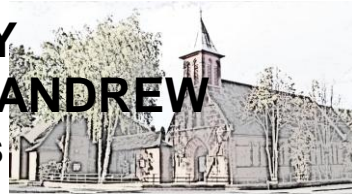




CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

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 1907

5th September-12th September 2020 - 23rd 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: Ez 33:7-9, Rom 13:8-10, Matt 18:15-20

Entrance Antiphon: You are just, O Lord, and your judgment is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

Psalm **O that today you would listen to his voice!**

Harden not your hearts.

Intercession: Lord in your Mercy

Response: Hear our Prayer!

Next week: Ecc 27:30-28:7, Rom 14:7-9, Matt 18:21-35

Ramblings St Paul writes that, *“Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.”* Isn't interesting that when all else fails and a person does not turn from evil ways, Jesus says treat him like a pagan or a tax collector. Jesus bent over backwards to help pagans and tax collectors, completely opposite to the social norm. We are being encouraged to do everything we can in order to bring people back to the right path, to open them to God's love and forgiveness. True love has no bounds. Ronald Rolheiser writing about Greek mythology says that Aphrodite, the goddess of Love, was born out of the sea; but, as she rises above the waves in her stunning beauty, her nakedness is shielded by three deities: *Aidos*, the goddess of modesty and respect ; *Eros*, the god of love; and *Horai*, the goddess of propriety. They protect her naked body with love, propriety, and modesty. For the ancient Greeks, this was a religious truth, one which taught that without these three protecting deities, the naked body should not be seen. When nakedness (of any kind) is not protected by these deities, it is unfairly exposed and dishonoured. Modesty, love and propriety is what we seek to use to shield the person who strays into evil ways. This is why Jesus came and accepted the shame, the hatred and the impropriety of the cross so that we would not have to. Remember the words of St Augustine from last week. What does love look like? *It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and sorrows of men.* Love of neighbour means treating them with modesty, respect, love and propriety.

Diary Dates

Sun 6 September – Sat 12 September
10am Mass in the church.
Wed 9 September
6pm – Feed Up Warm Up – Scout Hall
Thurs 10 September
Fri 11 September
Sat 12 September

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Private prayer in church Monday – Friday

Trish or Rob can also light candles for you at these times.

For this week the times are below:



Mon 7/9	Tue 8/9	Wed 9/9	Thur 10/9	Fri 11/9
12-1pm	12-1pm	12-1pm	12-1pm	12-1pm

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Numbers attending Mass Just to update you on the increasing numbers at our Masses. We look forward to welcoming more people back over the coming weeks.

Sat	31	Sun	72	Mon	23
Tue	31	Wed	15	Thurs	23
Fri	19	Inc 2 stewards, 1 MC and 1 at sound console.			



There are a series of webinars to listen for the Season of Creation. You can find the details on the following page on the parish website <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/season-of-creation/>

This Sunday 6th September would have been our **healing and wholeness service**. As we did in the case of the June service if you have a need for healing prayer or have a family member or friend you would like prayer for, please let Trish know on [07801 752141](tel:07801752141) or trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk. Members of the healing ministry team will be praying on that Sunday for anyone in need of the Lord's healing help.



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Current needs to keep our church open

I got a bit confused with emails and so I am now finding myself short of two cleaners this Sunday 6th September at 11am to ensure the church is clean for the First Holy Communion service in the afternoon. **If anyone can help please let Trish know asap at trishbonnett@rcdowl.org.uk**

Other needs we have are below

Date	Time	Role	How many
Sunday 6/9	11am	Cleaners	2
Sunday 6/9	1.30pm	Steward	1
Wed 9/9	9.30am	Steward	1
Sat 12/9 Before Baptism	11am	Cleaner	1
Sunday 27/9	11am	Cleaners	2
Thurs 1/10	9.30am	Stewards	1
Sunday 4/10	11am	Cleaners	2
Sun 4/10 First Holy Communion	1.30pm	Stewards	1

We also have a need for a regular cleaner on Wednesday morning at 10.40am. If you can help with any of these please let Trish know.

