



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 1905

22nd - 29th August 2020 – 21st 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 22:19-23](#), [Rom 11:33-36](#), [Matt 16:13-20](#)

Entrance Antiphon: Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.
Psalm **Your love, O Lord, is eternal, discard not the work of your hands.**

Intercession: We pray to the Lord

Response: **Lord, hear us!**

Next week: [Jer 20:7-9](#), [Rom 12:1-2](#), [Matt 16:21-27](#)

Ramblings Have you ever thought about the different uses of Keys? Obviously, they are used for opening and closing doors. The keys of the door to your house are given to you as a sign that you have reached the age of responsibility. They are very often a sign of authority. They provide entrance to special buildings, access to certain prohibited areas. In the case of Saint Peter, they were the sign of his ultimate office as a leader of the first Christian community that became known as the Church. Keys are also used to keep things safe, for protection. Keys, then, are sign of authority and power both small and great. Jesus told Peter that he had the authority to bind and to loose; not for himself but for the Church, for people. Jesus used his authority and power to help people, to set them free from past errors, however bad, and liberate them from all that pulled them away from God. The power of binding was about binding the evil in such a way that it could not lead people astray or into any kind of wrong-doing that would cause them harm. Pope Francis referring to this passage said: *“Power to bind and unravel” refers to the power to set people free from sin, make proclamations of faith and take disciplinary action in the Church. It is through the ministry of the apostles, and especially the ministry of Peter, that Jesus has entrusted this authority to the church.* While **Thich Nhat Hanh** reminds us that: *“everything we touch in our daily lives, including our body, is a miracle. By putting the Kingdom of God in the right place, it shows us that it is possible to live happily right here, right now.”* As the hymn proclaims: **How lovely on the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news. Announcing peace, proclaiming news of happiness, our God reigns; our God reigns!**

Diary Dates

Sun 23 – Sat 29 August
10am Mass in the church.
Mon 24 August St Bartholomew
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 26 August
6pm – Feed Up Warm Up – Scout Hall
Thurs 27 August St Monica
Fri 28 August St Augustine
Sat 29 August Passion of St John the Baptist

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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. Trish or Rob can also light candles for you at these times or in the time before the 10am Mass if they are there.



For this week the times are below:

Mon 24/8	Tue 25/8	Wed 26/8	Thur 27/8	Fri 28/8
12-1pm	12-1pm	12-1pm	12-1pm	12-1pm

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We pray for for **Gerard Walker** who funeral is on **Thursday 27 August** at **2pm** .

We also pray for **Mary Deuchar** whose funeral is **12.30pm** at **Harwood Park** on

Wednesday 2 September 2020 followed by a **Memorial Mass** in our church at **2pm**.

May they rest in peace and rise in glory and may the Lord comfort their families.



Are you considering getting your child baptised? the next course is happening over Zoom and lasts roughly an hour this allows any technical difficulties. The course will consist of a video clip with some discussion questions and a short powerpoint.

DATE: SATURDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER 2020

TIME: 10 AM

VENUE: ZOOM

to sign up to the course please can you complete the short form on the following link

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=ev868oUFaUGcVaeAS3KojTvYPSULSZIMopf72JMPX3FUNDdQRVdKNVFMzVYMUhPNjEXTVNCrjVFOC4u>

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Stewards and Cleaners to keep the church open

As you know in order to have the church open for Mass and for Sacraments of Baptism and funerals we have to have stewards for track and trace recording and ensuring social distancing is maintained. We also have to clean the church after every service. We have a number of baptisms and First communion Masses and funerals happening and we really need help to ensure these can all happen safely.

Trish will be putting together a list of all the needs we currently have and will update it weekly and will send it by email and in this newsletter. See below for the current needs We cannot emphasise enough how important these functions are. We would not want to stop having a Mass because we are not able to clean after it.

If this sounds desperate that is because that is how Trish is currently feeling!

Please please do consider offering to help even if just occasionally.

Current needs

Date	Time	Role	How many?
Sun 23/8	9.30am	Steward	1
Mon 24/8	10.40	Cleaners	1-2
Wed 25/8	10.40	Cleaners	2
Thurs 27/8	9.30am	Stewards	2
Thurs 27/8	11am	Cleaners	2-3
Sat 29/8	To suit after 3pm	Cleaners	2
Sun 30/8	11am	Cleaners	3
Sat 5/9	To suit after 10.30am	Cleaners	2
Sat 12/9	11am	Cleaners	2
Sun 13/9	11am	Cleaners	2-3
Sat 19/9	To suit after 3pm	Cleaners	2
Sun 26/9	11am	Cleaners	2-3
Thurs 1/10	9.30am	Stewards	2

These are needs over and above the needs we have for the First communion Masses. We will update you on that soon. First Communion parents have been asked separately to help with this. **Please note these are just the occasional needs – we still have permanent vacancies on the cleaning teams for Tuesday afternoon 3pm and Wednesday mornings 10.45am.**

If you can help with any of these roles and dates please let Trish know as soon as possible by email or text.

