20	Thurs	21
Fri	21	Inc 2 stewards, 1 MC and 1 at sound console.			



Face Coverings Face coverings will be mandatory in Places of Worship from this Saturday 8th August 2020.

All those who are attending churches must wear a face covering unless they are exempt from doing so.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>

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No Private prayer in church this week as both Rob and Trish are away.

[how-to-make-your-own#when-you-do-not-need-to-wear-a-face-covering](#))

This is for the good of all who gather in the Church for Mass as it is an enclosed public space where there are people from differing households who they do not normally meet.

Priests in the sanctuary providing they are sufficiently distant (2m or more) from the congregation do not need to wear a face covering except when distributing Holy Communion. Other ministers in the sanctuary should wear face coverings and remain socially distant from the celebrant.

Readers may remove their face coverings at the lectern to read and should replace them before stepping away from it providing the lectern is sufficiently distant from the congregation.

When you are receiving communion you should unloop your face covering and consume the Sacred Host and then replace the face covering.

Fr Euloge gave a really interesting reflection this week on the use of a facemask and has been wearing one permanently since then. You can find his reflection at <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/wp-content/uploads/sites/60/2020/08/Reflection-Tuesday-Week-18-2020A-Fr-Euloge-Kasine.pdf>

Cleaners needed to ensure we can keep the church open for Mass. We have some gaps on all regular cleaning teams we still need to fill.

2 people to join the cleaning team on a **Monday** morning who clean from 10.45-11.30am from 31st August.

1 person to join the **Tuesday** afternoon team who clean from 3-4pm from 1st September

1 person to join the **Wednesday** morning team who clean from 10.45-11.30am asap

If you can help once a week to clean the church to ensure it can open again for the next Mass please let me know asap.


Future Dates



SEASON OF CREATION

1st September – 4th October: Season of Creation - an ecumenical initiative uniting Christians in prayer and action for the protection of our common home from the start of September until the feast of St Francis of Assisi.


Sunday 6th September - Day for Creation & start of Climate Sundays.

 Fr Louis Augustins spent most of his life teaching in our two schools in Belgian Flanders. A quiet but firm teacher he was much appreciated by his students. Appointed provincial of the North Belgian province he worked hard for our schools in a period of change. He much appreciated the changes following Vatican II and promoted them in his province.

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 190
Growing in Conjugal Love - Marrying for Love
Marriage is of enduring importance. Its essence derives from our human nature and social character. It involves a series of obligations born of love itself, a love so serious and generous that it is ready to face any risk.

 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