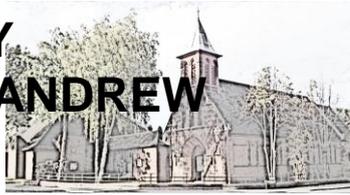




CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

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



Newsletter No 1917

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



14th – 21st November 2020 – 33rd 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: This week: Prov 31:10-13.19-20.30-31, Thess 5:1-6, Matt 25:14-30

Psalm: **O blessed are those who fear the Lord.**

Next week: Ez 34:11-12.15-17, Cor 15:20-26.28, Matt 25:31-46

Ramblings We have a choice. Use the gifts and blessings of life as best we can, or do nothing and waste our life. The first is far easier to do than the latter. When I was young, we used to play *I spy*. Booklets were produced to help you look for certain memorable, remarkable and historic oddities in cities and towns throughout England. Not only did this spike interest, it also increased the powers of observation and expectancy. Coming to the close of the liturgical calendar, we are called to dwell on the end times and the afterlife. Jesus tells us to be ready, to be awake and we will have absolutely nothing to fear. Today the question asked raised is how well we have lived our lives. We have two choices: be optimistic or be pessimistic. There is no middle ground. To do neither is to be pessimistic. Being aware, being awake is about looking for opportunities to which to respond. Optimism breeds optimism. One commentator suggested that the man who did nothing with the talent he had been given could have been considered being humble. But that is not humility. In fact, he gets banished for doing nothing. The humble people were, in fact, the two who profited from the talents they were given. They did this not for themselves but for their master. A humble person is one who spends his/her life in service of others and is deeply proud to do so because he/she realises that the *talents* he/she has been given, comes from God and is deeply honoured to be asked to bear fruit for God. A conclusion from the Gospel is that if you do nothing with your life you lose everything – and will be unable to make anything positive from being in heaven. If you are selfless with your life you will receive back whatever you give now and will enjoy heaven even more. If you give a smile, you will receive one back. YOU are capable of much, much more than a smile!

Diary Dates

Sunday 15 November

10.40-11.30am Private prayer in the church. It is slightly later as the Mass is longer on a Sunday whilst it is livestreamed. You can receive communion from 10.40am - 11am. Stewards will also light candles for you if you ask them.

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Livestream only 3pm In Memoriam

Service 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.**

Mon 16 November – Saturday 21 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.

Monday 16 November

7pm One World & Livesimply Group AGM over the internet. A somewhat different format dictated by the unusual circumstances in which we find ourselves due to the COVID-19 global pandemic. The Business Meeting will be followed by a recording of a live visit to a Medjoul date farm in Jerico, Palestine. After we can have a social chat and enjoy light refreshments. Sadly this year, as we are meeting via Zoom, we each have to provide our own attractive refreshments. All participants are encouraged to prepare something to show everyone else and we are also encouraged to include Medjoul dates, if possible, in our fare. Email Ann at amm@famma.info if you would like the link to join the meeting.

Wed 18 November

6pm – Feed Up Warm Up – Scout Hall

Sunday 22 November

The Feast of Christ the King, the Church in England and Wales celebrates National Youth Sunday. On this day, we celebrate the young people in our parish and community and all the gifts and talents they share with us. The theme for this year's NYS is 'Together'. This weekend especially, we pray for the young people of our Parish.



As promised a farewell from Susanna

Dearest friends, in my 33 years in Hitchin the people of this parish have been my daily bread. You have nourished my faith; you have sustained me and my family through life; you have been a comfort and a tremendous pleasure: good bread. I have long thought of you, and always will, when praying the Lord's Prayer.

With the money you have so generously given for a parting gift, I have bought a beautiful painting of the Hertfordshire landscape, by Carl Laubin; the remaining money will find its way to my local food bank. I am more moved than I can say by your kindness. You have no idea how wonderful you are - thank you for all of it. So, until we meet again, much love, Susanna

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Many thanks to all those who bought jam, marmalade or chutney from our parish preservers in recent weeks.



