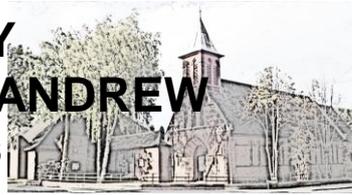




CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

16 Nightingale Road, HITCHIN, SG5 1QS
(In the care of the Augustinians of the Assumption)



Newsletter No 1916

Daily Mass at 10am is not open to the public but is livestreamed on [Livestream Mass](#) and posted as an audio file to the homepage of the parish website by 11.30am daily. We are open for private prayer from 10.30-11.30am daily.



7th – 14th November 2020 – 32nd 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: Wis 6:12-16, Thess 4:13-18, Matt 25:1-13

Psalm: For you my soul is thirsting, O God, my God.

Next week: Prov 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31, Thess 5:1-6, Matt 25:14-30

Ramblings Made in the image of God means we are endowed with everything that makes God, God, even if they are only shadows of those found in God. We are born with Wisdom. A wisdom that is enriched firstly in Baptism and again in Confirmation. Since life itself is God's gift to us everything we have is gift, our virtues, abilities, strengths, talents, charisms etc. Like love, wisdom only exists in being lived which is why we only tend to recognise it after the event. Like Sr Macrina Wiederkehr OSB, think of wisdom as a blessing:

*What is a blessing but a rain of grace falling generously into the lives of those in need; and who among us is without need? May the Spirit touch your spirit in this midmorning pause.
May this day be a pathway strewn with blessings.
May your work this day be your love made visible.
May you breathe upon the wounds of those which whom you work.
May you open yourself to God's breathing.
May you honour the flame of love that burns inside you.
May your voice this day be a voice of encouragement.
May your life be an answer to someone's prayer.
May you own a grateful heart.
May you have enough joy to give you hope, enough pain to make you wise.
May there be no room in your heart for hatred.
May you be free from violent thoughts.
When you look into the window of your soul may you see the face of God.
May the lamp of your life shine upon all you meet this day.*

May the wisdom you possess help you see more clearly the presence of God in all whom you encounter, in all your experiences and in all your times of quiet and of prayer – and rejoice!

Our church is closed for public celebration of Mass. This is livestreamed at [Livestream Mass](#). We are open for private prayer 10.30am-11.30am daily and you can receive communion at 10.30-10.45am. You should have received a letter from Fr Tom either by post or email. For all details you can go to the parish website [Hitchin parish webpage](#) where everything is updated regularly.

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Letter from Cardinal Vincent

ARCHBISHOP'S HOUSE,
WESTMINSTER, LONDON, SW1P1QJ
5 November 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ, As we enter this second 'lockdown' and loss of communal celebration of Mass, I wish to add these few words. This is a time for us to show our strength. And by that I do not mean strength in defiance. I mean strength in mutual support; strength in service; strength in perseverance and hope. I mean, then, the strength of our faith in action. The first act of faith is the praise of God. It is deep and constant prayer. This must be at the root of our lives, as individuals, as families, as households. I urge you, then, to stay faithful to daily patterns of prayer. Pray privately; pray together at home; come to church to pray; pray without ceasing. I thank God that our churches remain open to be places of peace and prayer, and the live streaming of the Mass, celebrated every day in our churches, is a great help. But that too must be rooted in our own life of prayer.

Only by receiving the living water from the Lord will we pass through this arid time. Indeed, if we stay close to the Lord, we will be changed for the better by this time of crisis.

The second act of faith is humble service. This is the road we are to follow: service of each other; outreach to the lonely; nourishment for the hungry; compassion for the sick, the isolated, the dying, especially those facing death alone, and those who mourn.

Let's do it. These are the strengths we have, the strengths we must contribute to our society's way of life. Only in this day-to-day practice can we shape a different future, a better future, one that is more compassionate, more just, more charitable. This is the future which must come out of this crisis. We cannot just wait to 'get back to normal'. This is a time to rebuild a better family, a better household, a better neighbourhood, a better world.

May God bless and sustain us all in the weeks ahead.

Yours devotedly,

+ Vincent Nichols

* Cardinal Vincent Nichols
Archbishop of Westminster

Life in lockdown

As most of the UK is now in a renewed lockdown, you may find this prayer exercise helpful.

