



# 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 1914

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



24<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020 - 30<sup>th</sup> 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:** Ex 22:20-26, Thess 1:5-10, Matt 22:34-40

**Psalm:** I love you, Lord, my strength.

**Next week:** Mal 1:14-2:2.8-10, Thes 2:7-9.13, Matt 23:1-12

## Ramblings

Your neighbour is yourself: **Malcolm Guite**

My neighbour as myself? I cannot learn to love myself at all. I look away, the dark glass only shames me and I burn at what should never see the light of day.

*I'll be the judge of that, for in my light judgment and healing meet you equally. The self you loathe is precious in my sight and I will have you love it into me.*

*You and your neighbour, both must be made whole.*

*Her heart's as dark and needy as your own, so, you must love her in her hidden soul, the very soul she's trying to disown.*

*Love her as you are loved and you will find love is your heart, your soul, your strength, your mind.*

**Pope Francis:** *To love God and neighbour is not something abstract, but profoundly concrete: it means seeing in every person and face of the Lord to be served, to serve him concretely. And you are, dear brothers and sisters, in the face of Jesus.*

*Love lets us reach God: "Through our love for our neighbour we can get to know God, who is love. Only through loving can we reach love."*

*"He who loves knows God; he who does not love has no knowledge of God because God is love. It is not the love of a 'soap opera.' No, it is solid, strong and eternal. It 'manifests' itself in the Son, in the Son of God who has come to save us. It is a concrete love made of works and not of words. To know God, we must walk through life in love, love for our neighbour, love for those who hate us, love for all."*

**John Henry Newman:** *We love because it is our nature to love; and it is our nature, because God the Holy Ghost has made it our nature. This is our real and true bliss, not to know, or to affect, or to pursue; but to love, to hope, to joy, to admire, to revere, to adore.*

## Diary Dates

**Sun 25 October – Sat 31 October**

**10am Mass in the church.**

**Wed 28 October Sts Simon & Jude**

**10am-12pm Job Club at Zeo, Bedford Rd**

If you or someone you know is looking for work, they can come to Zeo Centre Bedford Rd, Hitchin and get invaluable support to retrain and/or re-join the job market.

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**6pm – Feed Up Warm Up – Scout Hall**

## Update on Mass attendance w/c 17/10

Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri
20	94	19	32	16	23	21

As you can see numbers are picking up on a Sunday. We have put out a few more single chairs to try to help. We would like to have more than one Mass on a Sunday to support the increasing numbers. We will be sending out a questionnaire by email (Copies will be available in the porch too) soon asking for some information to enable us to do this.

To have an additional Mass on either a Saturday evening or on a Sunday we need to have the following volunteers for each Mass:

- 2 Stewards
- 1 MC for the Mass
- 2 Eucharistic Ministers
- 1 readers
- 1 cleaner for after the Mass (10 mins)

In the questionnaire you will be asked about your preferred Mass time and if you are willing to

serve in one of the roles. Training will be offered if you have not already been trained in that role. When the survey comes out please take a few minutes to answer the questions so we have as wide a view as possible. Thanks in anticipation of your responses.

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### Some parishioners have asked about Myrtle

I sent out a call on the 10<sup>th</sup> October about an 83 year old lady who was missing. I contacted the police this week and they confirmed she is no longer missing. Thanks for your concern and prayers.

Just as a plug for the police I made enquiries via their live webchat service which is a 24 hour service and got a response immediately. I would recommend it if you need to contact the police for a non-emergency matter. Click on [Herts Police webchat service](#)

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There will be **no**  music at Mass from 26/10-30/10 as Trish is away from work this week. Normal service resumes on 31/10.

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### November prayers for the souls of the faithful departed.

Envelopes are available on the table as you come in to church to put in your requests for your prayers for those who have died. Please return your envelope and offering to the red box on the wall to the right of the exit door.



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### November 2<sup>nd</sup> All Souls Day 10am Mass and Blessing of Graves after Mass.

The Bereavement team will be at this Mass to pray for all the deceased members of our parish and their deceased family and friends. If you have someone you would like us to pray for please let Trish know by email or leave a note for her. We will be reading all the names of those we are remembering before the start of the Mass. The blessing of graves will take place after Mass. Meet up at St John's cemetery at ~11am. We have to remain distanced and no more than 6 people including the Priest can congregate at any grave. We will meet in the vicinity of the Assumptionist Grave where Fr Chris and Fr Michael are and work things out from there.

