

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 1926

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.

16th – 23rd January 2021 – 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B the gospel according to Mark

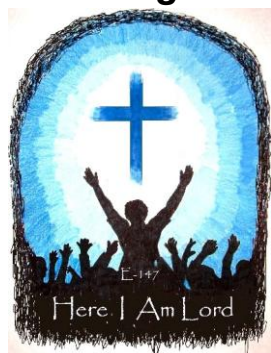
Parish Prayer: Lord Jesus, as the world copes with coronavirus, help us to remember that you are always with us. Grant wisdom to decision makers and bless all health workers. Bring healing to the sick; give peace to the anxious and comfort those who are sad. Stir us to show your love and mercy most especially to the poor and weak. This we ask in your name. Amen.

Readings: This week: Sam 3:3-10.19, Cor 6:13-15.17-20, John 1:35-42

Psalm: Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.

Next week: Jonah 3:1-5.10, Cor 7:29-31, Mark 1:14-20

Ramblings "Come and see!" said Jesus to his



disciples. This is an invitation that was first offered to us when we were baptised. An invitation renewed at the beginning of each day. *Come and see* where I am, what I am doing, how I am present to you. However, life can be so busy we can become too preoccupied to notice. A first

step in prayer is just to stop, even for a moment, and look for God's presence. Pose the question: *Where are you God?*

Samuel was aware of God's presence but was unaware that it was God. If we do what Samuel did and say "*Speak Lord, your servant is listening*", we too will become open to God's presence. This may happen unexpectedly. Somehow though, God will make his presence known. In the Diocese we have been celebrating the *God who speaks* in order to become more aware of how God is present in his Word. However, God does not always use words. Our experiences, encounters, sight, music and nature are all mediums that can point us to God's presence. Jesus changed Simon's name to Peter – the rock. Jesus wants us to know that all our encounters with God will change us, mould us into someone different, into better disciples and witnesses of the Good News.

Come and See by Mike Bullock

Come and see Me when you're able;
call by for a little chat

There is so much I must tell you;

I'm concerned at where you're at.

You have drifted from My purpose,
heading for a nasty fall.

I can guide you back to safety

if on Me you kindly call.

Though My children number millions,
I'm available for you.
I have knowledge of your heartbeat,
know your rhythms through and through.
I created you especially
for a purpose others lack.
Call on me this very instant,
come right now, I want you back.

Diary Dates

Sun 17– Sat 23 Jan

10am Mass in the church.

Wed 20 Jan

6pm – Feed Up Warm Up – Scout Hall

Thurs 21 Jan **St Agnes**



Peace Sunday – 17 January

2021 In England and Wales we celebrate Peace Sunday on the third Sunday of January.

The day provides us with an opportunity to build on the global World Day of Peace that is

celebrated on New Year's Day each year and is accompanied by a [message from Pope Francis](#).

Pope Francis highlights Catholic Social Teaching as an expression of Christian care for all people – particularly in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic. In presenting loving care as a path to peace, the Pope highlights the connection between social injustice and violent conflict, and the critical role of women at all levels of peacebuilding. He calls on leaders in all sectors – the state, business, science and academics, international organisations, and media – to adopt the principles of Catholic Social Teaching: the dignity and rights of each person, the common good, solidarity, peacebuilding, and the protection of creation. He explains that these can act "as a 'compass', capable of pointing out a common direction, and ensuring 'a more humane future.'"

For those of you with children if you would like to be sent a weekly colouring sheet and children's bulletin with puzzles and games (the ones we used to have in the porch on a Sunday relevant to the liturgy for that Sunday) please email Trish to be added to a group to receive it weekly. If you do not have a printer Trish can post them to you. Just let her know.



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Lent will be coming up in February and we can get copies of the Lent Day by Day readings and short reflections book priced £1. We can also get **Junior and Infant Day by Day** books for your children for **Lent** and for **Easter** all priced 55p each. If you would like any of these please let Trish know by the end of January for the order. Either email or ring or text 07801 752141 with your requirements.



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The Food Provision service which has been operating from our church under the leadership of Caritas project worker, Liz Wills, have been asked to expand their service. They have 14 new families they would like to deliver food to weekly. To be able to do this they need more drivers, using their own cars, who are able to help with deliveries of food in Letchworth. **Can you help on Thursday afternoons at 3pm to deliver 2-3 food boxes to families in need?** If you can please contact Liz Wills on **07877 902313** asap.

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The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is Monday 18th to Monday 25th January, and to mark the Week in these unusual times, Churches Together is holding a short time of prayer on Zoom each day at 6 pm. These will be led by ministers and members of different churches and will follow the theme for the Week - **Abiding in Christ**, based on John 15:1-17.

All are welcome to join the prayer time on Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84580132768?pwd=cWZFaFp4VGRrKzF0MCs1SER4azN0dz09>

Meeting ID: 845 8013 2768 Passcode: 767371

Monday 18th - Gail, Hannah and Imogen Litterick with John Richardson, St Mark's

Tuesday 19th - Jane Robson, Tilehouse Street

Wednesday 20th - Val Reid, Christchurch

Thursday 21st - Phil Jackson, Zeo

Friday 22nd - Andrew Henton Pusey, Walsworth Road

Saturday 23rd - Martha Inch, The Hub Church

Sunday 24th - Trish & Fr Tom, Our Lady's

Monday 25th - Nick Smith, St Mark's

If you would like to follow the theme personally, whether or not you share in the prayers, go to <https://ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2021/>

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Confirmation programme 2021 is offered to those in Year 9 and above. It aims to provide a space for the candidates to explore and challenge their faith in a safe environment. This is done by



following the Sycamore series; the format of this is a short video on an aspect of the Catholic faith and has three elements throughout: input, discussion and views. The input is by Fr Stephen Wang a Catholic Priest of our diocese who looks after the university chaplaincies within the diocese. After a time of input, the candidates are posed a question for discussion. They spend time discussing the issue in pods with their catechist(s). The catechist is there to encourage discussion and offer their thoughts as another person also on a faith journey. During the current pandemic and lockdowns the programme will happen through Zoom. It is hoped that face-to-face sessions may resume sometime in 2021.

