



# 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 1930

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.

13<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> February 2021 – 6<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: Lev 13:1-2,44-46, Cor 10:31-11:1, Mark 1:40-45

**Psalm:** You are my refuge,  
O Lord; you fill me with the  
joy of salvation.

**Next week:** Gen 9:8-15, 1 Peter 3:18-22, Mark 1:12-15

**Ramblings** Reading the story about Moses and leprosy makes one glad Moses is not around today especially if we had caught Covid 19 and had to go into isolation like the lepers. We would have had to tear our clothes, cover our upper lips and shouted unclean, unclean! However, if we had had to do this, people would have taken the virus much more seriously. The greatest evil of leprosy was being isolated from the community – many have had the experience of that today because of the pandemic. One of the reasons for Jesus healing people was to restore them to full communion with the community thus restoring a balance and harmony not only for the one healed but for the community as a whole. What we also learn from the Gospel is that this encounter foretells what will happen to Jesus. Because the leper is healed and the news spreads rapidly around, Jesus is the one who is forced out of the community, taking the place of the one he has healed - a foretaste of his expulsion from the community and the ignominious death he endured to heal us all.

**A Blessing Prayer in Difficult Times** by John O'Donohue

*May you know tender shelter and healing blessing when you are called to stand in the place of pain. May the places of darkness within you be surprised by light. May you be granted the wisdom to avoid false resistance and when suffering knocks on the door of your life, may you be able to glimpse its hidden gift.*

*May you be able to see the fruits of suffering. May memory bless and shelter you with the hard-earned light of past turmoil, to remind you that you have survived before, and, though the darkness is now deep, you will soon see approaching light. May this give you confidence and trust. May a window of light always surprise you. May the grace of transfiguration heal your wounds.*

## Diary Dates

**Sun 14 February – Sat 20 February**

**10am Mass** in the church.

**Wed 17 February**



**10am Ash Wednesday Mass 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. See letter attached from Cardinal for this day.

††††††††††

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

## Mass attendance over the past week

Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri
21	32*	11	9	19	15	18

**\*Online numbers 31**

††††††††††



**Stations of the Cross during Lent** – Sets of sheets of a variety of stations of the Cross are available in the church porch from this Sunday. If you

want a set posted to you please let Trish know. You can make an appointment to come to the church for private prayer during Lent on Mondays and Wednesdays from 11am-2.30pm. Please ring Cheryl on 01462 459126 to book a 30 min slot. You will come in via the parish office entrance at the back of the church car park.

††††††††††

We have available some Lent Day by Day books for Adults (£1), Juniors (50p) and Infants (50p). You can pick up a copy from the porch or let Trish know and she will deliver them to you.

††††††††††

**Lent Resources** We have set up a new page on the parish website with Lent resources which you can access at [Lent Resources](#)



Trish will lead a Prayer reflection time on Zoom using **The Nail by Stephen Cottrell**. Tuesdays 7.15pm during Lent beginning 23 February. Please let her know if you want to join the group and she will email you details.



††††††††††

**Lent Bible Study Groups 2021** by Zoom. 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;

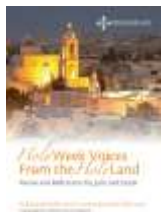
Our Lady's Wednesdays at 2.30pm; (led by Trish)

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

††††††††††



**Faith-Sharing for Lent 2021  
Holy Week Voices from the Holy Land**

Poems and Reflections for Lent and Easter with Fr Richard Nesbitt

You are invited to an online

Introductory Session with Fr Richard Nesbitt

**on Tuesday 16th February at 7.00pm**

**Register at: [catadmin@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:catadmin@rcdow.org.uk)**

††††††††††

**Recycling news** We will be moving our recycling centre to outside of the church this week. It has been difficult for people to access it with the limited opening of the church and so we have arranged for bins to be outside for your convenience. Each bin will be clearly labelled with instructions as to what you can and can't recycle. Please ensure all items are clean and dry and do not leave them in the plastic bags you bring them in. Coffee disks should still go in the larger crates which have been moved in front of the hedge. We are very grateful for the efforts you are making to continue to recycle waste in this way and support the charities: North Herts Sanctuary, Diapalante, PHASE, Parish Hardship Fund and the Marine Conservation Society.

Please note **we are no longer** recycling the plastic milk bottle tops as we have no way of getting these to Lush.

††††††††††

**Offertory Envelopes** New boxes of Offertory Envelopes for the coming Tax Year will be available soon. If you don't already use Envelopes, you can sign-up or find out more about how the scheme works by speaking to David Wilson. Importantly, the use of Envelopes



DOES NOT involve making any commitment to how much or how often you give and the scheme is entirely CONFIDENTIAL.

