



CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

16 Nightingale Road, HITCHIN, SG5 1QS



(of the Augustinians of the Assumption)



Newsletter No 1939

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.

17th April – 24th April 2021 – THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER - 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: Acts:3:13-15,17-19, 1 Jn 2:1-5, Luke 24:35-48

Psalm: **Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord.**

Alleluia!

Next week: Acts 4:8-12, 1 John 3:1-2, John 10:11-18

Ramblings Despite being offered peace by Jesus, the disciples were startled and frightened. It took them some time to become open to the peace being offered. Once they did, joy took over and they were ready and open to the wisdom Jesus offered them. Only when truly free from fear will we be open to the wisdom and presence of God, of Jesus Christ. Having opened their minds, Jesus sends them out as witnesses. The Acts of the Apostles gives various accounts of the experiences these witnesses faced, many of whom eventually lost their lives. The great blessing, the great grace of these witnesses was that they had lived with and shared in Jesus' life over a lengthy period of time. Fortunately, they had very good memories. We only have brief summaries of what they said. We do not hear what they said about their own experiences of Jesus, how they felt in his presence, the wonder, challenges, insights, difficulties, or their failures to understand. This would have added great value to whatever they said about Jesus' teaching and miracles. They spoke from the heart. Ultimately belief in Christ will lead to a sense of Christ's presence in others, in life experiences, in nature and in oneself. With the heart in the right place, Jesus will open the mind to the understanding and knowledge needed to be his witness!

A young man, training to be an Olympic diver, was raised an atheist. His only religious influence came from his outspoken Christian friend. The diver paid little attention to his friend's sermons but heard them often. One night the diver went to his college pool. Although the lights were off, the pool had large skylights and the moon provided enough light to practice. He climbed to the highest diving board and as he turned his back to the pool and extended his arms out, he saw his shadow on the wall. The shadow of his body in the **shape of a cross**. Instead of diving, he knelt down and asked God to come into his life. Just at this moment a maintenance man walked in and

turned the lights on. The pool had been drained for repairs!!

Diary Dates

Sun 18 April – 24 April

10am Mass in the church.

Wed 21 April

6pm – Feed Up Warm Up – Scout Hall

Mass attendance over the past week

Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri
15	67/21*	20	28	20	18	19

*livestream attendance

Just a reminder that we still only have Mass at 10am each day and you only need to book for the Sunday Mass. Please email hitchin@rcdow.org.uk or text Trish on 07801 752141 if you wish to book preferably by the Thursday before the Sunday. We are still asking that you only book for Sunday if you are not able to come Monday-Saturday. There is still no Sunday obligation. We will do our best to introduce additional Masses at the weekends soon.

††††††††††



Steps to Pentecost started on Tuesday but you are welcome to join us at any time at 7pm. We have a series of reflections on the readings between Easter and

Pentecost. Let Trish know if you are coming and she will send you the session sheets or can print them off and deliver them. The sessions are about 30 minutes. Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85127557261?pwd=aXIGNFYzbXJ4Wmc5ZWUxczFKQmpJUT09>

Meeting ID: 851 2755 7261
Passcode: 885211

Recycling in the parish There is an updated sheet on the recycling items that you can bring to our coloured bins outside the church. Go to [Recycling for Charity](#) for the sheet Can you please note two appeals: ① those who have dishwashers please remember to bring those items to the recycling area.



② Used pens etc are also very down so please don't forget to collect those too.

††††††††††



Thank you to everyone for raising donations for Our Lady's RC Church Hitchin with #easyfundraising! If you haven't signed up yet, it's easy and completely FREE. 5,000 shops and sites will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to do your everyday online shopping - at no extra cost to you! Every donation you raise makes a difference to us so please sign up & share today. [Easy Fundraising for Our Lady's church](#)

††††††††††

Please contact Fr Tom if you would like information on leaving a gift to the parish in your Will.

††††††††††

The Herts Environment Hustings North Herts Friends of the Earth has joined with other FoE groups in Hertfordshire to organise a county council election hustings focussing on the climate and ecological crises.

The Herts Environment Hustings will take place online (via Zoom) from 7pm on Monday 19th April and you can book your place now at:

[Herts Environment Hustings bookings](#)

Each of the main political parties contesting the elections on 6th May – Conservative, Green, Labour and Liberal Democrat - will have two representatives on the online panel. The candidates will be responding to a number of questions notified in advance, as well as a selection of those submitted by audience members during the event.

The chair of the event will be 92.6fm Radio Verulam's Nick Hazell.

Parishioner **Deolinda Eltringham** is standing as the Green party candidate in the local election for Hitchin Highbury for the NHDC. **Mary Marshall**, from the Quakers is standing in Oughton, also for the Green party - she was for many years a member in CTHitchin and also NHIFF.

Adult Faith Formation opportunities please see a range of courses and other information on our parish website at [Adult Faith formation opportunities](#)

††††††††††

Got any spare empty jars for jam making? Please pop them into the church porch or office.