If you want to know more about the Sycamore series then please click the following link: <https://www.sycamore.fm/>. If you want to apply for the confirmation programme please click on the link [Confirmation Application Form 2021](#) to download the application form which should be sent to [Rob Hitchcock](#) before Feb 7th..

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This year, not surprisingly, there has been very little in the **Crib Collection** which usually goes to the **Children's Society**. We have made a donation of £100 from the Parish Account to the Children's Society which is a worthy cause. It was good to see the Crib on the Altar - albeit a COVID-safe smaller display than in previous years -and the wonderful message of "Hope". The Crib will stay on the Altar until 2 February – "The Presentation of The Lord". The Crib Collection would normally raise about £200. If you wish to contribute to the collection in any way, please send any donations into the Parish Office or pop a donation into the black box on the wall by the Church doors. Many thanks for everything you all do – and continue to do.

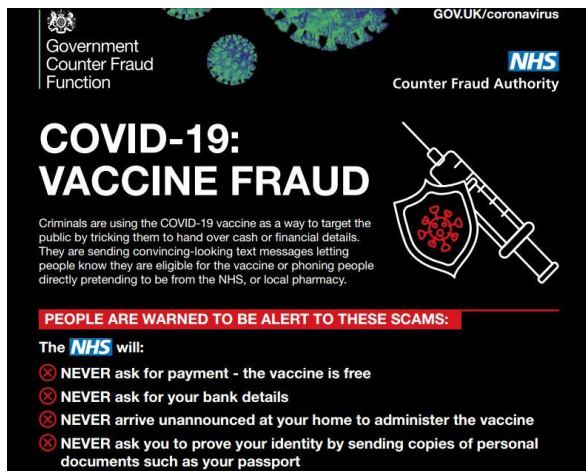
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Do you have a wardrobe going spare? If so there is a foodbank user who needs one. If you can help please let Trish know and she will forward your details to the Foodbank helpers.

TO OUR CATHOLIC UNIVERSE AND CATHOLIC TIMES READERS IN THE PARISH:-
 at the moment you are unable to collect your paper at Mass, but you can get it delivered direct to your home every week, POST FREE. Please go to www.thecatholicuniverse.com or call them on 0161 820 5722 and they will arrange for you.
SPECIAL OFFER 3 MONTHS :-£25.00,
SPECIAL OFFER 12 Months:- £99.00. OR
DIGITAL COPY:- 12 Months: £55.00

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For NHS details about COVID-19 vaccinations
 – your new options explained please go to.
[Vaccine options information from the NHS](#)



Government Counter Fraud Function
 NHS Counter Fraud Authority
COVID-19: VACCINE FRAUD
 Criminals are using the COVID-19 vaccine as a way to target the public by tricking them to hand over cash or financial details. They are sending convincing-looking text messages letting people know they are eligible for the vaccine or phoning people directly pretending to be from the NHS, or local pharmacy.
PEOPLE ARE WARNED TO BE ALERT TO THESE SCAMS:
 The NHS will:
 ⊗ NEVER ask for payment - the vaccine is free
 ⊗ NEVER ask for your bank details
 ⊗ NEVER arrive unannounced at your home to administer the vaccine
 ⊗ NEVER ask you to prove your identity by sending copies of personal documents such as your passport

For full details of this government information please go to [Vaccine Fraud guidance](#)

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Please do not forget All EU, EEA and Swiss citizens living in the UK are required by the government to apply through its Settlement

Scheme to continue living, working and accessing services here. The deadline for applications is 30 June 2021. Details and links to the application process can be found at: gov.uk/eusetledstatus

Please bring this to the attention of friends, family members and fellow parishioners who may need to apply. Information on assistance for those who may have difficulty applying is available at: gov.uk/help-eu-settlement-scheme.

The Catholic Church in England and Wales stands in solidarity with all European citizens who have made their homes here. They are a valued part of our parishes, schools and communities.

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Please consider signing this petition asking the Environment Minister, George Eustice to save bees. Bee killing

pesticides are banned across the country, but the government have just issued and approved an emergency licence for sugar beet crops.

This is about bees, but it's also about us. If we keep harming bees, we risk our food supplies. It's estimated that a third of our food is dependent on pollinators, of which bees are some of the most important. A third of bee populations are already shrinking. We can't allow pesticides to destroy our environment and kill any more bees.

Please can you add your name to this petition: [Save bees](#)

Where is the Assumption today ? By assumption I mean the men. We will look at the Sisters later. The Superior General (Fr Benoit Griere) and his assistants live in Rome as do a number of Brothers preparing for ordination. The Superior General is elected for a six year term of office renewable once.

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 213

Growing in Conjugal Love - Dialogue We have to put ourselves in their shoes and try to peer into their hearts, to perceive their deepest concerns and to take them as a point of departure for further dialogue.

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

 <p>This week's counting teams: Sunday Team: Monday Team:</p>	 <p>Hospital</p>	<p>If you are going into hospital please notify the Chaplain on Tel: 01438 285519 or Email: spiritualcare.enh-tr@nhs.net</p>
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