



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 1932

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.

27th Feb – 6th March 2021 – 2nd 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 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18, Rom 8:31-34, Mark 9:2-10

Psalm: I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living

Next week: Ex 20:1-17, Cor 1:22-25, John 2:13-25

Ramblings There are many parallels between this story of Abraham offering his son in sacrifice and the Father offering his Son, Jesus, in sacrifice. Jesus, like Isaac, carried the wood to his place of offering, calvary. Isaac, however, was not put to death. The story also showed that the God of Abraham did not want child-sacrifice as found in some pagan religions. Yet, the main lesson of the story was Abraham's obedience to God, in contrast to Adam's disobedience. For a moment put yourself in Abraham's sandals (no shoes then). What was going through Abraham's mind as he led his son to the altar. His future would effectively die with Isaac. He must have questioned who this God was who asked him to do such a thing. Had everything up to then been a bad, bad mistake? With heavy heart and even heavier hand, he prepared to sacrifice Isaac when the angel of God stopped him. **Stop!** Your God does not want this. The relief that filled Abraham would have been evident and his heart imbued with unspeakable joy. Abraham then understood his God to be a merciful and loving God; his image of God truly transformed. The transfiguration would have been so much more than words for the Apostles, despite the attempt to do so by the gospel writers.

*For that one moment, 'in and out of time',
on that one mountain where all moments meet,
the daily veil that covers the sublime
in darkling glass fell dazzled at his feet.
There were no angels full of eyes and wings,
just living glory full of truth and grace.
The Love that dances at the heart of things
shone out upon us from a human face.
And to that light the light in us leaped up,
we felt it quicken somewhere deep within,
a sudden blaze of long-extinguished hope
trembled and tingled through the tender skin.
Nor can this blackened sky, this darkened scar
eclipse that glimpse of how things really are.*
Malcolm Guite

Diary Dates

Sun 28 February – Sat 6 March

10am Mass in the church.

Mon 1 March **St David**

Wed 3 March

6pm – Feed Up Warm Up – Scout Hall

Sun 7 March

This Sunday would have been our **healing and wholeness service**. As we have done for the last three services if you have a need for healing prayer or have a family member or friend you would like prayer for, please let Trish know on 07801 752141 or trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk. Members of the healing ministry team will be praying on Sunday for anyone in need of the Lord's healing help.



Mass attendance over the past week

Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri
25	54/*27	14	18	21	NK	NK

*Online numbers

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We pray for **Antonio Campo** whose funeral is on **Tuesday 2 March 2021** and for **Giuseppa Atamena** whose funeral is on **Friday 5 March 2021**. May they rest in peace and rise in glory. May the Lord comfort their families.

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

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Confession – if you wish to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation please contact Fr Euloge to arrange an appointment. This will be outside.

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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: Youth and Evangelisation: Caritas Westminster. Education Service:** 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.

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The "Elliott Report" an independent review of the Catholic Church's Safeguarding Structures and Arrangements [Independent Safeguarding review](#) has advised about the establishment of the "Independent Catholic Project", a group of professionals who are working for the implementation of structural changes required to enhance the safeguarding services across the catholic church in England and Wales.

The group is publishing a bi-weekly newsletter to inform about the progresses and achievements of the work carried out and you can now find all newsletters uploaded on the RCDOW website by clicking on this link [Safeguarding newsletter](#).

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North Herts residents are being asked to raise any neighbourhood safety concerns they may have, in a new online survey. Launched this week by the North Herts Community Safety Partnership (NHCSP), the anonymous survey invites residents to provide feedback on crime, disorder and nuisance issues in their local area. Responses given will assist the partnership in prioritising resources in North Herts and will be used to inform and create a new Community Safety Action Plan for the district.

To take part in the survey go to: www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NHcommunitysafety Closing date Friday 19 March 2021.

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New job vacancies can be found at [Job vacancies](#)



We continue our journey to where the Assumption is today. In the United States the provincial resides at Brighton (almost Boston). At Worcester MA there is a residence for the elderly religious. Close by we find Assumption College which is in fact a Catholic University. A few miles away at Fiskdale the parish also cares for an exhibition of icons, mainly brought from Russia by priests attached to the American embassy in Moscow. All Assumptionists who have died in the U.S.A. are buried in a cemetery at Fiskdale. Two from Mexico.



AMORIS LAETITIA THE JOY OF LOVE 218 *Growing in Conjugal Love - Dialogue* Show affection and concern for the other person. Love surmounts even the worst barriers. When we love someone, or when we feel loved by them, we can better understand what they are trying to communicate.



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

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Assistant Priest Fr Euloge Kasine 07424 004647

Parish 01462 459126

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Trish Bonnett

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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