



# 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 1929

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.

6<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> February 2021 – 5<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.

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

**Psalm: Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.**

**Next week:** Lev 13:1-2.44-46, Cor 10:31-11.1, Mark 1:40-45

**Ramblings** Have you ever thought that Peter's mother-in-law could have been rather peeved? Her illness gave her time to get away from all the cooking and cleaning but Jesus comes along and, immediately, she is back in the kitchen? What some might see as a blessing, others might see the opposite. Job is in the depth of despair. Life seems pointless, lacks meaning, purpose and, as he puts it, any kind of joy or hope which could also make you feel depressed. Hopefully, you would say, 'Well! My life is not quite as bad as his!' In taking every opportunity to sneak away and spend time in prayer Jesus encourages us to do the same. Jesus wanted to be sure that he was fulfilling his Father's will and needed guidance in what to do next. Yes, Jesus knew the broad outlines of his mission but the when and the how still needed to be addressed. Prayer is essential in discerning the blessings in life and seeing how present those blessings are, even in the most unlikely situations. When Captain Sir Tom Moore decided to make 100 circuits of his garden to mark his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday and raise money for the NHS, he never believed it would raise nearly 33 million pounds and that he would inspire and bring hope to a nation locked down because of covid. He had chosen both the right time and the right way. The results were way beyond his imagination. Pray for your response to the *how* and the *when* in fulfilling your mission. The results will be way beyond expectation.

Lord, You are the peace of all things calm –  
You are the place to hide from harm  
You are the light that shines in dark –  
You are the heart's eternal spark  
You are the door that's open wide –  
You are the guest who waits inside  
You are the stranger at the door –  
You are the calling of the poor  
You are my Lord and with me still –

You are my love, keep me from ill  
You are the light, the truth, the way –  
You are my Saviour this very day.

## Diary Dates

**Sun 7 February – Sat 13 February**

**10am Mass** in the church.

**Mon 8 Feb St Josephine Bakhita**



Bakhita Day 2021– the patron saint of victims of modern slavery and human trafficking. On this day Catholics are encouraged to pray for all those affected by the crimes of modern slavery and human trafficking, and the people that work to eradicate this crime.

**Wed 10 Feb St Scholastica**

**6pm – Feed Up Warm Up – Scout Hall**



**Ash Wednesday Mass 17<sup>th</sup> February** We have been asked by the Cardinal to not offer any additional services on Ash Wednesday – in a letter which we will send out next weekend he states *Receiving ashes is an*

*outward sign of an inner step, a movement of the heart towards our beloved Lord. This year I invite you to concentrate much more on this inner, spiritual movement than on its outward manifestation in the imposition of ashes.*

*My suggestion is this: celebrate Ash Wednesday at home, with your family, in the household or 'support bubble' of which you are a part. Gather for a while. Read the prayer which I offer. Bless each other by making the sign of the cross on each other's forehead. Spend some time praying in a way that you know. But please, make this a prayer of your heart for God's mercy upon this world struggling to cope with the terrible pandemic and the devastation it is bringing.*

So we will have one Mass at 10am. **Seats at this Mass will need to be booked.** You can book as

usual by emailing Cheryl at [hitchin@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:hitchin@rcdow.org.uk) or texting Trish at 07801 752141 with your name, telephone number and the number of people attending.

††††††††††



### Stations of the Cross during Lent –

we are preparing a set of stations for each week which can be followed online

weekly and there will be sheets available for people to download or collect from the church for use at home. If you would like a set of **Stations prayer sheets** sent to you please let Trish know.

††††††††††

**Lent Bible Study Groups 2021** Last year lockdown in March meant most groups only managed to meet for a couple of weeks. It was agreed to keep the study guide for this year - optimistically hoping we would be back to normal! As meeting in homes isn't possible it has been decided to run them on Zoom, meeting for one hour. The study guide will be the same. For those who took part before you will probably have very different views on the passages after the experiences of this unusual past year! If you didn't take part last year it will be fresh to you. The guide is one of the Cover to Cover series Living Faith: invitations from the cross by Krish Kandiah.

The groups this year are:

St Mark's Mondays at 2pm;

Tilehouse St Tuesdays at 2pm;

Our Lady's Wednesdays at 2.30pm;

Holy Saviour Thursdays at 10.30 am.

Lent groups begin and continue weekly from Monday 22 February to Good Friday.