††††††††††

Priest Training Fund Next Sunday

is Good Shepherd Sunday, the day we pray for priests and for vocations to the priesthood. The annual collection for the Priest Training Fund will take place next weekend. This fund pays for the priestly formation of men for the Catholic priesthood. There are currently 42 men studying at Allen Hall seminary, 18 of whom are for our own Diocese, and two men are studying in Rome, also for our Diocese. Last year two men who studied at Allen Hall and one who studied in Rome ordained to the priesthood to serve as our future priests. This fund also supports the ongoing enrichment and formation of our ordained priests. Your generous donation helps ensure we can support these men who are called to be like Christ the Good Shepherd. Donation leaflets are available in the back of the church. Please take one home, read the information, and bring it back next weekend with your donation. Please continue to pray for vocations and for our priests. You can donate online anytime at www.rcdow.org.uk/donations



††††††††††

Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony, via



live-stream from Westminster Cathedral, on Saturday 15th May 2021 at 3pm

The Cardinal will be celebrating a live-streamed Mass for all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2021. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give Cheryl Saunders, the parish administrator the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number if no email), and these details will be sent to those organizing this celebration. An Order of Service can be downloaded from the Cathedral website before the event – www.westminstercathedral.org.uk.

CAP Job Club Will be starting a new course online on Wed 21st April at 10am – 12 noon.

Job club is an eight-week course, exploring various job search techniques in a fun and fulfilling way. We cover motivation, strengths and weaknesses, CVs, Cover letters, Interview skills and volunteering. If you know anyone who is interested, please contact Leigh Smith via email lsmith@capjobclubs.org or mobile 07931 833838

††††††††††

The Catholic foundation Fellowship and Aid to the Christians of the East (FACE) is hosting a webinar with His Beatitude Louis Raphaël Cardinal Sako Patriarch of Babylon of the Chaldeans, and head of the Chaldean Catholic Church His Eminence Michael Louis Cardinal Fitzgerald, M.Afr. Patron of FACE on the future of Christianity in the Middle East On **Saturday 24 April 2021 at 10am (BST)** via Zoom

His Beatitude Cardinal Sako, who hosted the recent apostolic visit of Pope Francis to Iraq, faces the challenge of leading an Eastern Church in a highly charged and often changing situation, which has witnessed the mass exodus of Eastern Christians from their homelands where Christianity was first spread. It is necessary to register in advance. Places will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

Please register by using the link below:

www.cardinalsako.eventbrite.co.uk

††††††††††

DAY OF PRAYER FOR EASTERN CHRISTIANS Sixth Sunday of Easter, **9th May 2021**, An annual day of prayer which enables

Eastern & Western Christians to come together in communion through prayer. The event unites the Roman Catholic Church in Europe with dioceses of the Eastern Catholic Churches in union with the Bishop of Rome

††††††††††

Discernment Weekend for men aged over 30

- Are you a man over thirty, content, but wondering about the direction of your life?
- Do you sense that you may be approaching a major threshold or turning point?
- Have you sometimes found yourself wondering whether the priesthood or religious life may be an option?

If any of these questions apply, this weekend is for you!

The weekend will take place in a prayerful spirit and aims to provide some tools for reflection and discernment about future choices. It will be mainly in silence but there will also be input and the opportunity for one-to-one guidance.


Friday 3rd September to Sunday 5th September 2021

Run jointly by St Beuno's Spirituality Centre and the Beda College in Rome, the weekend will take place in St Beuno's, north Wales. Further information Beda College Website:

<https://bedacollege.org>


Discernment Weekend for men aged over 30 Friday 3rd September to Sunday 5th September 2021 Details and booking at:

<https://www.pathwaystogod.org/coursesevents-retreats/discernment-weekendolder-men-1>




Catholic
NONVIOLENCE
Initiative

A king is not saved by his army nor a warrior preserved by his strength.
A vain hope for safety is the warhorse; despite its power it cannot save. *Psalms 33*




AUGUSTINIANS
OF THE
ASSUMPTION
The Kingdom Come

The Assumption has always accepted that apostolates founded by us would pass to others. In England this is true especially of the Becket School and Emmanuel House Centre both in Nottingham. In Belgium despite the lack of numbers we are still committed to four secondary schools as well as a very active Youth Community in Brussels.




AMORIS LAETITIA THE JOY OF LOVE 227 *Passionate Love - The world of emotions* Marital love strives to ensure one's entire emotional life benefits the family as a whole and stands at the service of its common 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 Website: https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/
Parish Administrator Cheryl Saunders Pastoral Assistants Robert Hitchcock Trish Bonnett	cherylisaunders@rcdow.org.uk } roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk } 01462 459126 press 4 trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk }	



This week's counting teams:
Sunday Team: Monday Team:



Hospital

If you are going into hospital please notify the Chaplain on Tel: 01438 285519 or Email: spiritualcare.enh-tr@nhs.net