

# CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

16 Nightingale Road, HITCHIN, SG5 1QS

(In the care of the Augustinians of the Assumption)



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.

30th January - 6th February 2021 - 4th 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: : 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

# 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 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 it 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.

## Wed 3 February

6pm - Feed Up Warm Up - Scout Hall

## Fri 5 February

11.30am Funeral of Giuseppa Maurello

## **Tue 9 February**

11.30am Funeral of Gascel Blake



May Giuseppa Maurello and Gascel Blake 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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Many thanks to all those who bought jam, marmalade, chutney etc last year. Over £330 was donated to The Little Sisters of the Poor and Diapalante's Education



Centre in Senegal . Our parish preservers are still busy and are offering a range of marmalades this month. These include Seville, Four fruits, Derek's Treacle, Quince and Orange and Clementine and Whisky. Also available are Fig and Orange jam, Red tomato chutney and Apple and Wild Plum jelly. Suggested donation £2. Please contact Pam Brannigan (01462 632587) who will arrange for delivery or collection.

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The parish has received a "Thank You" letter for your generous, recent donation, and all the other

donations over the past year, to the Foodbank. Please go to Foodbank information to see the letter in full.



Statement from Clir Martin Stears-Handscomb 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021:We are now nearly four weeks into this latest national lockdown and while there are encouraging signs of a fall in cases across Hertfordshire, our numbers in North Hertfordshire are still giving us real cause for concern. We know that the vast majority of you are following the rules and this was starting to pay off in terms of new cases, however very sadly, there has been almost 600 new cases in the last week, many in the over 60s and more people have died.

The Lister Hospital is under enormous pressure with some very unwell patients, not just elderly people, but people of all ages. We know it is tough, we know you are fed up, but please don't be tempted to bend the rules, we've got to work together to get through this.

Every person who flexes the rules, risks spreading the virus and increasing the pressure on the NHS, as well as potentially putting their lives and those of others at risk.

If you do need help, please reach out to us or contact the Herts Help service by calling 0300 123 4044 or email <a href="mailto:info@hertshelp.net">info@hertshelp.net</a>.

Please, stay at home to help protect the NHS and save lives.

There are only two Assumptionist houses in Argentina. One parish with a shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes and a house of formation for young men seeking the experience of community life. During the time of the military dictatorship three religious were detained. Two because the person wanted was not at home. The other was taken prisoner on entering the country. All three were involved in organising help for the poor. There has been no news of what has happened to them..

## **Faith Development Helpline**

If you (or someone you know) needs to chat about your faith or have been feeling lost

#### Rina 07398821315

Tues/Wed/Thurs 8pm-10pm. Confidential service provided. No need to identify yourself



#### **AMORIS LAETITIA THE JOY OF LOVE 215**

Growing in Conjugal Love - Dialogue

The unity we seek is not uniformity, but a 'unity in diversity', or 'reconciled

diversity'. Fraternal communion is enriched by respect and appreciation for differences within an overall perspective that advances the common good.



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

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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