



CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

16 Nightingale Road, HITCHIN, SG5 1QS

(In the care of the Augustinians of the Assumption)



Mass Times

Saturday 6pm

Sunday 8.30am, 10.30am

Monday – Saturday 10am

Reconciliation Saturday 10.30am
during Exposition. All Masses are
livestreamed [Livestream Mass](#)



Newsletter No 1947

12th June – 19th June – 11th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 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: Ez 17:22-24, Cor 5:6-10, Mark 4:26-34

Entrance Antiphon: O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you; be my help. Do not abandon or forsake me, O God, my Saviour!

Psalm: It is good to give you thanks, O Lord.

Intercession: We pray to the Lord

Response: Lord hear us!

Next week: : Job 3:1.8-11, 2 Cor 5:14-17, Mark 4:35-41

Ramblings References and images of the natural world abound in scripture. Jesus often used them. For many generations creation was their bible, offering tangible examples of how God works and continues to work. Pope Francis reminded us that, in the destruction we have caused creation, we have sinned against God and neighbour. Every day thousands die of starvation and lack of water. It has taken a plague to bring us back to our senses and rethink the way we live. We cannot change the past. We **can** change the future. Ezekiel believes that what appears impossible, altering our course towards self-destruction, can be reversed with God's help. *"The Lord can stunt tall trees and makes the low ones grow, wither green trees and make the withered green."* Let us acknowledge the strength and power of God's mercy and love for us. Despite our failures, we can succeed in healing creation, however painful and difficult, by working with God's power and grace. God offers natural proofs to encourage us. A flower growing out of a brick wall; the revival of a forest after terribly destructive forest fires; barren deserts springing to life after a short spell of rain. This God given power of renewal, innate in creation, is innate in our lives too. However terrible the past, however destructive our lives may have been, the waters of forgiveness and mercy coupled with the sunshine and warmth of God's love will enable us to successfully nurture the life of our planet, especially for those facing starvation, lack of water or utter destitution.

Laudato Si: The harmony between the Creator, humanity and creation was disrupted by our presuming to take God's place and refusing to acknowledge our creaturely limitations. God, who wishes to work with us and who counts on our cooperation, can also bring good out of the evil we have done. The risen One mysteriously holds

the creatures of this world close to himself and directs them towards reaching fulfilment. The flowers of the field and the birds which his human eyes contemplated and admired are imbued with his radiant presence.

Diary Dates

Sun 13 June – Sat 19 June
10am Mass in the church.
Sat 12 June Immaculate Heart of Mary
Wed 16 June
6pm – Feed Up Warm Up – Scout Hall
Sun 13 June
Day of Life see details click Day of Life



This weekend sees the two of three Masses for 28 of our children making their first Holy Communion. Please keep them in your prayers at this time. The last Mass is next Saturday.

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Collections at Mass -No matter what happens with regards to the lifting of COVID restrictions, for safety reasons, we will not be resuming the practice of "passing the plate" to take the Collection during Mass. But your offerings are still important to us and there will be a collection basket at the rear of the Church into which you can put your cash or Envelope offerings if you want to make them that way and shortly we will be introducing a "contactless giving" alternative option – details below.



Meanwhile, you can always switch to making your offering by Standing Order or On-Line Donation either of which works well for us. If that is something which you would like to consider,

please contact Cheryl in the Parish Office who will explain how this works.

Contactless in the Parish From next weekend we will have contactless giving device in our Parish church .(Being trialed this weekend at First Communion Masses) Contactless payments are touch-free with no need to type in your pin or hand over your card. Simply touch your card, smart phone or smart watch to the reader, listen for the beep, and your payment is done.



If you would prefer to use your pin, you can also insert your card into the payment device and enter your pin to make a payment.

We have set some amounts that you might like to give, but by tapping 'Other' you can choose the amount that you give.

Donations made via your contactless giving device go straight to the Parish.

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Social Action Awards Celebration Last Wednesday, 2nd June, the Diocese of Westminster, together with Caritas Westminster and the Caritas Volunteer Service, held an online celebration to mark volunteers week. During the event five awards were presented to volunteers - individuals and teams, who had shown particular dedication, imagination and compassion.