To book a place contact Helen Richardson [helenwrigh@btinternet.com](mailto:helenwrigh@btinternet.com) 07880 682681

††††††††††



We pray for **John (Sean) Gibbons** whose funeral is on **Friday 26 February 2021** and for **Giuseppa Atamena** whose funeral is on **Friday 5 March 2021**. May they rest in peace and rise in glory and may the Lord comfort their families.

††††††††††

**Offertory Collection** Fr Tom writes: with the COVID restrictions, we have, as expected, lost a great deal of our Offertory income over the last year, particularly from the Envelope and Loose Plate collections, and, as the figures below show, we are well down on previous years' figures. But thanks to many of you switching to making your contributions by Standing Order or by On-Line

donations, the situation is not as bad as it might otherwise have been and I thank you for that.

Offertory	2019	2020	Change
Envelopes	33,914	20,894	62%
Standing Order & Online	64,208	74,426	16%
Loose Plate	20,668	11,282	55%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>118,790</b>	<b>106,602</b>	<b>90%</b>

If you haven't switched to a standing order and would like to do so, please contact Cheryl in the Parish Office who will help you do that.

Please do not worry if you don't want to switch and are unable to come to Church to make your offerings. More importantly, please do not do anything which will put you or your loved ones at risk from the dreaded Virus. Your health and welfare is much more important.

With heartfelt thanks and blessings, Fr Tom

††††††††††

Many thanks to you all for your very generous contributions throughout 2020. There were very few second collections due to the Pandemic. However, the following donations were made:

Carmelite Monastery	£ 100.00
Poor Box Debits	£1341.20
Cafod Covid Appeal	£ 500.00
Cafod Harvest Appeal	£ 150.00
Lenten Alms:	£ 141.51
Crib from 2019	£ 248.25
Cafod Collections 2020	£ 600.77
Pax Christi	£ 206.07
Our Lady's School	£1000.00
for ICT Equipment	

††††††††††

### Mass attendance over the past week

Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri
17	47*	18	18	16	13	18

\*Online numbers 24

††††††††††



### New Lectionary for England and Wales

For a number of years the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales have been considering the publication of a new edition of the Lectionary to replace that originally

published in the year 1969 (second edition 1981). They are hoping this work will be complete and ready for publication by 2022. For detail of what the process has been go to <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/new-lectionary-for-england-and-wales/>

## Daily Walk? Something positive this Lent.



Could you walk 10000 Steps either on one day or everyday this Lent? The walk could be a sign of your solidarity with all those who do not have access to a safe water source and who have to walk for water each day.

Find out more or sign up online at <https://cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/Walk-for-Water> and go the distance this Lent and help to end water poverty. Thank you for your ongoing support.

**Restored Lives** helps those who have experienced separation and divorce to recover from the trauma of relationship breakdown and rebuild their self-confidence, offering them the tools and skills needed to live a restored, happy and fulfilled life.

The Office at Marriage & Family Bishop's Conference has supported use of this resource to address the needs of the separated and divorced in communities. Since the beginning of the pandemic this resource has been adapted for delivery via Zoom. The pandemic has compounded the pressures that many couples face with the result that there is a great need for healing. Our experience of delivering the course has made us more aware of the real sense of loss, hurt and abandonment when their spouse leaves them.

**Restored Lives – Monday 8th February 2022** for nine weeks (via Zoom). This ecumenical resource is designed to enable individuals to recover from relationship breakdown. Through facilitated sessions guests are provided with the tools and insights to resolve the emotional impact of separation and divorce. To book your place on the course visit [https://www.restoredlives.org/online\\_course\\_relationship\\_breakdown](https://www.restoredlives.org/online_course_relationship_breakdown)



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

Lord Greenhalgh  
Minister of State for Building Safety, Fire  
and Communities

Ministry of Housing, Communities and  
Local Government  
Fry Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

Lord Bethel  
Minister for Innovation

Nadhim Zahawi MP  
Minister for COVID Vaccine Deployment  
Department of Health & Social Care  
39 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0EU

03 February 2021

The Bishops have received a letter written to Faith Leaders from the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government. Lord Greenhalgh, Lord Bethel and Nadhim Zahawi MP open this letter by recognising the importance of

faith communities at this time, "Our faith communities are essential to the lives of millions across the country. Your continued resilience, innovation, compassion and support to people of all faiths and none is recognised across our different ministerial responsibilities, and something we are all grateful for."

This statement shows that the Government acknowledges our contribution to society during the pandemic. This change of heart has occurred because of the ways in which we have witnessed to the care of people, both in service and safety in our churches. Thank you for all that you have done to ensure that the parishes have continued to serve all people, especially the poorest and the most vulnerable, and the ways in which you have made our churches safe places for prayer and communal worship. Thank you to the teams of stewards and cleaners.

