



CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

16 Nightingale Road, HITCHIN, SG5 1QS



(of the Augustinians of the Assumption)



Newsletter No 1944

22nd – 29th May 2021 – PENTECOST SUNDAY - 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.

Ramblings The readings for Pentecost offer many thoughts and riches for reflection. It is a challenge to mention just a couple. The strong winds we are experiencing suggest that the Holy Spirit wants us to reflect on the wind and the fire with which the Spirit chose to introduce himself to the disciples in the Upper Room. Both elements can be destructive as shown by hurricanes, tsunamis and forest fires. The Holy Spirit uses these elements only to destroy what is harmful and destructive of our relationship with God. Elijah's cry to God was not met with a raging wind or an earthquake but with a gentle breeze. It was a breeze of reassurance, offering comfort. It spoke of a presence that was tangible and supportive. As light, fire helps us see the way ahead more clearly and discover the detail in everything around us, enhancing the colour and beauty of everything we perceive. Fire speaks of energy and warmth, offering a comfort and reassurance that lifts our spirits. Fire inspires us to believe in the impossible, providing inspiration and purpose. Just as cooking brings out the deep quality, goodness and essence of the food being cooked so does the fire of the Spirit bring out the best within us, opening us to the true presence of God within and to our true essence. Interestingly, Jesus' story began with the Holy Spirit coming down on Mary and bringing new life. On leaving us Jesus sends the Holy Spirit so we can continue to give birth to Jesus in our world today. This is what makes Pentecost so awe-inspiring.

Holy Spirit, living Breath of God breathe new life into my willing soul. Bring the presence of the risen Lord to renew my heart and make me whole. Cause your word to come alive in me; give me faith for what I cannot see. Give me passion for your purity; Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me. (Keith Getty & Stuart Townend)

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

Psalm: Send forth your spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth. Alleluia.

Next week: Deut 4:32-34.39-40, Rom 8:14-17, Matt 28:16-

Diary Dates

Sun 23 May – Sat 29 May

10am Mass in the church.

Wed 26 May

6pm – Feed Up Warm Up – Scout Hall

Mass attendance over the past week

Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri
35	78/24*	22	33	27	19	21

*livestream attendance

Welcome, Stay, Pray, Worship & be Safe

From 24th May we are now open every day from 30 mins before first Mass until 7pm. Outside of Mass times the church is open for private prayer. You may light a candle if you wish but are advised to use gel on your hands afterwards.

We no longer need stewards at the weekday Mass as the Bishops have now said the onus is on the parishioner attending to use the QR code on arrival at church by having the NHS Covid-19 app on your smartphone and checking in. If you are not able to do that will be a list on the table for you to tick or sign your name

on for Track and Trace purposes. Please use the hand gel as you enter and leave the church and wear a mask at all times. Please take your seat as usual in the church



keeping your distance from people not in your household. We will still have stewards for the weekend Sunday Masses as these are likely to have more people attending. We are introducing 6pm Mass next weekend and 8.30am and 10.30pm the weekend after. See dates below.

Mass is at 10am Monday-Saturday.

29th May Anticipated Mass 6pm

30th May Mass 10am

From 5th June times will be as follows

Sundays Mass 8.30am and 10.30am

Monday-Saturday Mass 10am

Saturdays Anticipated Mass 6pm

Saturdays 10.30am – 11.15am Confession and Adoration (Confession in Doris Harris room or garden)

There is no need to book for these Masses. The church is still operating social distance of 1m + so please arrive in time to secure your place.

From 31st May we will no longer have music at the weekday Mass but we will have music at the 8.30am and 10.30am Masses – this will be live organ music or recorded. **The congregation are still now allowed to sing in church.** Masses will still be recorded for Soundcloud and livestreamed and available as a video on the homepage of the parish website.

We still need help with stewarding, Reading and Eucharistic Ministry and cleaning after Mass at the Sat eve and Sunday Masses so if you have not already indicated that you are able to help in this way either do so on the survey link <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/G3S6PMV> or letting Trish know by email or text.

We are very grateful to all the people who have helped us keep our church operational and safe for our parishioners. It is wonderful that we are able to open up more but we need your help to be able to do this.

We did not have any volunteers for the 5pm Mass which is why we cannot offer that Mass at present. If you want to attend this Mass in the future please complete the survey above and volunteer to help.

Welcome, Stay, Pray, Worship & be Safe

We pray for our young people who are being confirmed this Sunday. Bishop Paul will confirm them at two Masses this Sunday which are just for the candidates and their families.

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We are now allowed to resume bringing the Eucharist to people in their homes. If you are not able to come to Mass and would like a visit from a priest for the sacraments or a Eucharistic minister with communion please contact Cheryl Saunders on 01462 459126 or Trish Bonnett on 07801 752141.

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The Passage Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Patron of The Passage, will celebrate the **5.30 Mass** at Westminster Cathedral on **Tuesday 25 May 2021** to mark 40 years of service to homeless people. The Mass will be broadcast live online, so if you would like to follow the service from home, the link is: <https://www.westminstercathedral.org.uk/> If you would like to attend the Mass in person, this may be possible, but the Cathedral has a strict limit under the current Covid regulations. Please register your interest with us and we will let you know on Monday 24th May if a place is available. Contact andrew.h@passage.org.uk

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SYCAMORE – What does it mean to live our Christian faith through the power of the Holy Spirit? How does the Holy Spirit work through the Church and through the sacraments? Introductory Session with Fr Stephen Mon 24th May [Book place](#)

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This week the Comet newspaper produced a list of **50 people who shaped our community** and among them is Father Michael Lambert. Shane Cole who helps Liz Wills with the Feed Up Warm Up team was also in the list. The lists are on the parish website.





Among our more recent foundations we find Burkina Faso (formerly Upper Volta) with one community which is a House of Studies for our 18 students and Togo with three communities one of which is a novitiate with five novices.



AMORIS LAETITIA THE JOY OF LOVE 232 *Passionate Love - God loves the joy of his children*
Let us be glad when with great love God tells us: 'My son (and daughter!), treat yourself well...Do not deprive yourself of a happy day' (Sir 14:11-14)



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