Members from our parish were nominated for their work with the food provision work headed by Liz Wilson. See if you can spot where we are in the picture above. Thirty nominations were received for the awards in four categories, many of them commending whole teams of volunteers. The range of nominations highlights the breadth of Social Action going on across the diocese, including befriending the elderly, supporting the unemployed, visiting refugees, running foodbanks, and serving the homeless. Every single volunteer had made a big difference to individuals who found themselves in desperate

situations during the pandemic, and choosing winners was not an easy task. The very worthy winners did not include anyone from our parish but we were delighted to have taken part.

Other dates

17th June Clean Air Day [Click here for Clean Air Day June 17th details](#)

19th June, 10am- 4pm

Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology Courses **Children's Spirituality** led by Dr Sue Price This is part of the CCRS study programme – people are welcome to join us for the day to be introduced to some of the current research and ways of supporting Children's Spirituality. Especially suitable for those working in schools, parishes or hospital chaplaincies. Cost: £20
3rd July, 9am–1pm Workshop: Ageing and Spirituality (2) led by Dr Christine Lai. Join us to consider how ageing can be a process of spiritual growth. Cost: £45 (CTF/ARU/CU students: £20) Please email mbitadm@hermes.cam.ac.uk to book onto any of the above events. Invoices and zoom links will be sent out a few days beforehand.

26th June A Zoom event will be held with Apollo 16 astronaut Charlie Duke. This is open to all. Info on how to book can be found by visiting <https://aneveningwithcharlieduke.eventbrite.co.uk>

Other items

Volunteers from **Feed Up Warm Up** have continued throughout the pandemic making up food parcels and delivering them to those in need in the community. They rely on the very generous food donations they receive. However, their stock is running very low and they would be very grateful for the following items –

- Baked Beans
- Tinned Spaghetti
- Tinned Tomatoes
- Microwavable rice/pasta n sauce
- Mug Shots
- Tinned Tuna/sardines
- Tinned meat/meals
- Variety packs of cereal
- Super Noodles
- 500ml cartons of long life milk
- Small cartons of juice/cans of fizzy drinks
- Tinned fruit/custard/rice pudding
- Jelly/rice pudding/custard pots
- Toilet Rolls
- Spray deodorants



- Wet wipes
- 2 in 1 shampoo and conditioner
- Shower gel

These items can be dropped off to the Parish Hall or to the Parish Office. Thank you to everyone for all that you do to help this very valuable service continue serving our community.

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The Deadline for EU Citizens settled status 30th June 2021 is approaching for EU Citizens to secure their immigration status.

EU citizens living in the UK have until 30 June 2021 to ensure their immigration status is secured. This can be done through the EU Settlement Scheme. So far over 4.3 million people have been granted status through the scheme. This includes over 700k applications received from children. According to the Migration Observatory, there are over 900k EU children living in the UK.

With one month left to go until the deadline we need to make sure that parents are aware of the need for their children to make applications as well. Parents are advised that it is worth checking if children qualify for British citizenship before attempting to make EUSS applications. Those who have British citizenship and those with Indefinite Leave to Remain do not have to apply. Further information on EU Settlement Scheme is available, in all EU languages, here: [EU citizen settle status](#)

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Investigating COVID duration & Long COVID survey in the ZOE COVID Study app. Share your experience now. If you think you've had COVID, the ZOE COVID Study team want to hear from you about what it was like. Your experiences can help them learn about Long-COVID, a disease that continues to impact the lives of many COVID survivors. The survey takes just a few minutes of your time and will supply teams at King's College London with critical data needed to improve the lives of thousands of people. Click on [ZOE Covid Study app](#)



Walking the Parables of Jesus at Wintershall in which Trish is playing Mary Magdalene

Preparations for Walking the Parables of Jesus are well underway, with 5 Parables scenes and reflection spaces along the way. The route

provides access to much of the Estate with views of the lakes, travelling through the woods and seeing many animals along the way. Due to the nature of this walking event it is not suitable for those with limited mobility. Book now for **Saturday 3rd of July** on their [website](#), they also have very limited availability for **Friday 2 July**, please [email us](#) if you would like to come.

They are looking for guides to lead groups as they Walk the Parables of Jesus throughout the week. All training provided and you enjoy the show for free. [Email](#) them if you are able to help.