So far we have been able to send £180 to the Little Sisters of the Poor and £140 to Diapalante's education centre in Senegal. Derek, Ian, and Nigel have some new varieties to tempt you: Grape jam; Spiced Christmas jelly; Spicy Mexican pickle; Quince and apple chutney; Sloe, apple and elderberry jelly; Sloe, apple and blackberry jam. We also have some of Derek's famous treacle marmalade and a few jars of Quince and orange marmalade. All delicious and all highly suitable for Christmas presents. If you contact me, Pam Brannigan on 01462 632587 I will arrange a safe way to deliver your goods. Suggested donation, £2. Thanks again.

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We heard on Thursday of the death of **Denis Watts** aged 97. Denis was involved in the Scouts in our parish for many years when he lived in Hitchin as well as being a

faithful parishioner. May he rest in peace and rise in glory!

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The Saint John Henry Newman School Association would like to invite parishioners to join them for a **free online quiz on Saturday 28th November at 8pm**. The quiz will be live on YouTube and questions will be presented by the teachers. They are joining together for an evening of light entertainment and fun to brighten these uncertain times so please join in and spread the word. The YouTube channel can be found by following this link: [JHN quiz](#) The quiz will go live at 8pm on 28th November with questions starting at 8.15pm. Everyone is welcome so please share the details and invite your family and friends.

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In previous years, many of you have contributed the Christmas Logs for the Christmas Hamper Appeal for individuals and families who are struggling. This year due to Coronovirus, even more people are affected and need our support. Because of safely restrictions, the Christmas Community Team are fundraising to give food vouchers for Christmas fare instead of the hampers but also want to give a presents for each child.

We are asking your help to help fund these presents. We are working on the basis of £10 per present, but all donations however small will be very welcome to help us raise the amount needed to buy presents for in excess of 150 families and individuals with about 350 children between them.

If you would like to contribute please enclose offerings of cash or a cheque made payable to **Rotary Club of Hitchin Tilehouse**, in an envelope marked Children's Presents 2020. This can either be placed in a basket for the purpose in the link building when the church is open, or put through the church letter box.

Or, you can donate via this link [Just Giving Feed Hitchin](#)

Thank you so much for your help. God bless you all.

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Just a reminder that you can raise funds for Our Lady's church using **easyfundraising**. Install

the Donation Reminder from the easyfundraising website on your laptop or computer. It takes the effort out of fundraising - simply shop as normal and if a donation is available you'll get a handy

reminder in your browser. All you to do is click the reminder to activate your free donation when you shop. It's really simple, and doesn't cost you anything. All you have to do is: 1. Go to http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ourlady_srchitchin

2. Sign up for free

3. Get shopping- your donations will be collected by Easyfundraising and automatically sent to our Lady's RC Church Hitchin.

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Some important messages from Cardinal Vincent Nichols

Received Monday 9 November

I was most grateful to receive many messages of prayer and good wishes for yesterday, my 75th birthday. Not much of a celebration in these times, but a very happy day nonetheless.

As you will understand, some time ago I wrote to the Holy Father offering my resignation from the Office of Archbishop of Westminster.

With the arrival of the new Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Gugerotti, came the reply.

The Holy Father formally accepts my resignation and, at the same time, has decided that I am to remain in office until, at his decision, other provision is made.

When I wrote to Pope Francis I said that I was, peacefully, at his disposition. So it is in this same peaceful spirit that I will now continue as your bishop. I do so encouraged by the message from the Holy Father and supported by your prayers, continuing good will and patience with my shortcomings.

So, on we go! These days are not at all easy but we know the Lord never leaves our side. It is with his Spirit that we humbly seek to serve, as best we can. Please do keep up your good work, as I will strive to do, also.

