



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 1949

26th June – 3rd July 2021 – 13th 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: Wis 1:13-15; 2:23-24, Cor 8:7.9.13-15, Mk 5:21-43

Entrance Antiphon: All peoples, clap your hands.
Cry to God with shouts of joy!

Psalm: I will praise you, Lord, you have rescued me.

Intercession: Lord in your Mercy

Response: Hear our Prayer!

Next week: Ezek 2:2-5, 2 Cor 12:7-10, Mark 6:1

Ramblings This week we encounter Jesus ready to heal, restore good health and also restore life. Trailers for what Jesus would do on the Cross that healed the division between us and God and restore us all to the fulness of life. Jesus always healed and gave life for a purpose. He restores life and heals so that we might do the same for others. What St Paul calls creating a balance. The more we receive, the more we need to give to create a balance and harmony in the world: a balance necessary for all forms of life, not just human life. The crisis facing us because of the imbalance we have caused the natural world by taking, taking, taking, and not giving back, presents us with a tremendous task. Fortunately, nature is only too ready to respond to whatever measure we take to offer healing. The natural world is so much more forgiving than we are and a true reflection of its Creator.

Detailed research has shown that **Nature heals:** Being in nature, or viewing scenes of nature, reduces anger, fear, and stress and increases pleasant feelings. Exposure to nature not only makes you feel better emotionally, it contributes to your physical wellbeing, reducing blood pressure, heart rate, muscle tension, and the production of stress hormones. It may even reduce mortality. Nature also **soothes, restores** and helps us **connect to each other**. Nature is an eminently tangible reflection of how Christ heals and gives life.

May this eternal truth be always in our hearts, that the God who breathed this world into being, placed stars into the heavens and designed a butterfly's wing, is the God who entrusted his Son to the care of ordinary people; became vulnerable that we might know how strong is the wonder of Love.

A mystery so deep it is impossible to grasp.
A mystery so beautiful it is impossible to ignore.

Diary Dates

Sun 27 June – Sat 3 July
10am Mass in the church.
Tues 29 June Sts Peter & Paul
Masses at 7.30am and 10am
Wed 30 June
6pm – Feed Up Warm Up – Scout Hall
Sat 3 July St Thomas

Contactless in the Parish

You will notice that we now have contactless giving device/s in our Parish church. 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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The gardening team plan to restart gardening sessions on Saturday 10th July and would be delighted to welcome any new members, especially as there is much to do following the lack of attention we have been able to give the gardens over the last year or so, due to Covid implications. The outline timing is 9am - 12pm with a sociable tea and coffee break mid-morning, but volunteers are very welcome to join in whenever they can make it during the session.



Our Lady Primary School Prayer Book The whole school community has contributed to a prayer book created by the Chaplaincy Team. If you would like to purchase one please do so via the parish office.

£3 for one prayer book

£5 for two prayer books

All money raised from the prayer books will go towards the new prayer garden.



Other items

Please visit the Diocesan website at <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/> where you can find out further details and information about the current vacancies. New vacancies will continue to be added to the website as and when they arise, so please check the website regularly for updates.

A message from a parishioner to see if you would be interested in emailing Bim Afolami about the continued plastics crisis in the UK. A few facts below from Greenpeace, followed by the link to email Bim (with an email text already provided, which people can personalize and add their details so he knows it comes from a constituent). This situation all seems such a shame when we so diligently separate our plastics at home for recycling.





Less than 10% of UK household plastic is actually recycled in the UK.


Well over half of the household plastic packaging the government claims is recycled is sent abroad, most of it going to countries with very low recycling rates and a serious problem with plastic waste being dumped or burned illegally. Unbelievably, the amount the UK sends abroad is the equivalent of three and a half Olympic swimming pools every single day.

If the UK produced half as much single-use plastic, we could end waste exports, and send less plastic into incineration and landfill. The government should commit to a 50% reduction in single-use plastic by 2025 – and supermarkets and major brands must deliver it if we're going to properly protect people and the planet from plastic pollution.


Click here to email Bim <https://act.gp/35DK5zE>

 As a military man who has given half a century of active service I say in all sincerity that the nuclear arms race has no military purpose. Wars cannot be fought with nuclear weapons.
Lord Louis Mountbatten, 1900–1979, Admiral and statesman

 Love of the Trinity. God the Father created me. He has given me His Son who gives himself to me so that I may learn to know and adore His Father. The Son also gives me His Spirit, who is God and will make up for my lack of knowledge and will cry from within me; "Father, Father" When do I propose to enter into this new life?

 **AMORIS LAETITIA THE JOY OF LOVE 237** *Passionate Love - The erotic dimension of love*
Sexual desire is not something to be looked down upon, and 'there can be no attempt whatsoever to call into question its necessity. Id. Catechesis (24 September 1980), 4:Insegnamenti 111/2(1980), 719. St. John Paul 11

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

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	cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk }		
Pastoral Assistants	Robert Hitchcock	roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk }		
	Trish Bonnett	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