

CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

16 Nightingale Road, HITCHIN, SG5 1QS

(In the care of the Augustinians of the Assumption)



Newsletter No 1913

17th– 24th October 2020 - 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A the gospel according to Matthew

Daily Mass is at 10am for 16 household groups and 36 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

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 45:1-4-6, Thes 1:1-5, Matt 22:15-21

Psalm: Give the Lord glory and power.

Next week: Ex 22:20-26, Thess 1:5-10, Matt 22:34-40

Ramblings In his letter to the Thessalonians St Paul writes the following which equally applies to us: *“know, sisters and brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.”* The Pharisees and Herodians, usually enemies of each other, unite in seeking to humiliate Jesus. This is so sad. If less time was spent finding fault with others – even governments – and more time and energy spent helping and caring for others – the world would change overnight. Just a part of the colossal amount of money spent on wars, weapons and lives used to destroy the perceived enemy, could heal all the areas of the world facing starvation. In creating a caring and loving world, reasons for war would disappear. We would be better able to work together globally and joyfully and heal our planet. Jesus reminds us that we are made in God’s image and blessed with all that we need to make our lives and the lives of those around us better, more loving, and more altruistic; lives full of beauty and love, goodness, gentleness and kindness. Lives that only need a catalyst to release their innate qualities. God has blessed us to be that catalyst. *“When I despair, I remember that all through history the way of truth and love have always won. There have been tyrants and murderers, and for a time, they can seem invincible, but in the end, they always fall. Think of it – always!!”* — **Mahatma Gandhi**. *“Do your little bit of good where you are; it’s those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.”* — **Desmond Tutu**. *“It is wonderful how much time good people spend fighting the devil. If they would only*

expend the same amount of energy loving their fellow men, the devil would die in his own tracks of ennui.” **Helen Keller**.

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Today is World Mission Sunday – the Pope’s charity for world mission. World Mission Sunday supports missionaries who work alongside communities that are poor or in need, regardless of their background or belief. Please pray for the mission of the Church and visit Missio’s website to give a single gift, set up a direct debit and Gift Aid your donation if possible. www.missio.org.uk You can also see their uplifting video about the inspiring work of missionaries around the world: [‘We Are Still Here’ \(click to watch\)](#) Please take a look at their new children’s activity sheets for every Sunday in October, which are available on the World Mission Sunday page www.missio.org.uk/wms

Diary Dates

Sun 18 October – Sat 24 October
10am Mass in the church.
Wed 21 October
6pm – Feed Up Warm Up – Scout Hall

Coffee bags for those who like crafts Would any of our community of passionate recyclers from church like a supply of washed coffee bags



from which bags like the one shown can be made, perhaps as a fundraiser? Pippa has been given a supply and the actual bag as a pattern. Contact her at email pippahockton@gmail.com or tel 07913 817046 Pippa has two carrier bags full of coffee bags and the bag which is already made as a pattern.

Update on Mass attendance w/c 10/10

Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri
18	75	34	33	18	19	18

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Current maintenance work Necessary maintenance work to stop a leaking roof is being done over the kitchen area next to the hall.

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RCIA

Are you wanting to know what's it all about? Do you feel called to become a Catholic? Have you been

Baptised already but may not have received the Eucharist or Confirmation? Then you are invited to search for the answers at our RCIA group who meet in the church on Wednesday evenings 7.30-9.00 pm to explore the answers to the questions that you want to know. Contact Rob Hitchcock for details at roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk.

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Applications for admissions at John Henry Newman and Our Lady's School for September 2021 You will require a 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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Our Lady Catholic Primary School will be holding personal socially distanced tours for families with children starting Reception in September 2021. Tours will be held on Wednesdays and will begin on Wednesday 21st October. A member of the senior leadership team will give each family a personal guided tour of the school which will be held from outside of the school building. You will be able to visit the Reception classes, exciting new outside learning environment and talk to the experienced staff about what the school has to offer. For more information and to book your tour please contact the school office on 01462 622555 or alternatively email admin@ourladys.herts.sch.uk

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The Job Club Job searching and navigating workplace challenges can be made much easier with the support of a small group of trusted peers. If you're looking for work or seeking to retrain in a new field, you don't have to do it alone. The Job Club at Zeo Centre Bedford Rd, Hitchin will be starting its 8-week programme beginning **Wednesday 21st October** from 10am-12 noon.

The Job Club is a welcoming club that provides practical help, personal coaching and a group of friends to support you back into work. Over an 8-week course, you'll learn how to effectively set goals, build a winning CV and get a foot in the door with employers in your community. Whether you've been without a job for a short time or for a while, Job Club will help you find work and build the future you want.

"I went to the Job Club as I was looking for a change of direction after many years of working as a primary school teacher. Leigh and her team not only helped me to identify my skills and personal qualities, but they also worked with me to explore other areas of employment that I had not really thought about before. The 8-week programme helped build my self-confidence and gave me the tools to approach potential new employers. I can't recommend the Job Club enough." Jo Chico

For more info, please contact mobile or email 07931833838 or leigh.smith123@yahoo.co.uk

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Youth & Children's Worker

This is an exciting opportunity to join the team at Christchurch Hitchin. You will build authentic relationships, you will equip young people to grow through their own faith journeys. You will share your passion for Jesus in creative and innovative ways and make a positive difference in this community.

