



# 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 1928

30<sup>th</sup> January – 6<sup>th</sup> February 2021 – 4<sup>th</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.

### **Ramblings 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Year B 2021**

#### **Racial Justice Sunday**

Authority is built on respect, clarity of message, and the ability to motivate and inspire. The nation's leaders in Jesus day, the people recognised as having authority, lacked respect, preached a hypocritical message and did not inspire or motivate, while Jesus did. When government leaders keep making mistakes, make bad decisions, change their minds too often, people lose faith in them and, although elected, people no longer believe in them. Although the leaders of Israel believed Jesus lacked authority, the people believed otherwise. The unique quality of Jesus' authority, unlike other forms of authority, is that he did not seek to control people's lives. Far from it, Jesus always offered a choice to people. They were free to accept or reject him and his wisdom, and the people recognised this. Ronald Rolheiser: *What set Jesus' teaching apart was its effect. He cured people and changed their lives in a way no other preacher and teacher of his time could. The word of God coming from his mouth simply affected things in a way that this same word coming from other mouths didn't. His words made sick people healthy, made sinners change their lives, and even brought some dead people back to life. . . Mother Theresa could go on stage, face a thousand people, say "God loves you!", and everyone's eyes would fill with tears and they would know that this, the deepest of all realities, was true. She spoke with authority. . . People will recognize us as speaking with authority only when they sense that, like Jesus, we are under divine authority ourselves, that our message is not our own, that our actual lives stand behind the message, that our words are meant to reveal God and not ourselves, that we love others enough to give up protecting ourselves, that our*

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.

**Readings: This week: : Deut 18:15-20, Cor 7:32-35, Mk 1:21-28**

**Psalm: O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.**

**Next week: Job 7:1-4.6-7, Cor 9:16-19.22-23, Mark 1:29-39**

*real concern is God's kingdom and not how we impress others, that we consider the community bigger than ourselves, and that we are willing to sweat blood rather than get bitter or walk away.*

#### **Racial Justice Prayer**

Lord Jesus Christ, you were approached by people of many different nations and cultures. You listened to their cry for help, treated them with love and compassion, and brought them healing and wholeness.

Like Jesus may we provide for all who suffer the help and care they need.

Let us respond to the invitation of the Holy Spirit to help create a world made new where the poor are not forgotten but given the opportunity to live and flourish with good health and equal prospects.

We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.  
*Amen.*

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**An appeal from Fr Tom** I wish to appeal to you to help us keep our church open for Mass. I am under some pressure to shut the church because of the number of people still being infected. My preference is to keep the church open but not at the cost of lives and people becoming infected. I firmly believe that staying open offers people hope we all need. The church itself is safe but if people stop and chat outside the Church, they are putting themselves at risk and it will cause a scandal, indicating to others that we are flouting Government laws and we will have to close. My other internal battle is about trusting God. Providing we do everything to keep the laws and rules, I firmly trust that God will keep us all safe. Despite the difficulty, please, please help me by not congregating outside the church. I wish you every blessing and heartfelt thanks.

#### **Diary Dates**

**Sun 31 January – Sat 6 February**

**10am Mass** in the church.