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### In Memoriam Service Sunday 15th November at 3pm

Our annual service when we remember those from our parish who have died in the past year will be different but still open to those who wish to attend to remember their loved ones. It will also be live streamed. If you wish to attend we would be grateful if you could let Cheryl, our

parish administrator, know as we need to plan accordingly. **01462 459126 and press 2.**



Zoom programme from the Centre for Applied Theology and The Living Liturgy Centre on **Women and Liturgy.**

The forthcoming 4-part series, beginning 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov Mondays at 19.00 (London Time), will be hosted by Dr. Patricia Rumsey, Abbess of the Poor Clare Monastery, Arkley, Hertfordshire. See website for details of talks. [Women and Liturgy zoom talks](#)  
E-mail [info@appliedtheology.org.uk](mailto:info@appliedtheology.org.uk) to take part.

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### NORTH HERTS INTERFAITH FORUM AGM 7.30 PM WEDNESDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2020



Tree cathedral in Italy

We look forward to you joining us at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 11 November 2020 by Zoom. After 30 minutes of NHIFF business we will be joined by Ashwin Mehta from the Jain community in Harrow, where a peace forest has been planted to commemorate Mahatma Gandhi. Ashwin will talk to us about planting trees from a faith perspective.

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**A message from the Police** We are asking people not to give food or money to beggars on the street or leave food out for them in any public place.

Begging is a criminal offence and giving to beggars on the street often continues the cycle of homelessness for those caught up in it. Please be assured that we work closely with many different agencies to offer help and accommodation to every person we find sleeping rough.

If you want to help, please donate instead to an alternative giving scheme, where funds are channelled directly towards projects to help the homeless and those sleeping rough. As you know we support **Feed up Warm up** in our parish and

your donations can help them also. To find out how you can help or if you need help yourself please call **Haven First on 01462 435835**.

If you want to help connect an individual rough sleeper with local help please call **Streetlink on 0300 500 0914**.



**Mary Blaksley helped establish Garden House Hospice Care 30 years ago and has been an ambassador and volunteer ever since.**

Trying her hand at a variety of voluntary roles at trading, the kitchen, beverage room, laundry, flower room and more recently the warm and welcoming face on our hospice reception, Mary has been a passionate and present pillar of the organisation.

Mary introduced Sir Nigel Hawthorn, the former president of the Hospice and says her highlight of the last three decades was being part of the committee for the grand Royal Gala at the Gordon Craig theatre in 1989 with guest of honour HRH Prince Edward, which raised £35,000.

When asked why she has supported the Hospice for 30 years, Mary said, "The people that I've met here over the years have been incredible.

Volunteering makes a difference when it matters most to local people in need. I will miss coming in and hope to come back again soon to visit.

The Hospice is a community in itself, we've all supported each other through good and bad times and I can't imagine a life without it."


What message would you give to people who are thinking about volunteering?

"Come and enjoy yourself with all the other people who volunteer and work here. I think quite honestly, the people I have met here are incredible and the fact that you're doing something for people that need you is such a wonderful feeling"


In August the Hospice welcomed Mary to be presented with gifts including a badge for distinguished volunteers. Sue Plummer, Hospice CEO said, "Mary's dedication and contribution have been inspiring for many of us here at the Hospice, a role-model for staff and volunteers both past and present.


Her remarkable role in the creation of the organisation and the positive impact it has had on the community of North Hertfordshire in the time since is outstanding"

At 89 years old, Mary is still busy spreading the word of the Hospice with everyone she speaks to. It's safe to say that all at the Hospice will miss her greatly, but this isn't goodbye, they will keep in regular contact and hope to welcome her back to the Hospice in the future.

 This week we remember Mgr Pie Neveu. He worked in Eastern Europe teaching at our school at Varna and then in Russia. He was ordained bishop secretly and was responsible for the catholics in Moscow and around. Eventually having returned to France he was refused a return visa to Russia and worked in various dioceses in France until his death in 1946.

**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 201**  
Growing in Conjugal Love - A love that reveals itself and increases  
Marital love is not defended primarily by presenting indissolubility as a duty, or by repeating doctrine, but by helping it to grow ever stronger under the impulse of grace.

 If you have a need for prayer, please contact **Mary** on **07759195487** and let her know your prayer intentions

<b>Parish Priest</b> Fr Tom O'Brien 07547 171570	<b>Assistant Priest</b> Fr Euloge Kasine 07424 004647	<b>Parish</b> <b>01462 459126</b> E-mail: <a href="mailto:hitchin@rcdow.org.uk">hitchin@rcdow.org.uk</a> Website: <a href="https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/">https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/</a>
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<b>Parish Administrator</b> Cheryl Saunders <a href="mailto:cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk">cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk</a>	<b>Pastoral Assistants</b> Robert Hitchcock <a href="mailto:roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk">roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk</a> } 01462 459126 press 4 Trish Bonnett <a href="mailto:trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk">trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk</a> }
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