



# 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 1927

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.

23<sup>rd</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> January 2021 – 3<sup>rd</sup> 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:** : Jonah 3:1-5:10, Cor 7:29-31, Mark 1:14-20 1:35-42

**Psalm: Lord, make me know your ways.**

**Next week:** Deut 18:15-20, Cor 7:32-35, Mark 1:21-28

### **Ramblings Word of God & Unity Sunday 2021**

You just have to love Jonah; he wanted to avoid going to Nineveh at all costs. He does not like the people and does not believe they should be saved. Even after being swallowed by a whale(??), on going to Nineveh, his message is far from encouraging. He tells the people that in 40 days they will be utterly destroyed unless they repent. The Ninevites did not even share the same faith as Jonah but, not only do they not kill him, they listen to his words, not just a few of them but the whole city and, as a result, they are saved. Even though he is successful Jonah is even more peeved. We could name him the Disgruntled Prophet or the Grumbling Prophet. Remember Jonah when you are faced with a difficult task, which deep down you know you cannot ignore. However difficult it is, however impossible it might seem, if God wants you to do it, God will help you succeed. In all probability it will be even more successful than you ever believed possible. We are well through the week of prayer for Christian Unity. Only a few decades ago Unity seemed impossible because of the insurmountable obstacles it faced. Today we would wonder how we ever managed as a Church without the help, support, inspiration and yes challenge of all the other Christian groups and Churches. The theme for Unity Week is *Abiding in Christ* because Christ is the answer. Christ is the one who slowly but surely washed away the obstacles and replaced them with riches to be shared. This shared and valued Unity among the Churches has made Hitchin a welcome and mutually supportive town. Coincidentally, and rather aptly, we also celebrate the Word of God this Sunday at the request of Pope Francis. It has been through sharing the

word of God in prayer and reflection that the healing and growth of Unity among is taking place. Long may it continue.

### **Diary Dates**

Sun 24 January – Sat 30 January
10am Mass in the church.
Mon 25 Jan <b>Conversion of St Paul</b>
Tues 26 Jan
11.30am Funeral of <b>Felicia Comparetto</b>
Wed 27 Jan
6pm – Feed Up Warm Up – Scout Hall
Fri 29 Jan
12pm Funeral of <b>Adele Benucci</b>



May **Felicia Comparetto** and **Adele Benucci** rest in peace and rise in glory. May the Lord comfort their families. Both funerals will be livestreamed through [Livestream Funerals](#) and will be posted as a video to the front page of the parish website shortly after the funeral.

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For a range of **Adult Faith Formation** courses please go to the parish website page [Adult Faith Formation](#)

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### **Other dates of interest**

**24<sup>th</sup> January 3pm AGM of Helping Herts** Due to the restrictions currently in place, the meeting will be held over Zoom this year. If you are interested, please join us using the link provided below.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89361982930?pwd=Vovc3pWbDkwaIFNkQ0dpVzAvWHBDdz09>

Meeting ID: 893 6198 2930

Passcode: 762764



Join us in marking Holocaust Memorial Day



Online virtual event, 27 January 2021, 11am - 1pm



Be the light in the darkness

#HolocaustMemorialDay

## 27<sup>th</sup> January 11am Holocaust Memorial Day Event.

We are very pleased to be joined by the Rabbi Alan Garber plus reflections on the theme of 'Being the Light in the Darkness' from members of the North Herts Interfaith Forum. Fr Tom is also speaking at this.

Our special guest is Yanky Fachler, who will tell us about his parents experiences of the Holocaust and his time in Letchworth with many other Jewish families, following the second world war.

We will be displaying the winner of the poster design activity and will hear the two winning poems.

Alongside a short film about Ivor Perl, a survivor of Auschwitz, we are sharing the event to remember the atrocities of genocide across the world but also to acknowledge this year's theme- be The Light In The Darkness.

Whatever dark times we have faced, whether past or present we can try to find that light.

Join us via this link:

<https://youtu.be/AyOB7V52HXU>

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30<sup>th</sup> January 10.30am-12.30pm Join CAFOD

**CAFOD**  
just one world

online and listen to

CAFOD's representative live from Ethiopia talking about how your support is enabling communities gain access to clean water.

Contact [westminster@cafod.org.uk](mailto:westminster@cafod.org.uk) for registration link and further information.



**Next Sunday is Sunday, 31 January 2021**

This year's Racial Justice Sunday is

more important than ever. The effects of the Coronavirus pandemic, the killing of George Floyd, and the powerful message on fraternity and equality by Pope Francis in [Fratelli Tutti](#) speak of the need to actively oppose racism and pursue racial justice with renewed vigour. For details of a reflection and other resources please go to [Racial Justice Sunday](#)

**10<sup>th</sup> February 11am – 1pm** Caritas Volunteer Fair “Step Forward in Love” Online Event, Whether you want to try volunteering for the first time or are looking for a new role, come and find out what volunteering opportunities are out there at the moment. Please register at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/caritas-volunteer-fair-tickets-135713539851>

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GLOBAL CATHOLIC  
CLIMATE MOVEMENT

**The Global Catholic Movement invites you to “Global Healing.”**

In 2015, Pope Francis published his groundbreaking letter on the environment *Laudato Si'*. Since then, millions of people worldwide have joined the global movement to address the environmental crisis our world is facing. This Lent, we are inviting YOU to join us for a series of reflective evenings with inspiring speakers, prayer and discussion, using the film-based resource “Global Healing”. These engaging documentaries will inform and challenge people to respond to Pope Francis' call to Care for Our Common Home. Suitable for all who are concerned about what is happening to our world and who want to take action.