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Susanna Hawksley will be leaving the parish sometime in October and we would like to try to say goodbye and thank you to her for all her service to the parish, as a parishioner, catechist on the confirmation programme for many years, member of the parish council, Minister of the Word and Eucharist and of course

Sacramental co-ordinator for the parish for many years to name but a few of her many roles. It is difficult to arrange the sort of celebration we are used to but we are going to try to make something work.

The suggestion is that we have a distanced picnic in the parish gardens on **Saturday 12th September at 12-1.30pm**. You will need to bring your own seats or blanket to sit on and food for yourself. We will ensure everyone is sitting in a distanced way and will have an amplifier so people can hear what is being said.

To make arrangements for this it would be useful to find out how many people are likely to come. I will send an email out about this separately so that I can get an idea of how many people will come. Please only respond if you plan to come.

Thank you.

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CTH Treasure Hunt Sunday 6th September

Phil Jackson of Zeo Church is cheering us up in these challenging times by organising a Church Treasure Hunt. Come to Zeo Church (park there or in Christchurch car park opposite) between 2.30 and 3.00 pm on Sunday 6th to pick up an entry sheet with clues and a map. Teams of up to eight people - choose from your bubble or maintain social distancing and consider wearing a face covering - £5 per team (contactless or cash). You will then have a maximum of two hours to

walk to as many of the churches on the list as you can, staying together, to collect answers to the clues. Some churches do not have their own building and their clues will relate to their website so teams need to have a smart phone and pen. The winning team will receive a £25 voucher for spending at a local restaurant - all profits will go to **Phase** . . .

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Catholic Non Violence Days of Action



Pax Christi International is inviting people to study, pray, act and celebrate the power of nonviolence. To this end the parish of Our Lady Immaculate and St Andrew, Hitchin is planning a week of various activities on the theme of nonviolence. The week commences on Saturday 26th September. Events will include a Peace Pilgrimage to pray for peace using interfaith prayers, a Silent Vigil to promote Justice & Peace and a Peace Crane Workshop. The week's programme will conclude with a Celebration of Nonviolent Heroes on 2nd October – which is International Day of Nonviolence and Gandhi's birthday. For more details, contact Ann at oliasah-peace@famma.info

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Christians against Poverty (CAP) People may have heard that CAP has not been taking on new clients for a while because we were overwhelmed. The good news is that they are fully open again. However, they haven't had any new clients come in for a while. So a reminder that the CAP debt centre in Hitchin is open again


and if anyone is in financial difficulty in these unique times, or being pressed by bailiffs, or the debt letters are piling up, please give them a call and they will be only too pleased to help you. You can book an appointment with Phil or Carlton by calling 0800 3280006, or for advice, just call Phil on 0793 1088175.

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Online fundraiser for Street Talk Artist and Street Talk supporter James Willis will be giving an online lecture on Hogarth's A Rake's Progress, taking place Thursday September 10th, 7-8pm, via Zoom. Tickets are £5 with all proceeds going to Street Talk. We'd love for you to join us and to please share this invitation with anyone you think may be interested. To book your ticket, visit www.street-talk.eventbrite.co.uk


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 For many years an Assumptionist priest was chaplain at the American Embassy in Moscow. Fr Robert Fortin, whose anniversary is this week was one of those priests. It meant that through them we could always keep in touch with the Assumptionists in Russia.

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 192
Growing in Conjugal Love - Marrying for Love
Committing oneself exclusively and definitively to another person always involves a risk and a bold gamble. Unwillingness to make such a commitment fails to recognise the rights of another person and to present him or her to society as someone worthy of unconditional love.

 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

AID TO BEIRUT

DECEASED 135+
WOUNDED 5000+
MISSING 100+
HOMELESS 300,000+

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IS COLLECTING DONATIONS IN AID OF
THE BEIRUT EXPLOSION.

DONATIONS WILL PROVIDE SHELTER
FOR THE HOMELESS, FOOD, AND
MEDICAL SUPPLIES.

FOR DONATIONS

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MARONITE ORDER CHARITABLE TRUST

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STREET, LONDON, EC4N 6AE

SORT CODE: 60-83-75

ACCOUNT NO.: 12023802

PURPOSE: AID TO BEIRUT



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