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First Reconciliation & Holy Communion 2021

If your child just started year 3 at school then it is time for them to start their sacramental preparations for preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and receiving The Eucharist for the first time. You are invited to a parents meeting to find out more information about the programme and to meet the other parents.

Please can you complete the form at the following link to confirm your attendance.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=ev868oUFaUGcVaeAS3KojTvYPSULSZIMopf72JMPX3FURUxNTTJRT0NSNEIJTFIVN1A3TIRIUk5CUS4u>

TIME:1900

DATE:Monday 28th September 2020

VENUE:Church

On the evening Rob Hitchcock will hand out an application form to gain more details. The point of the meeting is to answer any questions that you may have and to go through what a session will look like.

Please note that we will need some help with the cleaning of the church afterwards so that it is ready for Mass the next day.

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Churches Together in Hitchin Treasure Hunt today, 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 today, 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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CTH council meeting via Wednesday 23rd September, 8.00 pm. Jane Robson, the CTH Chair, will

host the meeting and we will send out the joining instructions and an agenda over the weekend of 19th/20th September. We are aiming to prepare an agenda that gives an update on what has been happening over the last few months and also provides time for us to think how best we can work together in the new situation.

Our September meeting has usually been preceded by the Phase annual update meeting. That will not be possible this year but our colleagues there are preparing a video for their supporters and this will also be sent to you during the 19th/20th weekend.

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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 we are 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



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=ev868oUFaUGcVaeAS3KojTvYPSULSZIMopf72JMPX3FUNDdQRVdKNVFMzVYMUhPNjFXTVNCrjVFOC4u>

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There are still a wide range of cards and gifts for those making their first communion. See pictures below. There are rosaries, cards, small prayer cards, Mass books, and a couple of beautiful crosses all at very reasonable prices, all below £5. If you want to get any please call into the office but as Cheryl is away this week give Trish a ring on 07801 752141 to ensure someone is around to help you.



Applications for admissions at John Henry Newman and Our Lady's School for September 2021 You will require an Certificate of Catholic Practice to go with your applications. In the past you have had meetings with Fr Tom to discuss this. Under the current circumstances we are suggesting that if you require such a certificate that you email trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk with details of your child - name and a photo, copy of their baptism certificate, and your name and address so we can confirm your details on the parish database. Fr Tom will contact you if necessary and can then supply the required form.

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The Foodbank and Feedup Warm Up have been continuing to feed people over the time of the pandemic. **FUWU** have been feeding up to 60 people each week. They had taken over the parish hall to store all the food that is donated, including fresh food from a range of local businesses and for a while were in most days preparing meals and food parcels. They are now consolidating their work to Wednesday afternoon and evening and all day Thursdays. This week the hall is having its ceiling replaced to a fully insulated ceiling with new lighting which will help energy and heat conservation for the parish. You will have seen the pictures in the past of the vast amount of food being stored in the hall and Liz Wills and her team moved all this into the Scout hall this weekend so the parish hall is clear for the works. This means we now have the Foodbank and FUWU doing their vital work to feed the hungry and needy and help the homeless in our community, under the same roof once again. Our parish prayer during a pandemic includes *'Stir us to show your love and mercy most especially to the poor and weak.'* In the work of the Foodbank and Feed Up Warm Up we are seeing that in action. Thanks go to Liz and Charmaine and their teams for the wonderful work they do.





This week we remember Fr Simeon Vailhe who was a student of early christianity in what we now call the Middle East. His work was among those which were used in the preparations for the definition of the Assumption of Our Lady in 1950. September 7th is the anniversary of Fr Brendan O'Malley who many of our parishioners will remember.

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 194

Growing in Conjugal Love - Marrying for Love

The 'yes' of marriage tells them that they can always trust one another, and that they will never be abandoned when difficulties arise or new attractions or selfish interests present themselves.



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/>

Parish Administrator Cheryl Saunders
Pastoral Assistants Robert Hitchcock
Trish Bonnett

cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk

roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk

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