



# CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

16 Nightingale Road, HITCHIN, SG5 1QS

(Augustinians of the Assumption)

Newsletter No 1934



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> March 2021- 4<sup>th</sup> 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: Chron 36:14-16, 19-23, Eph 2:4-10, Jn 3:14-21

Psalm: O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not!

**Next week:** Jer 31:31-34, Heb 5:7-9, John 12:20-30

**Ramblings** Laetare Sunday is also known as Rose Sunday, Refreshment Sunday, or Mothering Sunday. Historically, servants were released from service for the day to visit their mothers, hence the term "Mothering Sunday." Our readings offer much over which to rejoice. Cyrus, the ruler of the day, frees the Israelites from their exile allowing them to return home and rebuild their lives, their identity and, above all, their Temple. He gives them the opportunity to restore God at the centre of their lives. We have just passed the mid-point of our Lenten journey, strengthening our hopes and expectations for the coming Easter feast, which we will be able to celebrate together. Jesus makes it clear that it was out of great love that God sent him to us; to be our light, to inspire our love and our hope, and to strengthen our faith. As we thank God for our mothers today, we also thank God for sending us Jesus and for all that he has done most especially through our mothers. In his recent encyclical *Fratelli Tutti* Pope Francis speaks of the freedom and joy of our faith. **James Hanvey SJ**, puts it like this: *Francis reminds us that faith is a source of life and joy and possibility for the whole of our lives; it calls us to a new level of relationality and opens our hearts and our minds to the depth of all that is. Faith, then, does not limit the horizons of our knowing or living or freedom, but expands them. It not only bestows upon us a responsibility for the world in which we live and create – the world who is my neighbour – but it gives us joy in the work of serving this world and all the life that it contains. There is a joy in Christian life, which comes from knowing that we participate in the restoration and sanctification of the world which Christ has redeemed. Can there really be any greater honour or purpose or meaning than this? Knowing this, we can truly rejoice!!*

**Lent Resources** includes an online Stations of the Cross led by Ann Milner. There is also a new set from the Sisters of Myanmar. Go to [Lent Resources](#) to access.

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## Diary Dates

Sun 14 March – Sat 20 March

10am Mass in the church.

Wed 17 March

6pm Churches Together is having 15 minutes of prayer based on 'Invitations from the Cross' by Krish Kandiah, Today this is led by Trish Bonnett and Father Tom on the theme 'Here is your son, here is your mother'.. on Zoom  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84078666759?pwd=eVovOHBWUkJFYTCydXhlcTNNRGdRUT09>  
Meeting ID: 840 7866 6759  
Passcode: 768859

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6pm – Feed Up Warm Up – Scout Hall

## Mass attendance over the past week

Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri
NK	52/32*	20	15	17	18	NK

\*online



## Holy Week information

Following advice from the Bishops we are now putting together our liturgies for Holy Week. As a result of the continuing restrictions in order to expedite the liturgy in a dignified way and to keep the services as short as possible there are quite a few changes. We are planning to have two Masses on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday at 10am and 12pm (as long as we can get all the volunteers we need to have in place) and we will have the Mass of the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday, the Good Friday service and the Easter Vigil on Saturday evening. Times to be confirmed. All these services will need to be booked by all parishioners (including those who

are regulars for the Sunday Mass who no longer have to book) Full details of times and how to book will be sent out next week once we have all volunteers in place.

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**Feeding the Hungry** thanks to all for your generosity to the initiatives in our parish. As you are aware we help feed people in need in three different ways in our parish

- The Foodbank
- Feed Up Warm Up
- North Herts Food Provision

Your generosity knows no bounds for these initiatives and I need to ask for help again.

**The Food Provision team** are short of basic goods for their food parcels.

They urgently need the following:

- Tins of beans
- Tins tomatoes
- Tins of custard
- Pasta sauces
- Rice
- Any breakfast cereal
- Squash

Can you help with this please? If so there will be some plastic boxes outside the back door of the hall kitchen for you to drop off your donations. If you want to make a money donation instead please let me know and Trish can pop to Costco this week and buy some of the items that are on the list. If you cannot get to the church for either type of donation please let Trish know and she can collect anything you want to donate.

Thanks to the many other parishioners who help with the food deliveries. They see first hand the delight on the faces of the families we deliver to, when we hand over this vital food, and it is so important for those in need that we can continue this service. **Please help us to do so.** Thanks to Liz Wills and her team of helpers at FUWU and the Food provision team who make this all happen. Liz has given us details on who has been fed over the past 8 Months.

