



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 1952

17th–24th July 2021 – 16th 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: Jer 23:1-6, Eph 2:13-18, Mark 6:30-34

Entrance Antiphon: See, I have God for my help. The Lord sustains my soul. I will sacrifice to you with willing heart, and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

Psalm: **The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

Intercession: Lord in your Mercy

Response: Hear our Prayer!

Next week: Kings 4:42-44, Eph 4:1-6, John 6:1-15

Ramblings The economy is always a top priority for a government even if they say the decisions are made for the good of the people. In fact, decisions are made in order to stay in power. The government decides what is good for the people, and, more often than not, they are wrong. Preaching often makes the same error. The preacher tries to help you understand the readings and tell you how you ought to live your faith, wanting to genuinely help you, but often miss the mark. Scripture challenges us. It challenges our faith, our understanding of God and the world, our relationships and how we live our lives. This can be very different from person to person. All a preacher can do is offer a perspective on the readings that hopefully offers a new way of reflecting on the challenges faced that is more helpful. In reflecting on scripture begin by asking: What does it tell you about God/Jesus? And: What challenge/response does it evoke in you?

Jesus recognised that his disciples needed to rest from their labours and to reflect and pray about all that had been happening; he needed time to do the same. When the people flocked to him, however, his tiredness left him and his heart took over. It suggests that Jesus was **energised**, not wearied by teaching and healing people. When Jesus asks us to reach out to others, particularly to the poor, he knows that we, too, will be enriched far more than the riches we give. Through the recent plague we have discovered that working with others is energising not wearisome. Our vision is enlarged, by seeing the inherent goodness, love and virtue in others, especially in those we reach out to and help. We no longer encounter a poor or destitute person, a homeless person, a refugee; we meet a brother and a sister having discovered they are family!

Diary Dates

Sun 18 July – Sat 24 July

10am Mass in the church

Sun 18 July



10.30am Mass Baptism of Elizabeth Gardener-Smith during Mass.

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2pm Baptism of Emily Squires

Tue 20 July

7pm Eucharistic Service – our first service since last year face to face where we consider the readings for the next Sunday and pray for our needs and those of others. We will share communion under both kinds in a covid safe way. We will still offer this as a Zoom at the same time. If you wish to have the link please email Trish.



Wed 21 July

6pm – Feed Up Warm Up – Scout Hall

Thurs 22 July St Mary Magdalene

Fri 23 July St Bridget of Sweden

Bishops' guidance for our churches to Step 4 of the road map

As the country moves into Step 4 of the Roadmap, the guidance emphasises that responsibility is now held at the local level by understanding of the local situation of the virus and its transmission (along with vaccination rates etc.) and by making a risk assessment built around the principles. You can find a statement from the Bishops and the full guidance from them on the parish website <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/coronavirus-information-and-updates/>

It is important that over this period of transition we help people to feel as safe in our church as

they have done over the last sixteen months. A gradual easing of restrictions is suggested with some ongoing mitigation of risk: hand sanitising continues to be provided, face-coverings are strongly recommended to be worn and general cleaning will continue. Whilst there will be no legislation about social distancing, we are intending to maintain the church as it is presently for the coming time. Some people will be ready to exercise maximum freedom, others will be more cautious and need more time and we do this for the good of all the people in the parish.

There remains no Sunday obligation but you are very much encouraged to come to Mass whenever you would like, during the week and/or Sundays. We have Masses at 6pm Saturday for the anticipated Mass, and 8.30am and 10.30am on Sunday.

The Pastoral team will meet to discuss the plan for our church over the coming week and will report back to the parish when we have done so.

Other items of interest

The Quakers would like to commission a sculpture designed by two boys from HBS for their peace garden. It will cost £5000 to have it made in stainless steel by a professional sculptor. The aim is to make the Peace Garden and its sculpture attractive to anyone walking by, of any religion or none. They are hoping to crowd fund for this. There is absolutely no reason why you should donate to this! Except.....

- you might want to see something in Hitchin that you have personally contributed to

- you might want to help two schoolboys see their design come to fruition
- there isn't much public art in Hitchin - and this part of the town is particularly lacking
- a public garden brings the community together - it's free, it has places to sit, you can reflect on your own or meet up with others, you can watch nature and see beautiful things.
- you will be invited to the Opening Ceremony

If you wish to make a donation to this please put it in an envelope marked **Peace garden** and your name and contact details and leave with Cheryl in the parish office. See pics below.



Friends Meeting House



Dove pond in grounds






Model of Sculpture



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Please support Our Lady Immaculate and St Andrew Church - Hitchin on #easyfundraising, you can raise FREE donations when you shop online with over 5,000 retailers. It's simple and only takes 2 minutes to sign up!

	It is those who think they can solve deep-seated problems with bombs who are unrealistic. <i>Symon Hill, Coordinator, Peace Pledge Union</i>
	(Father d'Alzon on desire for holiness) The lover wishes always to please his beloved, and if my heart belongs entirely to Jesus this desire will be equal to my love for Him. Above all else, He wants me to be holy; if I do not strive to co-operate with this wish, there is something lacking in my love.
	AMORIS LAETITIA THE JOY OF LOVE 240 <i>Passionate Love - The erotic dimension of love</i> Sexuality is an interpersonal language wherein the other is taken seriously, in his or her sacred and inviolable dignity. Id. Catechesis (12 November 1980), 4:Insegnamenti 111/2(1980),1133. . 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 Pastoral Assistants Robert Hitchcock Trish Bonnett	cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk } 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

Every donation makes a difference.