**When?** Six Thursdays from 18<sup>th</sup> February – 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021, 7.30pm – 8.30pm

**How to join?** To register please click [HERE](#) or email [jane@catholicclimatemovement.global](mailto:jane@catholicclimatemovement.global)

Hosted by GCCM Laudato Si' Animators in the UK.

*“Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or secondary aspect of our Christian experience... Truly, much can be done!”* (Laudato Si', 217, 180)

Global Healing/ Global Caring Trailers

<https://www.ourcommonhome.co.uk/trailers>

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**Booking Sunday Mass** Our capacity is reduced to 16 household groups in pews and 12 single chairs. For Masses on Monday-Saturday there is not a problem with numbers attending and we should have no problems accommodating those who come.

**If you can please come on Monday-Saturday at 10am** and leave the Sunday Mass for those who have no alternative. There is no longer any obligation to attend Mass on Sunday.

**Numbers over the past week**

Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri
15	44*	9	17	16	8	17

\*Online numbers 36

For Sunday Masses as the numbers have still been quite high we will need to have a booking system.

Can you please book weekly by Thursday 12pm for the Sunday Mass. (bookings after that time may not be processed)

**Book by emailing** [hitchin@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:hitchin@rcdow.org.uk) or ringing or texting **07801 752141** giving the following details:

- Name
- Email address
- Telephone number (this will be used for track and trace) but you will be asked to use the QR code and the NHS Test and Trace App on your phone
- Number of people in your household (priority will be given to families)

**We will confirm you have a place. Please do not assume that you have til you have received confirmation.**

You need to book each week unless told otherwise. If you turn up without booking we will try to accommodate you if we have unbooked space or if we are fully booked you will need to wait in the hall and by the time Mass starts if people have not turned up then you can fill those spaces otherwise you will be asked to leave.

**Please note that this means you must arrive before Mass starts to secure your place.**

**Thank you for your help with this. We are sorry we have to go down the booking route but it is necessary to do now we have less capacity.**



**Our Lady's Parish**

## Faith Development Helpline

Problems or doubts about your faith?  
Are you feeling a bit lost?

**Try ringing**  
**07398 821315**

**Tues, Weds, Thurs**  
**8pm – 10pm**

This is a confidential service and follows Parish Safeguarding Policies

 <b>There can be no peace without a culture of care. Pope Francis in his message for 2021 World Day of Peace</b>			
 <b>Chile.</b> The first ten Assumptionists (five priests and five brothers) bound for Chile left Bordeaux in 1890. The Archbishop of Santiago asked us to take care of the shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in Santiago. From there they gradually spread to other areas, Some of the parishes were and are enormous in size and very poor. Social work is very much part of the apostolate today for the Assumptionists working in five very different areas.			
<b>Faith Development Helpline</b> If you (or someone you know) needs to chat about your faith or have been feeling lost <b>Ring 07398821315</b> Tues/Wed/Thurs 8pm-10pm. Confidential service provided. No need to identify yourself		 <b>AMORIS LAETITIA THE JOY OF LOVE 214</b> Growing in Conjugal Love - Dialogue Develop keeping an open mind. Don't get bogged down in your limited ideas and opinions, but be prepared to change or expand them. The combination of two different ways of thinking can lead to a synthesis that enriches both	
 If you have a need for prayer, please contact <b>Mary</b> on <b>07759195487</b> and let her know your prayer intentions			
<b>Parish Priest</b> Fr Tom O'Brien 07547 171570	<b>Assistant Priest</b> Fr Euloge Kasine 07424 004647	<b>Parish 01462 459126</b> E-mail: <a href="mailto:hitchin@rcdow.org.uk">hitchin@rcdow.org.uk</a> Website: <a href="https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/">https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/</a>	
<b>Parish Administrator</b> Cheryl Saunders <b>Pastoral Assistants</b> Robert Hitchcock Trish Bonnett		<a href="mailto:cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk">cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk</a> } <a href="mailto:roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk">roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk</a> } 01462 459126 press 4 <a href="mailto:trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk">trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk</a> }	
 This week's counting teams: <b>Sunday Team: Monday Team:</b>		 If you are going into hospital please notify the Chaplain on Tel: <b>01438 285519</b> or Email: <a href="mailto:spiritualcare.enh-tr@nhs.net">spiritualcare.enh-tr@nhs.net</a>	