**Community Members: HOW CAN I stay safe in my place of worship?** Under the national lockdown, places of worship remain open for communal worship. This is now one of the very few legal exemptions that allow larger numbers of people to gather. It is therefore crucial that places of worship and those attending comply with both law and the COVID-19 Secure guidance. It is essential that you comply with the COVID-secure guidance in order to keep their communities safe and reduce transmission of the virus. This includes adhering to social distancing and not mixing with people outside of your household/support bubble, wearing face coverings unless exempt and maintaining good hand hygiene.

**HOW CAN I volunteer to administer the vaccine?** St John Ambulance (SJA) is currently working through the charity's existing networks to sign up vaccination volunteers – this route is now open to members of the public who have not previously volunteered with SJA. NHS Volunteer Responder is signing up its existing network and the public for steward volunteer roles. These roles will largely be supporting the vaccination centres which are rolling out over the coming weeks as supplies allow.


**HOW CAN I support the vaccine rollout?** The key way you can support the vaccine rollout is to get vaccinated when you are offered a vaccine by your local NHS Trust, and to encourage friends and family members to get vaccinated when they are eligible. Members of the public who are able to support their neighbours and the NHS through a number of roles – including food or medication deliveries, lifts to medical appointments or 'check-


in and chat' phone calls – can do so by signing up to the NHS Volunteer Responder programme. HOW CAN I find out more about the vaccine? We know that there is a great deal of information out there about the vaccine, not all of it accurate or helpful. For the most up to date, accurate information about the vaccine, go to <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/covid-19-vaccination-programme>. This includes information about vaccine ingredients, groups who are eligible to receive the vaccine, and answers some of the key questions communities have about the safety of the vaccine. Some helpful links for further information include: Daily data summary - [https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/?\\_ga=2.218839707.329771229.1610380715-938063789.1606390656](https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/?_ga=2.218839707.329771229.1610380715-938063789.1606390656) Government vaccination programme information - <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/covid-19-vaccination-programme> Vaccination deployment plan - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-covid-19-vaccinesdelivery-plan> Joint letter from four CMOs explaining the change in dosing intervals - [Uk-covid-19-vaccination-programmes](#) Green book - Coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccination information for public health professionals [Green Book](#)


**HOW CAN I support the Government's Test and Trace Programme?** Make sure you are

signed up to the NHS COVID-19 app, as this is the easiest way to register your details for contact tracing and get notified if you are required to self-isolate after being in proximity to a positive COVID case. If you are asked by Test and Trace to self-isolate, make sure that you do so and have arrangements in place for food deliveries and other support if necessary.

**HOW CAN I volunteer to support vulnerable people and those who need it during the pandemic?** One way to support your neighbours and the NHS is by signing up to and participating in the NHS Volunteer Responder programme, which offers volunteers a number of roles – including food or medication deliveries, lifts to medical appointments and 'check-in and chat' phone calls. NHS VR also offers more regular 'check-in and chat plus' phone calls for vulnerable people. The NHS VR website also signposts volunteers who want to do more to support the COVID-19 response to relevant volunteering opportunities and organisations. Please see <https://nhsvolunteerresponders.org.uk/other-ways-you-can-help> for more details. You can also visit the gov.uk page on volunteering to see a list of websites which may be advertising opportunities in your area, for example through the 'Do-it', 'Volunteering Matters', the National Association for Voluntary and Community Action websites as well as NCVO's local volunteer centre directory.

 The Assumptionists have been in Brazil since 1937. Extra help came from our Dutch religious in 1944. Today there are five enormous parishes and a thriving novitiate. Mgr Horstuis, an Assumptionist is remembered particularly for the radio station he set up in his vast diocese to contact people but also to combat illiteracy. The station is much appreciated for its religious programmes and health information.

<p><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</p>	<p> <b>AMORIS LAETITIA THE JOY OF LOVE 216</b> Growing in Conjugal Love - Dialogue If hard feelings start to emerge, deal with them with sensitivity, lest they interrupt the dynamic of dialogue. Developing the ability to say what one is thinking without offending the other person is important.</p>
---	---

 If you have a need for prayer, please contact **Mary** on **07759195487** 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</b> 01462 459126 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> }	

<p> This week's counting teams: <b>Sunday Team: Monday Team:</b></p>	<p> 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></p>
--	---