

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 1915

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



31st October – 7th November 2020 – ALL SAINTS - 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: Mal 1:14-2:2, 8-10, Thes 2:7-9, 13, Matt 23:1-12

Psalm: Such are the men who seek your face, O Lord.

Next week: Wis 6:12-16, Thess 4:13-18, Matt 25:1-13

Ramblings All Saints Day



What do you think about when you read the Beatitudes? Do you think that you do not match up to them even though you show mercy, mourn with those who mourn, are gentle and kind-hearted? Do you think you are a long way from being a good example of any of them?? Know then that all the beatitudes are gifts present in your life. All you need to do is give them life. You are probably good with some but weak in others. Being made in the image of God means we are born holy. Think of the people you believe are living saints. They are not perfect, they have their failings, but they are good, good people. You find them inspiring and are encouraged by their goodness. All Saints is not just about those "who have made it to heaven" or celebrated in the liturgical calendar but the many more who are living around us. It is said that Saints are the most impossible people to live with!! This suggests that none of them were perfect. We celebrate the Saints so that we might be strengthened and encouraged to let the holiness and love with which we have been created shine through. Be encouraged and strengthened, therefore, by those who have gone before you – including your loved ones, to live the beatitudes more positively, more generously and with a desire to thank God for the blessings he has bestowed on you and join the Saints in praising and glorifying God.

Macrina Wiederkehr OSB writes: *The Beatitudes are for people who have their hearts set on the Reign of God. They are a way of life designed for those who want their life to be a blessing. Beatitude people are those willing to embrace these difficult blessings. There is something that will not let them rest until the whole world is*

striving to be just, compassionate, and loving. They call us forth from the cosy ruts of daily living and urge us to be Christ in the world. They tell us that the Reign of God is already in our midst if we can bless the world with beatitude living. The beatitudes are values that come straight from the mind and heart of Christ.

Diary Dates

Sun 1 November – Saturday 7 November

10am Mass in the church.

Mon 2 November All Souls

11am Blessing of the graves Meet at St John's cemetery in the area of Fr Michael and Fr Christopher's grave. Please maintain social distancing.

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6pm-7pm All Souls CAFOD Memorial Mass online This year's CAFOD Memorial Mass for deceased supporters can be joined online on Monday 2nd November at 6pm. Mass will be celebrated by CAFOD's Chair of Trustees, Bishop John Arnold, with music, readings and prayers from CAFOD staff and supporters from around the world.

Register at <https://cafod.org.uk/Volunteer/Online-talks>

Wed 4 November

6pm – Feed Up Warm Up – Scout Hall

Thurs 5 November

4.30-4.50pm Come to the Scout hall to see what fresh food is left from FUWU and bring a bag to take some away so it won't have to be binned. This is a regular Thursday event.

Sat 7 November

First Holy Communion Session 2 for parents and children will take place in the Hall. To ensure social distancing is maintained, there will be a choice of two sessions - 10am or 11.30am. Please ensure you complete the form sent to you

to register your place with your preferred time. Please also remember to bring along a scrap book and your own individual pens, pencils etc.

Peace Poppies for Remembrance In recent years, Kathleen Tuck of Christchurch has ordered white Peace Poppies from the Peace Pledge Union for Remembrance. She reports that, as it has not been possible to promote them satisfactorily this year, she has not ordered any new ones but has some left over from previous years. If anyone would like to purchase one, ring her on 01462 452432 and she will arrange for it to be delivered. She reminds us that, though we have had 75 years of peace in this country, sadly this is not the case everywhere and the work of peace-making still needs to be addressed.

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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 2nd 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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Have your say on the Hertfordshire Diversity and Inclusion Survey Hertfordshire County Council is currently developing its Diversity and Inclusion Strategy for Communities and Partnership and welcomes your assistance by providing your views and thoughts on what should be included in the strategy.

This is a short survey which should take no more than 10-12 minutes to complete. Grateful if you could please complete this survey and also share with colleagues/friends in Hertfordshire.

Here is the link to survey: -

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/about-the-council/consultations/equality-strategy-2016-20/diversity-and-inclusion-survey.aspx#>

For details of online workshops you can attend about this go to <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/news/>



Brother Thomas Gleeson had been a pupil at The Becket School Nottingham and joined the Assumption straight from school. He was a man with a very serious side but also with a great sense of fun. He was a keen footballer and it was on his way home to our study house (St Gerard, Belgium)from a match that he was killed in a road accident aged 20.



Living in solidarity: Give ethical Christmas presents – eg CAFOD World Gifts, <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk> and/or buy Fair Trade products or see websites such as <http://www.zaytoun.org>

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 202

Growing in Conjugal Love - A love that reveals itself and increases A love that fails to grow is at risk. Growth can only occur if we respond to God's grace through constant acts of love, acts of kindness that become ever more frequent, intense, generous, tender and cheerful.

 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

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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