This is a prayer to help me reflect on how I'm living in lock-down and how I might live more fully for the remainder of this time. To do this, I imagine myself with Jesus, looking back over lock-down so far. Then, after looking back, Jesus and I talk about the time of lock-down yet to be lived. Together, we imagine this time so that I might live it to the full and with a deep trust in God's plans for a future full of hope for me.

[Living Life in Full in Lock-Down](#)

Diary Dates

Sun 8 November – Saturday 14 November
10.30-11.30am Private prayer in the church You can receive communion from 10.30-10.45am. Stewards will also light candles for you if you ask them.
Wed 11 November
6pm – Feed Up Warm Up – Scout Hall



Livestream only Our 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 and now only live streamed at [Livestream In Memoriam service](#). A video will be posted on the homepage of the website after. **We are opening the church for private prayer after the service at 3.30pm for an hour so if you want to come in to light a candle for your loved one please do.**

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15th November – World Day of the Poor.

In his message for this World Day of the Poor, Pope Francis draws on the Old Testament Book of Sirach, which calls us to 'stretch forth your hand to the poor' (Sir 7:32). We are reminded that 'prayer to God and solidarity with the poor and suffering are inseparable.' For more details

of what you can do go to <https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/World-Day-of-the-Poor>

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Susanna Hawksley has left the parish!

It only took a year for her to finally go and what a hole she leaves for us. Susanna and Jeremy moved up to Harbottle, Northumbria on Thursday and are in temporary accommodation until the work on their new home is finished. They are very happy to finally be there although Susanna will miss our parish very much. Thank you all for your great generosity towards a gift for Susanna. She chose a painting of a local scene by artist Carl Laubin (husband of parishioner Christine)



The rest of the money she will give to various charities of her choice. Once she is settled I know that Susanna will have a message to send to the parish.

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The International Eucharistic Congress has been postponed until next year. However, the organisers are asking us to have another Holy Hour in our parishes to unite the world in prayer around the Blessed Sacrament. This has been planned for **Saturday 21st November - the Vigil of Christ the King.**

As Cardinal Erdő notes:

In the current epidemiological situation... we can also join in from our homes with our personal prayers. Let us take part in this common adoration, join in with your parish, your community and your family! Let this worldwide adoration be the next station of our preparation for the 52nd International Eucharistic Congress in Budapest, and let us relive the regenerating love of God. **More details of what we will do in next week's newsletter.**



To access recycling bins when church is closed

The church is open from 10.30am-11.30am for private prayer and you are welcome to quietly recycle your items during this time.

When it is closed please leave your recycling in the box by the slope at the back entrance of the church.

Thanks for your patience. We are trying to arrange to move recycling outside with the Tassimo crates.

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The Hitchin Christmas Hamper Appeal supports local individuals and families at Christmas with a festive food parcel. Last year we provided 151 hampers. This year however Covid 19 has changed how we are running the appeal. Instead of food donations this year we are asking you to help us raise funds so we can give our families supermarket vouchers plus we still want to be able to give gift bags to the children. If you can donate to the Christmas Hamper Appeal fund then please go to the JustGiving Page <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/feedHitchin> Doing your shopping online this year? Even if you

can't shop local this year, you can still support the community by shopping at [Amazon Smile](#) and nominate Rotary Club Of Hitchin Tilehouse Trust Fund as your charity of choice. They will receive a percentage of the price of your purchase at no extra cost to you.

SAVE THE DATE

Holocaust Memorial Day 2021
Be the light in the darkness

North Hertfordshire District Council would like to invite you to attend their Holocaust Memorial Day Service

On Wednesday 27 January at 11am
More details to follow

Please note, the service will be virtual unless Government advice changes



On 12th November 1952 three Assumptionist priests Josaphat Chichkov, Kamen Vitchev and Pavel Djidjov were shot in Bulgaria accused of spying for the Holy See and for France. They were beatified by Pope John Paul II during his visit to Bulgaria. Since the fall of communism the government has admitted that they were innocent and underwent a show trial.

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. Husbands and wives 'become conscious of their unity and experience it more deeply from day to day' (Gaudium et Spes, 48). The gift of God's love poured out upon the spouses is also a summons to constant growth in grace.

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	}01462 459126 press 4 }
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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