



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 1931

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.

20th – 27th February 2021 – 1st SUNDAY OF LENT - 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: [Gen 9:8-15, 1 Peter 3:18-22, Mark 1:12-15](#)
Psalm: O Your ways, Lord, are faithfulness and love for those who keep your covenant.
Next week: [Gen 22:1-2.9-13.15-18, Rom 8:31-34, Mark 9:2-10](#)

Ramblings We are no strangers to rainbows and are familiar with the phrase, “*I believe in God because of Rainbows!*” Their existence led to the belief that, at the end of a rainbow, you would find a pot of Gold. Rather than magical, however, rainbows possess a mystical quality, an aura that speaks of something special and captivating. This is possibly why God chose it to mark his covenant with us. God’s sign that he would never to seek to destroy us and also a sign of hope. Its presence signifies that the gloomy, grey sky and the damp weather will soon give way to sunshine and brightness. It’s no wonder that we believe in God because of rainbows. Wouldn’t it be helpful to know what Jesus hoped for when he entered the wilderness even if pushed there by the Holy Spirit? We don’t even know how often Jesus went in search of a time of silence and to be alone with the God of rainbows in his early life. It did not appear to be unfamiliar territory to him. Having been baptised and having picked up his Cross, he would have sought help and guidance, and a better understanding of what lay ahead and to know if he was equal to the task. Surely, he discovered that God was with him throughout even if he felt the absence of God at times. He emerged, however, with energy and purpose. Without delay Jesus called people to him with words of repentance – and don’t we all want to change our lives for the better, however good we might be? The way ahead for us is also daunting and uncertain, the challenges have yet to reveal themselves but, rest assured, the Spirit of God who has pushed us into this Lenten season will be there by our side. And, if ever you feel the Spirit has left you, just think of a Rainbow and that there is something more than gold to be found at the end!!

Diary Dates

Sun 21 February – Sat 27 February

10am Mass in the church.

Wed 24 February

6pm – Feed Up Warm Up – Scout Hall

Mass attendance over the past week

Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri
18	40	14	17	63*	18	NK

*Online numbers 17

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Monday, February 22nd at 1 pm (Eastern) for the second of a multi-part series on “**A Laudato Si’ Focus on Environmental Justice**”. To register go to the [Live simply](#) page on the parish website.

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We pray for **John (Sean) Gibbons** whose funeral is on **Friday 26 February 2021**. May he rest in peace and rise in glory. May the Lord comfort his family.

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The Parish Pilgrim walks again!

This Lent, Ann Milner (AKA the Parish Pilgrim) is taking up the challenge from CAFOD to raise funds for their Walk for Water campaign. She aims to walk 400,000 steps between now and Easter and asks the good people of the parish to sponsor her in whatever way they can – by prayers, good wishes, donations. She has a fundraising website where you can track her progress and donate at [Walk for Water](#). For those who do not send funds over the internet, there will be a paper sponsorship form available – details to follow. God Bless.



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Lent Resources includes an online Stations of the Cross led by Ann Milner. Go to [Lent Resources](#) to access.

Cardinal Nichols thanks you for your generous support for the **Cardinal's Lenten Appeal**, especially throughout the unprecedented events of 2020. Your donations help fund initiatives in parishes, schools and charities in three mission areas which are more critical than ever. **Marriage and Family Life:** enriching and supporting marriages, the essential building block of society and the Church. **Youth and Evangelisation:** helping young people, the future of the Church, as they grow in their relationship with God and deepen their Catholic faith. **Caritas Westminster:** putting our faith into action by serving those in need. **Education Service:** supporting our schools. This year, the Cardinal is asking us to think about families who are struggling to put food on the table. Poverty is deepening across our Diocese and the need for foodbanks and supermarket vouchers has accelerated. Through your generosity we're continuing to provide food for those people most in need. Please take a donation envelope. You can use the QR code to make your donation online. Thank you for your generosity.

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CAFOD Lent Appeal Abdella lives in an extremely remote and mountainous part of Ethiopia. It takes him ten hours a day to collect water. He says his life is being wasted as he has no time for anything else. Please give today to reach vulnerable communities around the world with water and to provide other vital support. Please donate online at www.cafod.org.uk/give You can also easily give via text. Text LENT 5 to 70460 to give £5

Text LENT 10 to 70460 to give £10
Text LENT 20 to 70460 to give £20
Or Telephone: 0303 303 3030 to donate over the phone
*Texts cost £10 plus one standard rate message and you'll be opting in to hear more about our work and fundraising via telephone and SMS.
If you'd like to give £10 but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text LENTNOINFO to 70460.

For more information, please see our Privacy Policy: cafod.org.uk/Legal-information/Privacy-notice

Further resources for Family Fast Day can be found on our web page <https://cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/Family-Fast-Day>

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Cheques for Easter Donations. It would be appreciated if cheques for the Easter donations are made out to the Parish – i.e. Our Lady's Church and not to the Order. This will make accounting more straightforward. Please be assured that all such donations will end up in the right place!

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Don't forget our recycling bins are now accessible 24/7 in the area by the slope to the church porch.



Harry Patch, 1898-2009, who was the last surviving soldier of World War 1 wrote this about his experience: War is organised murder, and nothing else ... War isn't worth one life ... It's the calculated and condoned slaughter of human beings ... All these young lives lost in a war which ended across a table. What's the sense in that?





At the moment in Mexico the Assumptionists care for three parishes, but a new community is being founded to work with and among the migrant population. There will be two priests from the States and two from Mexico.



AMORIS LAETITIA THE JOY OF LOVE 218 *Growing in Conjugal Love - Dialogue* Many disagreements between couples are not about important things. What alters the mood, however, is the way things are said or the attitude with which they are said.



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

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Parish Administrator	Cheryl Saunders	cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk }		
Pastoral Assistants	Robert Hitchcock Trish Bonnett	roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk } 01462 459126 press 4 trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk }		
	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