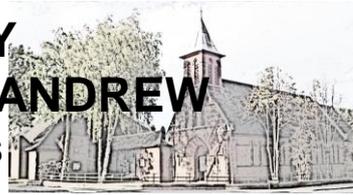




CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

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



Newsletter No 1923

Daily Mass at 10am is open to the public and is livestreamed on [Livestream Mass](#) and posted to the homepage of the parish website by 11.30am daily. If you can come another day please leave Sunday for those who can't.

26th Dec 2020 – 2nd Jan 2021 – THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH Year B

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 Gen 15:1-6.21:1-3, Heb 11:8.11-12.17-19, Lk 2:22-40

Psalm: He, the Lord, is our God. He remembers his covenant for ever.

Next week: Gen 15:1-6.21:1-3, Heb 11:8.11-12.17-19, Lk 2:22-40

Ramblings The letter to the Colossians reminds us that we are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you, and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. Hardly given time to celebrate the birth of Christ, we reflect on the Holy Family whose immediate response to Jesus' birth is to dedicate him to God in the Temple – similar to our baptism when we are dedicated to God. Mary is given insight into the mission of her Son and the suffering she would have to face because of it. Colossians spells out how we believe the holy family would have lived. All the attributes mentioned in Colossians, however, are present in our families: compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness and most of all love. At time, they are more evident than others, or are they so commonplace that we fail to recognise their presence? If we idealise the Holy Family too much, they will fail to be a model for us. Jesus would have cried for his food, cried during teething, needed changing. They would have faced sorrow and hardship. Jesus would have tested their patience and love in his early days like any family. All necessary for true love to surface and prove itself. Do not idealise family life. It can be rough and difficult but equally, hopefully more so, joyful and happy. It will have its successes and failures, its sorrows and sufferings, its achievements and challenges but it is the difficulties and challenges that not only test its love but prove its value and its depth. In fact, they make love stronger. When our lives are dedicated to God as Mary and Joseph did with Jesus, we too received a mission to be disciples

of Good News and God also dedicated his Spirit to guide, help and support us with a love beyond all telling: proved by the birth of Jesus, the greatest gift of love.

Diary Dates

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| Sun 27 December – Sat 2 January |
| 10am Mass in the church. |
| Wed 6 January |
| 6pm – Feed Up Warm Up – Scout Hall |

Margaret Wilson and family wants to thank everyone in the parish for their prayers over the past year for her recovery. God has blessed her with that recovery for which we all give him thanks and praise. Margaret has arranged for a thanksgiving Mass to be offered for the parish on 1st January. Happy Christmas to you all. This Christmas will be a happy one indeed for the Wilson family.



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We have a quantity of small 2021 **Parish Diaries** for sale at 50p each in the porch. Please put the money in the "Papers" box on the wall. Many thanks.

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We hope to begin our next confirmation programme in January 2021.

We need parishioners who can help Rob and his small team of catechists to do this. Are you willing to share your faith with the next group of young people who are exploring the sacrament. You need to be prepared to listen and encourage the young people to discuss issues of faith and be happy to talk about your own faith journey. This is vital and important work.



Passing on the faith is what Jesus commissions us to do in Mark 16:15 'Go to all the world and proclaim the good news.' We all are responsible for passing on the faith to the next generation and we need you to help us do this with our young people. All training provided.

Are you willing to come and help?

Do not miss this opportunity to strengthen your faith by sharing with others

If so please contact Rob at roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk



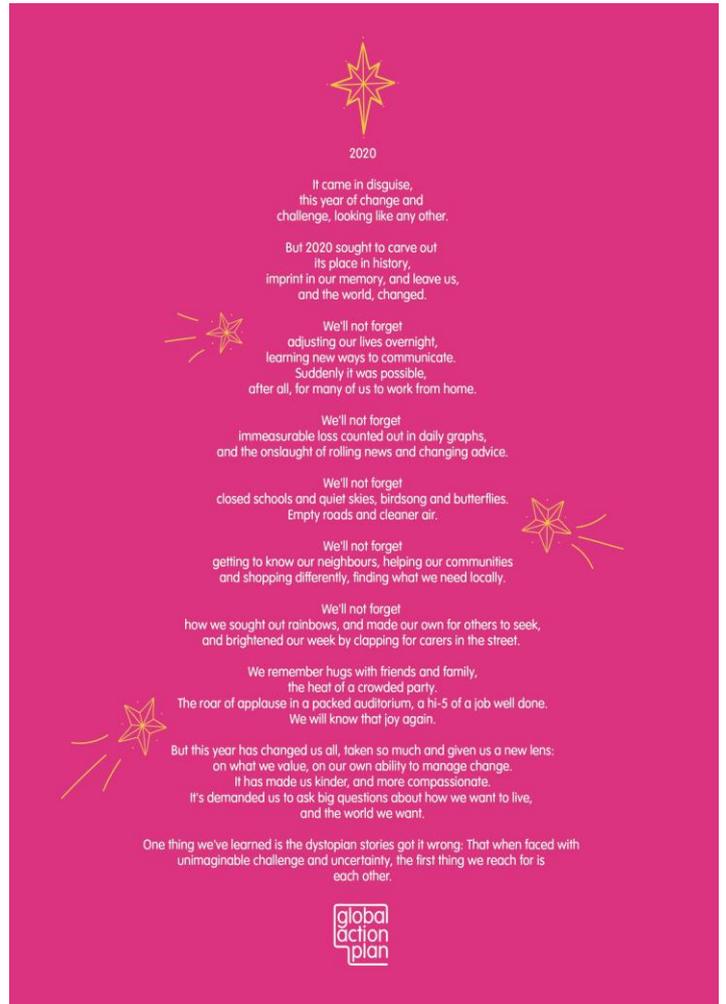
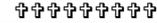
Crib Offering to support the Catholic Children's Society – Since March the Catholic Children's Society (CCS) has provided emergency food and essentials as well as mental health services for over five and a half thousand children and their parents/carers. These families have faced desperate situations due to the Coronavirus pandemic. One family were caring for their very sick child when the father lost his job. With no recourse to public funds, they faced a bleak and uncertain future. CCS provided support with food and accommodation costs for several weeks, giving the father time to find a new job as a delivery driver. He said:

"You have helped my family when we were at our lowest point. I can never thank you enough for the kindness you have showed us. You gave us hope during a very dark time. We will be forever grateful."

There are many more families in need of support and our Parish will be donating our Crib Offering to support this important work. Due to Covid, a

special page has been set up at www.cathchild.org.uk/crib where you can make a donation.

You can also place a donation in the black box marked "Crib Offerings" on the wall by the Church doors. Thank you for your generosity.



 'The spirit of our Congregation can be expressed briefly as; love of Our Lord, of the Blessed Virgin, His Mother, and of the Church His Bride' (E d'Alzon)

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 210**
Growing in Conjugal Love - Dialogue Develop the habit of giving real importance to the other person. This means appreciating them and recognising their right to exist, to think as they do and to be happy

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

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| Parish Administrator Cheryl Saunders cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk } | Pastoral Assistants Robert Hitchcock roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk } 01462 459126 press 4 Trish Bonnett trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk } |
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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 |
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