Location: Hitchin, Hertfordshire

Salary: £24,000, full-time

Website: www.christchurchhitchin.org.uk

Closing Date: 1st November 2020

For information and application pack please visit the website

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Make Walking No1 The Highway Code is being updated, which means it's a great chance to rewrite the rules of the road so that they prioritise pedestrians.

The online form makes it easy for you to take part - but we only have until 27 October to make sure the Government hears us.

ADD YOUR VOICE: TAKE OUR SHORT SURVEY

Living Streets is delighted that the issue of pedestrian priority is amongst the new rules the government has proposed. This is something we have campaigned on for years. **And now you can help us seal the deal.**

Please take a moment to join our campaign using our simple online form. This lets you:

1. Take a short, five-question survey and add your voice to Living Streets' consultation response on behalf of all pedestrians

2. Get tips on how to respond to Department for Transport's consultation yourself

We need as many people to get involved as possible so that the Government appreciates how much support there is for putting people first on our streets.

In particular, we need to respond positively to the changes which **give more priority to pedestrians**, and to the proposed requirement to **give way to pedestrians at junctions and crossings**.

Everyone is a pedestrian at some point in the day and the changes proposed to the Highway Code would make the rules of the road safer for the most vulnerable.


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Hitchin Forum's Big Autumn Clean-up October 18th 2020 Registration

The Autumn Clean-up will (all being well) take place on Sunday October 18th 2020. Due to the corona virus, arrangements will be different from what they have been in the past. Let's hope that we will be able to go ahead.


If you would like to organise a team of up to 6 people (including yourself) please register by clicking on [Big clean up](#) by 10th October (earlier if possible).

THE ROSARY SHRINE
St Dominic's, Southampton Road, London NW5 4LB



ROSARY VIGIL ALL HALLOW'S EVE 31 OCTOBER 2020

Youth event with the Dominican friars
and Bishop Nicholas Hudson:
Rosary, Adoration, Confessions





Full details: <https://rosaryshrine.co.uk/rosary-vigil-31-oct/>

This year, sanctify All Hallow's Eve (aka 'Halloween') with a Rosary Vigil in the company of Our Lady of the Rosary, Queen of All the Saints. Come for some or all:

- 5pm: Livestreamed Rosary (part of the national 'Rosary Whirlwind' campaign);
- 6pm: Vigil Mass of All Saints celebrated by Bishop Nicholas Hudson;
- 7pm: Eucharistic Rosary Procession followed by Vigil with readings from the Saints and music;
- 8:30pm: Benediction to conclude.

Contact: secretary@haverstockhill.org.uk

 From Constantine to Blair, the idea of a just war only feeds the beast. There are no just wars. Only tragic ones. *Giles Fraser, Anglican priest, journalist, broadcaster*

 Fr Pierre Charon was one of those people who always seemed happy and saw what was positive in situations and events. His first apostolate was in education at our school at Bure in the Ardennes. He was named provincial of the South Belgian province and eventually to the responsible post of Secretary General.

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 200

Growing in Conjugal Love - A love that reveals itself and increases St. Paul prays: 'May the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another' (1 Th 3:12) and again, 'concerning fraternal love...we urge you, beloved, to do more and more' (1Th4:9-10). More and more!



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 } 01462 459126 press 4 }

 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

Pam Brannigan has been honoured in the Queen's birthday honours list with a British Empire Medal. Pam also received a letter from HM Lord-Lieutenant of Hertfordshire. He says in it 'The honour bestowed on you is public recognition of the good and selfless work you have done for the benefit of others and is indeed a great achievement of which you and your family are, I am sure, immensely proud – as is the county of Hertfordshire'

We, as fellow parishioners, are also immensely proud of Pam's work in our community. Pam was headteacher at St Vincent de Paul Catholic Primary school in Stevenage, and after her retirement was still involved with RE inspections for the Diocese.



Pam also runs the **Gateway club** on Saturdays in our parish hall, offering support to people with learning difficulties. Various activities are made available from table games, art and craft activities, listening and playing music to just spending time having fun amongst friends.



Pam has played a leading role in many groups in the parish:

The One World Group which has been part of the parish since 1982. Their activities have included campaigning on Justice and Peace issues. They promote the work of CAFOD (The Catholic Fund for Overseas Development) as well as support a wide range of smaller charities.

Our Lady's Special Support Group who reach out to people with learning difficulties, their families and friends. The Group started in Hitchin but now includes other Parishes. Regular meetings are held in a local care home to enable members with severe mobility difficulties to participate. Each meeting has a theme that generally includes a time to think, pray, sing hymns and plenty of time to talk. In the summertime regular outings have included visits to St Albans, Turvey Abbey and St Elizabeth's College in Much Hadham.

Michaelmas Fair Fundraiser

For the last few years Pam has co-ordinated the main fundraising activity of the parish and her house has been taken over by all the many donations that are given by parishioners and other people in the community.

Feed Up, Warm Up

Until recently Pam has been a helper at the drop in centre held on Wednesday evening in our Scout Hall. She hopes to begin again in the near future.

Pam has supported the liturgy in the parish for many years as a Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist and a Minister of the Word. Pam has also been a leader in the Children's liturgy team.

How lucky we are in this parish to have Pam in our midst and how delighted that her tireless work and efforts have been recognised nationally with the award. God bless Pam always.