The use of Envelopes does play an important part in financing the running of the Church because it allows us to claim Gift aid tax relief on the offerings you make which gave us £21,760.67 of extra income last year.

Parishioners who make their offering by Standing Order and would like a supply of Envelopes to use when making offerings during the collection at Mass (for example at Christmas or Easter), please let David or Cheryl know.

If you already use Envelopes thank you very much for your support of the Church in this way – it is much appreciated.

Due to the pandemic, the envelopes will be delivered and/or posted to you.

††††††††††



**Time Trek** young person activity for half term led by PHASE.

Click [Time Trek](#) for a resource for families to use during half term

All the videos will be active from Tuesday of half term.

††††††††††

**Youth Leadership Project – Rise Up** Westminster Youth Ministry, together with Catholic Voices, is launching a brand-new project to raise up the next generation of Catholic leaders. Are there young people in your school who have the potential to become our future Catholic leaders? 'Rise Up' has been created to train, equip and inspire young people in their leadership skills and faith formation.

The programme includes workshops, individual mentoring, faith formation and a level one accredited national qualification. The course will start in September and is for practising Catholics aged 15-21 who live, work or study in the Diocese of Westminster. We are excited to share this with you and think it will be unique opportunity for 20 young people of our Diocese.

The applications are currently open and close on 31 July. All the details can be found here:

<https://www.catholicvoices.org.uk/rise-up>

††††††††††



**A message from Caritas**

**Westminster** Over the past year we have seen an incredible response from the Catholic community to those struggling with the effects of the pandemic. Our response has mostly focussed on meeting immediate need during the crisis, but today we want to ask you to support us in creating longer term change.

You are in a great place to exercise civic leadership in your community and make sure local MPs understand the scale of need and are responding, with specific examples.

The Government are discussing whether or not to put an end to the £20 uplift to Universal Credit right now, in time for the budget on 3rd March 2021. As members of the Caritas Supermarket Voucher Scheme, you know the difference £20 can make. **Please join us in asking the Government to make the uplift permanent** and prevent half a million people from being pulled into poverty.

You can find attached our [template and step by step guide to write to your local MP](#) to share your first-hand experience and the experiences of those in your community. Where possible, please add specific examples (anonymised as appropriate), which will help your MP to campaign on your behalf. We particularly want to encourage those with lived experience of poverty to write to their MP, as it is crucial their voices are heard, so please do share the template with others as appropriate.

You can find more information on the £20 uplift policy [here](#) and if you would like to do more you can access [this step by step guide](#) on how to meet with your MP from our partners at the [End Child Poverty Coalition](#).

††††††††††


**The Passage 40 years of service to homeless people.** To mark 40 years of service to homeless people this Lent we have produced 40 reflections

for Lent each marking a year of service and reflecting on the needs of homeless people today. If you would like to share in our Lenten journey please contact Andrew Hollingsworth [andrew.h@passage.org.uk](mailto:andrew.h@passage.org.uk) tel. 020 75921886. We plan to distribute all materials electronically in the interests of being both environmentally aware and saving costs. If you do not have access to the internet we can send print friendly versions to a friend or relative by email.

††††††††††



There is extensive evidence that many women in the Uyghur Muslim community in Xinjiang, China are being subjected to forced abortions. Lord Alton is currently championing an amendment to the Trade Bill which would give British courts a role in determining whether a country is committing genocide. This would help with putting international pressure on the Chinese Communist Party to stop the practice of forcing abortions on the Uyghur Muslim community along with the wider human rights abuses that evidence shows is being perpetuated against this community. If you would like to email your MP asking them to support the amendment, you can do this easily using a tool which has been set up on the Genocide Response campaign website which can be accessed by visiting the link <https://genocideresponse.org>

 The Assumptionist mission in Columbia was founded by the Belgian province in 1946. Today there are only two communities but one is the thriving Colegio Emmanuel d'Alzon which has over 700 pupils. The other community is open to young people who wish an experience of community life. More recently we have opened a parish in Ecuador at Riobamba.

#### **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 217**

Growing in Conjugal Love - Dialogue

Words should be carefully chosen so as not to offend, especially when discussing difficult issues. Making a point should never involve venting anger and inflicting hurt. A patronising tone only serves to hurt, ridicule, accuse and offend others.

 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> <b>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	<a href="mailto:cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk">cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk</a> }		
<b>Pastoral Assistants</b>	Robert Hitchcock Trish Bonnett	<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:  
**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](mailto:spiritualcare.enh-tr@nhs.net)