

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 1918



21st – 28th November 2020 – OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST KING OF THE UNIVERSE Year A Matthew's gospel

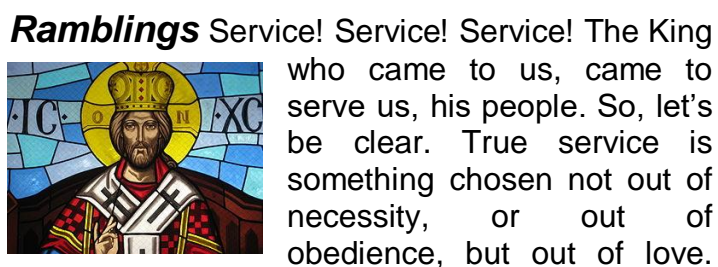
Daily Mass at 10am is not open to the public but is livestreamed on [Livestream Mass](#) and posted as an audio file to the homepage of the parish website by 11.30am daily. We are open for private prayer from 10.30-11.30am Mon – Sat and from 10.40 – 11.30am on Sunday.

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: Ez 34:11-12, 15-17, Cor 15:20-26, 28, Matt 25:31-46

Psalm: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Next week: Is 63:16-17; 64:1.3-8, Cor 1:3-9, Mark 13:33-37



Ramblings Service! Service! Service! The King who came to us, came to serve us, his people. So, let's be clear. True service is something chosen not out of necessity, or out of obedience, but out of love. Jesus did not serve us out of obedience, although it was through his service that Jesus fulfilled his desire to be obedient to the Father. He also wanted to show his undying love for his heavenly Father. Jesus' service dignified everything he did. It was reverential, it was noble and ennobling. It was a service that sanctified and graced everything he did, said and touched with his presence. It was a service that strengthened and highlighted the beauty in the most unlikely people and in the most unexpected places and situations. It carried a warmth and compassion that not only healed but encouraged those healed to heal others. His service breathed life wherever he passed and to those who welcomed him. Service is of the essence of God, of divinity, of grace. God sent Jesus to be of service to us - a service Jesus lovingly and whole-heartedly embraced.

God is Love, it is your Essence,
Love is Caring, it is your Essence,
Caring is Giving, it is your Essence.
Giving is Selfless, it is your Essence.
Selflessness is Kindness, it is your Essence.
Kindness is Gentle, it is your Essence.
Gentleness is Spirit, it is your Essence.
Spiritualness is Knowledge, it is your Essence,
Knowledge is Faith, it is your Essence.
Faith is Obedience, it is your Essence,
Obedience is Humble, it is your Essence.
Humble is Lawful, it is your Essence.
Lawfulness is Righteous, it is your Essence.
Righteousness is Holy, it is your Essence.
Holy is God, it is your Essence.

Francis Joseph Lozinski

Next Sunday is the start of Advent and we have lots of Advent resources available for your use and for family use on our parish website page. <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/advent-2020-ideas-resources-and-prayer/>

Diary Dates

Sun 22 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.
Mon 23 November – Saturday 28 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 25 November
6pm – Feed Up Warm Up – Scout Hall
Sunday 29 November 1 st Sunday Advent
3pm Advent Prayer service live streamed

Sunday 22nd 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'. Normally on NYS, young people would be involved in the Liturgy. Whilst the Parish Community can't be together physically as we were, we are united together in prayer. This weekend especially, we pray for the young people of our Parish.

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We pray for Annie Hickmott whose funeral is on Wednesday 25 November 2020 at 10am at North Herts Memorial Park and Crematorium only. May she rest in peace and rise in glory and may the Lord comfort her family.



Next Sunday 29th November at 3pm we will have our livestreamed Advent service.

Trish needs your help with this. You will have received an email asking for help. Three people have responded but we really could do with some more. Please read the below and if possible send your answers to Trish by Tuesday so we can get things recorded in time for Sunday.

Over the past few years a much loved parishioner, Mary Deuchar, asked parishioners for their stories about the theme chosen for Advent and also if they would read them during our Advent service.

Mary died in August and it is important, for those of us who knew her and loved her, to continue her legacy for Advent and Lent. It is thanks to Mary that you receive daily reflections by email. It was her suggestion that we start doing it two years ago after the untimely death of Fr Michael and it will carry on until we see an end to the current pandemic.

Please, please help make this service special in this highly unusual time in our history.

Advent is a time of waiting, longing and hoping. We long for community and connection with others. We long for an end to the current pandemic. We wait and watch with eager expectation.

Advent is a time when God searches for us just as we search for God. On the 3rd Sunday of Advent, St Paul calls us to *'Be happy at all times; to pray constantly; and, for all things, to give thanks to God, because this is what God expects*

you to do in Christ Jesus' (1 Thessalonians 5:16)

With these words in mind, I ask for your help.

Trish would be very grateful for your responses and those of your family and children to the following questions. Please answer as fully as you are able to and as soon as possible, since everything needs to be recorded by 27th November.

Over the past 8 months of the pandemic:

1. What is it that you have been waiting, longing and hoping for?
2. Where is it that you have found God, or where has God found you?
3. Can you describe when and why you have felt *'Happy at all times'* so that we can all give thanks to God for that happiness?
4. What are your hopes for the future in this Advent season?
5. Would you be willing to record what you have written so that we could play it at the service on 29th November?
6. If No, are you happy for someone else to record these words for use at the service?
7. If you are happy to have your reflections recorded for the service would you like to be credited (your name noted) or would you prefer it to be anonymous?

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Learning Support Assistant required for January 2021. Grade H2.3, 32.5 hours per week, Term time only plus 1 Inset £13,789.57 pro rata) For full details go to <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/job-vacancies/>



November 21 is the 140th anniversary of the death of our founder Fr Emmanuel d'Alzon. The doctor at the time said that he died simply because his body was worn out. A man who never stopped working for the Assumptionists and the Oblate Sisters he founded. His writings have been approved and He is now Venerable.

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 - Dialogue Dialogue is essential for experiencing, expressing, and fostering love in marriage and family life. Yet it is the fruit of a long and demanding apprenticeship. Men and women, young people and adults, communicate differently!

 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
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Parish Administrator Cheryl Saunders
Pastoral Assistants Robert Hitchcock
Trish Bonnett

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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