



CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

16 Nightingale Road, HITCHIN, SG5 1QS



(of the Augustinians of the Assumption)



Newsletter No 1943

15th May – 22nd May 2021 – SEVENTH 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.

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.

Readings: : Acts 1:15-17, 20-26, 1 John 4:11-16, John 17:11-19

Psalm: The Lord has set his sway in heaven.

Next week: Readings: Acts 2:1-11, Gal 5:16-25, Jn 15:26-27; 16:12-15

Ramblings It is clear that John's Gospel uses the word WORLD in very different ways. He writes in 3:16, "*For God so loved **the world**, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.*" While in 17:9 He writes "*I pray for them. I am not praying for **the world**, but for those you have given me, for they are yours.*" A common belief among many is that the word **world** in John 3:16, shows that God loves everyone and offers them salvation. When Jesus says "*I am not praying for the world*", he is speaking about the those who do not and will not believe in him. In other words, Salvation is offered to all but each person is free to accept or reject it. What is important is to recognise the limitless love that God has for us, shown so tenderly in the gift of Jesus to us. One commentator says our primary task is to believe in God's love for us. This means that the more we acknowledge God's love for us the more God's love will fill and radiate from our lives in everything we say and do. **Story:** *There once lived a saint so good that the angels came from heaven to see how someone could be so godly. This saint went about diffusing virtue as the stars diffuse light and the flowers scent, without being aware of it. His day could be summed up in two words — he gave and forgave — yet these words never passed his lips. They were expressed in his ready smile, his kindness, forbearance, and charity. When asked what he would like God to give him. The saint said "That I may do a great deal of good without ever knowing it." Thereafter wherever the saint walked, his shadow, made arid paths green, caused withered plants to bloom, gave clear water to dried-up brooks, fresh colour to pale children, and joy to those who were unhappy. He was known as "The Holy Shadow." . May you be a **Holy Shadow!** (Full story on Sunday.)*

Diary Dates

Sun 16 May – Sat 22 May

10am Mass in the church.

Tues 18 May

8pm CTH Council meeting by Zoom. It will begin with a presentation by Tom Hardy, the Hitchin Town Centre Manager, on his vision and plans, then there will be reports on what has been/will be happening in our work together. All are welcome - contact John Richardson (07505 426876 or johnrichardson891@btinternet.com) for Zoom joining instructions.

Wed 19 May

6pm – Feed Up Warm Up – Scout Hall

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7.30pm Thy Kingdom Come a service of prayer online. 'Open to All' this event will be facilitated by Rev. Dr David Chapman, Chair of the Methodist District, also a short service of prayer led by Bishop Paul McAleenan of the Catholic Diocese of Westminster, with the support by the Venerable Dave Middlebrook, Archdeacon of Bedford and Dr Lynn Bassett

To register click [Thy Kingdom Come](#)

Mass attendance over the past week

Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri
15	60/17*	20	21	18	24	20

*livestream attendance

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“Come and see: Communicating, encountering people as and where they are” is the theme for the 2021 celebration of World Communications Day. In a time that obliges us to social distance due to the pandemic, communication can make possible the closeness that is necessary to recognise what is essential and to understand truly the meaning of things. Even when physical proximity is impossible, Catholic communicators can use the media to reach out to people and invite them to follow Jesus more closely..

There will be a second collection in aid of World Communications Day this weekend. If you wish to make a donation, please place this in the basket provided. Many thanks, as always, for your continued generosity.

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Mass survey responses so far We have had 81 online and 14 paper responses (95 in total)

Choice of Mass 6pm - 17 8&10am - 15
8.30&10.30am - 40 10am&12pm - 23 5pm - 9

We have volunteers for Saturday evening and Sunday morning Masses but only one for 5pm

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CAP Job Club is starting a new course online on Wed 19th May at 10am - 12 noon. Job club is an eight-week course, exploring various job search techniques in a fun and fulfilling way. They 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

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Living with COVID: Support available to Hertfordshire residents

Wednesday 26 May, 11:00-12:30, via Zoom

As the country moves out of lockdown, we move into a new phase of tackling Covid-19. Vaccination efforts are doing a fantastic job in reducing cases and protecting people from the most harmful effects of the virus. However, we

know vaccines will not eradicate the virus and therefore we will all need to learn to 'live with Covid' whilst we strive to keep cases as low as possible.

The ongoing knock on impacts of Covid-19 will become clearer over the course of the year- not least its effect on the economy, employment and people's mental health.

With this in mind, the Hertfordshire Community Reassurance Cell (CRC) would like to invite you to a webinar outlining the support available to Hertfordshire residents as we move into this new phase of recovery.

This event will be an opportunity to continue to discuss the impact the pandemic is having on the county's most vulnerable residents, whilst also learning what support is available to them.

Confirmed speakers

Linda Haysey, Leader of East Herts District Council and Chair of the CRC

Kristy Thakur & Ted Maddex, Hertfordshire's Volunteer & People Assistance Cell

Alex Hunter, Herts MIND Network

Gary Vaux, Money Advice Unit

Will Slemmings, Herts Sports Partnership

Michele Stokes, Carers in Herts

Sally Orr, Family and Health Services Commissioning, Hertfordshire County Council

We hope you will join us for this event. To register, please click here: [Tickets for event](#)



We conclude that biology does not condemn humanity to war, and that humanity can be freed from the bondage of biological pessimism. Just as wars begin in the minds of men, peace also begins in our minds. The same species who invented war is capable of inventing peace. The responsibility lies with each one of us.

UNESCO, Seville statement on violence, 1989



On May 12th we celebrated the feast of St John Stone, patron of our English Assumption. St John was a member of the Austin Friars at Canterbury, a doctor of Divinity. He refused to accept Henry VIII as head of the Church. Thomas Cromwell tried to persuade him to change his mind but on refusal John was put in the Tower of London. He was returned to Canterbury and tried there for treason. Sentenced to death he was hanged, drawn and quartered at a hillock outside the city walls. known today as the Dane-John in December 1539. St John is one of the 40 martyrs of England and Wales canonised in 1970 by Paul VI



AMORIS LAETITIA THE JOY OF LOVE 231 *Passionate Love - God loves the joy of his children*

We believe God loves the enjoyment felt by human beings: he created us and 'richly furnishes us with everything to enjoy (1 Tim 6:17).



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

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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