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This year's theme for **'Day for Life'** over the weekend of 19th/20th June focuses on assisted suicide and the respect owed to life. The online resources are produced to inform Catholics about this threat to life and to share with people our response to such a threat: a true compassion as the just response to the immense value of the human person.

'Day for Life' adds an authenticity to our witness to the dignity of life and this is enabled by the generosity of people in supporting our work. In 2020, we were unable to hold our annual 'Day for Life' collection due to the pandemic, our funds are very much depleted and the threats to life have never been greater. 'Day for Life' is a simple practical response which pushes back against 'the use and throwaway logic' often at the heart of a culture which seeks to abandon its elderly, sick and dying when 'they no longer serve our interests.'

We will not be taking a second collection in the Parish as we know that it is a difficult time, but the funds are important to support charities and projects which protect the good of life. The Day for Life website is <https://www.dayforlife.org/>. There is also a poster in the porch with a QR code should you wish to make a donation.

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Protect - public security in buildings

The government consultation **Duty to Protect** for all public venues is due to end on 2nd July. Should it become legislative, it will impact our Churches and church halls. The **Duty to Protect** is currently open for public consultation in which and we would like you to participate to ensure your opinions are registered. Please follow [Duty to Protect](#) to access the full consultation document. If you have any comments please make them directly or let Fr Tom know so that we can put together a response to this consultation before the deadline. More info is on the news page of the parish website <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/news/>



G7 Summit Ahead of the G7 group of nations summit taking place in Carbis Bay, Cornwall from 11-13 June 2021, bishops representing the Catholic communities of England, Wales and Scotland have written to Prime Minister Boris Johnson to stress that we must work together to ensure a just and sustainable future for our global community.

"The urgency of the global ecological crisis, and the teachings of our Catholic faith implore us to speak out, take action, and make decisions that benefit our planet and the most vulnerable in society," say the bishops.

They also emphasise that the social, economic, and environmental crises we face are inextricably linked.

"The emergency of the ecological crisis has a human face, recently highlighted by the Vatican's guidance on climate displaced people. In our race towards our own technological and economic advances, we have caused the exploitation of people and the degradation of our planet. Energy and infrastructure are vital in supporting the poorest in our societies out of the pandemic and out of the ecological crisis, but we must look

towards a future whereby we radically reduce our use of fossil fuels – something which the countries which you represent have a shared responsibility for, in ensuring fair outcomes for the benefit of all."

The bishops accept that working towards a solution to these problems is far from easy but highlight what the Catholic Church is doing to play its part.

"Across England, Scotland and Wales, Catholic organisations and communities are already working hard to help respond to the environmental crisis; through transition to use of green energy, a major project to provide a template for how we can decarbonise our dioceses, working towards CAFOD's liveSimply award in our parishes, and through education in our 2,600 schools."

Whilst assuring the G7 leaders of their prayers, the bishops call upon them to:

Provide economic support towards a sustainable recovery from the pandemic, and to move quickly to halt the biodiversity loss the planet is facing.

Act to support developing nations, ensuring that they are not left behind in decision making, and have fair access to vaccines.

Ensure sustained action and accountability, to meet targets set out in the Paris Agreement and move as quickly as possible towards a zero-carbon economy, so that we do not exceed the 1.5C temperature rise, beyond which life on our planet will face dire consequences.

Click [Bishops' Letter for full text](#)



The spirit of our congregation can be expressed very briefly as love of Our Lord, of the Blessed Virgin, His mother, and of the church His bride. As a religious, I am the servant of Jesus Christ in a very special way. All the powers of my being must be directed to Him. That is my life. "Life to me is Christ" (Phil 1; 21)



AMORIS LAETITIA THE JOY OF LOVE 235 *Passionate Love - God loves the joy of his children*

We can appreciate the teachings of some Eastern masters who urge us to expand our consciousness, lest we be imprisoned by one limited experience that can blinker us. This expansion of consciousness is not the denial or destruction of desire so much as it's broadening and perfection.

Safeguarding reminder EduCare (now part of Tes) leaflets can be downloaded from our website at <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/diocese/safeguarding-in-our-parishes/>



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