Received Friday 13 November following publication of the IICSA Report (Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse)

Today we pray especially for all who have suffered abuse, as children or as vulnerable adults, and carry its scars throughout their lives. Many of their stories are told in the IICSA Report. We pray for them in the pain they bear. We pray too for courage and guidance for our bishops and religious leaders, and for those who work in Safeguarding, that the responses we give will be just and healing. We ask pardon for those past responses that now are seen to have been so inadequate. We place before the Lord this brokenness which marks so many lives and the life of the Church.' These are certainly difficult days for us, but more so for all who have suffered

this terrible abuse. Please pray for us bishops as we consider these matters during our meeting next week. And pray for me too: I need those prayers. If these are difficult days for me, I know they are for you too. Please stay steady and be sure of my prayers for you. I also wish to mention that next Saturday, 21 November, is dedicated throughout the Church as a day of prayer for humanity in the struggle with the Covid-19 pandemic. This is taking place in the context of the delayed International Eucharistic Congress. Please make this intention part of your individual prayer next Saturday.*

With my warmest regards and prayers,

[Cardinal's statement on IICSA](#)

✝ Cardinal Vincent Nichols
[Archbishop of Westminster](#)

* you can do so before the Blessed Sacrament in private prayer time from 10.30-11.30am.

A statement from Cardinal Nichols can be seen at [Cardinal's statement on IICSA](#)

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See the detail on the parish webpage [Living Wage petition](#)

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Advent Giving Calendar

As they did last year Caritas Westminster are sharing an '[Advent Giving Calendar](#)' which gives suggestions for items to collect each day in Advent to donate to our local foodbank or food poverty project in time for Christmas. Whilst we are unfortunately not able to come together as a Catholic community, the calendar provides a way for us to participate in social action together at home. The calendar



provides information for finding local projects to donate to and they have also provided a [PowerPoint resource](#) for schools and families to use with it.

Any items you collect can be left in the church porch from 10.30-11.30am each day or at other times leave them by the back door to the parish office.

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It's Time to Talk about the "D" Word

Join our Live Discussion

Are you feeling worried and anxious about the current situation?

Would it be helpful to explore how to talk to your family and friends about your wishes when you die, and what might happen if you become ill?

Join our free interactive workshop to ask the questions you always wanted to ask but couldn't.

The workshops will explore

- What does the term end of life actually mean?
- How to talk to someone who is looking after a loved one who is dying or has been bereaved.
- The small things we can do to help create a nurturing environment for everyone involved.
- How to look after yourself as you support a

loved one as they die.

- Our aim in the workshop is to help to reduce the fear and confusion around what happens to us all as we face the end of our life.

Workshop Dates

Tuesday November 24th 2020 2pm - 5pm
 Tuesday December 1st 2020 10am - 1pm
 Tuesday December 8th 2020 10am - 1pm
 Places are limited, so do book early!

To book a place email info@annerobsontrust.org.uk
 For more information visit www.annerobsontrust.org.uk

Workshops will run for 3 hours via Zoom
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COVID-19 and Vaccination – Ethical Issues an article by Right Reverend Richard Moth

The development of a vaccine against COVID-19 would be an important breakthrough to protect others from the scourge of this virulent virus which has caused a global pandemic and led to huge loss of life as well as stretching healthcare systems to their limits.

To read more click below [COVID-19 and Vaccination](#)



Fr. Henri Guillemin could be known as a small man with a big voice. Henri was one of those who could hold his listeners spellbound and was noted for his preaching. He was also provincial of our Paris province for a number of years.



The best way to honour our veterans is to stop making new ones.
Paul Hawken, US environmentalist, activist, author

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 204

Growing in Conjugal Love - A love that reveals itself and increases Television movies and programmes often present a fantasy of love. It is much healthier to be realistic about our limits, defects and imperfections, and to respond to the call to grow together and bring love to maturity as a fine wine matures over time. (Chilean Bishops' Conference La vida y la familia 21 July 2014).

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	cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk		
Pastoral Assistants	Robert Hitchcock Trish Bonnett	roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk }01462 459126 press 4 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