**13<sup>th</sup> July 2020 – 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021** 4230 people have been fed. 2643 children/1587 adults. In the same time period **FUWU** have provided hot meals and food parcels to 1050 people. Full figures can be found on the Foodbank/Food provision page on the parish website. [Feeding the needy](#)

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**Parish Pilgrim Walk 4 Water | Walk for Water | CAFOD**

**To date** Our pilgrim Ann Milner's progress is that she is over halfway through her target number of steps and has raised



2/3 of her target of £300. You can track her progress and make donations by going to <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/owls-walk-4-water>. Ann is also posting some lovely photos of her walks which can be seen at [Ann Oliasah](#)

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Our new recycling area is proving very popular indeed. We have an appeal to make to those of you who are bringing in crisp packets. Please can you ensure the packet is completely empty and also flat – some packets have been rolled up and a knot tied in them and this has to be undone for the packing process. Thanks for your help.



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**CAFOD**  
just one world

Pope Francis has called for debt cancellation for the most vulnerable countries, arguing this is critical because of the severe impacts of the medical, social and economic crises they face as a result of Covid-19. For details of a petition you can sign please click on [Cancel the debt](#)

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**Young people sign up for Rise Up Taster Sessions!**

This is to let you know about the upcoming taster sessions for our Rise Up Catholic leadership programme later this year.

Rise Up is a brand new youth project created to train, equip and inspire young people in their leadership skills and faith formation.

It is for any practising Catholic aged 15 (Year 11) to 21 who lives, works or studies in the Diocese of Westminster. For more details go to [Youth Ministry](#)

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**Please take care as you drive out of College Road.** This is an appeal for you to take great care as you leave the church car park turning right



onto College road to exit onto Grove Road. Please drive slowly down this road and take particular care as you reach the entrance as it can be difficult to see the pedestrians walking along the pavement. Recently a mother with her baby in a pram were almost hit by a car exiting this way who did not appear to notice she was there. It is much safer to turn left out of the church car park and exit via Ickleford Road. **Thanks for your consideration of the safety of others.**

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**'Year of St Joseph' Online Talk**  
<https://rcdow.org.uk/faith/news/st-joseph/>

'.....as the spouse of Mary of Nazareth, Saint Joseph stands at the crossroads between the Old and New Testaments.' - Patris Corde

Online Talk by Fr. John Hemer MHM

**Date: Thursday 29th April 2021**

**Time: 7pm**

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

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The Passage's mission and work is developing to cope with more people becoming homeless it is raising funds through the **Big Give** from **12 noon Tues 16th March – 12 noon Wed 24th March** to support No Night Out a new initiative to take newly homeless people off the street straight away. Further details of the work is at [www.passage.org.uk](http://www.passage.org.uk). Double your Donation, Double your impact. This is a matched giving scheme for online donations. If someone (can be company, individual or trust) gave £10 online matched giving of £10 would bring the Gift up to £20 (and for individuals to £22.50 with Gift Aid with higher rate tax relief it may cost the donor less than £10). For more information ring Andrew

Hollingsworth

020

75921886

[andrew.h@passage.org.uk](mailto:andrew.h@passage.org.uk)

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**New Bible Timeline course** with Mauro Iannicelli starting **Wednesday 7 April at 7pm** For details and booking go to [Adult Faith Formation](#)

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**Hitchin parishioner who is a professional photographer** is looking to shoot a couple of weddings this summer. His offer involves charging only a nominal fee of £250 to cover the day up until cutting the cake plus he would include a two hour on location preshoot. All shots will be provided digitally at high resolution and within two weeks. Interested couples please contact Jason on 0780 8729067. He looks forward to hearing from you!

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**Diocesan job vacancy** - part time DBS Administrator, details can be found at <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/safeguarding-dbs-administrator-vaughan-house/>.

The application deadline is Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March.

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**Next Novena to St Joseph 15<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> March**

Creative God, you call men and women to develop and use their gifts for the good of others. We ask St Joseph to help us do the work you have given us. Help everyone to use their talents in your service. When our life's labour is complete, may we see you face to face. We pray for an end to the current pandemic and for the continued distribution of the vaccines across the world so as to reduce the loss of life. Grant this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.


St Joseph, pray for us.



We come this week to the Assumption in Europe. We have only one community and parish in Athens, but it is of great importance. Though there are few Roman Catholics there is a very active Filipino community which we serve. Added to this a mass is provided each week for the Nigerian immigrants. A great deal of time is given to the poor who live locally especially the distribution of food and other necessities.



**AMORIS LAETITIA THE JOY OF LOVE 221** *Passionate Love - The world of emotions* Desires, feelings, emotions, what the ancients called 'the passions', all have an important place in married life. Pleasure or pain, joy or sadness, tenderness or fear are awakened whenever 'another' becomes present and part of a person's life.

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

**Parish Priest** Fr Tom O'Brien 07547 171570

**Assistant Priest** Fr Euloge Kasine 07424 004647

**Parish** 01462 459126

E-mail: [hitchin@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:hitchin@rcdow.org.uk)

Website: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/>

**Parish Administrator** Cheryl Saunders

[cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk) }

**Pastoral Assistants** Robert Hitchcock

[roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk) } 01462 459126 press 4

Trish Bonnett

[trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:spiritualcare.enh-tr@nhs.net)