



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 1953

24th – 31st July 2021 – 17th 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: Kings 4:42-44, Eph 4:1-6, John 6:1-15

Entrance Antiphon: God is in his holy place, God who unites those who dwell in his house; he himself gives might and strength to his people.

Psalm: You open wide your hand, O Lord, and grant our desires.

Intercession: We pray to the Lord

Response: Lord hear us!

Next week: Ex 16:2-4, Eph 4:17-20-24, John 6:24-35

Ramblings One of the freedoms allowed as we emerge from lockdown is the freedom to eat out together. Although food connoisseurs will write eloquently about food and ambiance, the real richness of eating out is the company, the conversation and being together. It is possible that the reason Jesus did not want to send the people off after feeding them was that he wanted them to talk about what they had experienced being with Jesus and listening to his teaching, while it was still fresh. Evidenced because, afterwards, they wanted to take him off and make him king. Fortunately, we know that Jesus is our king – a king who gives himself body and soul to us in the Eucharist, in the consecrated bread and wine that becomes his Body and Blood. It needs little effort to realise that we are of one mind, heart and soul, united by the Spirit in every Eucharistic meal. During the first lockdown, celebrating the Eucharist without people present made it extremely difficult to experience the presence of God. It became evidently clear how important your presence is in this meal and that communion really means being together. Preachers speak about love and truth, peace and goodness, the virtues and works of mercy, about the divinity and humanity of Christ and rightly so. But, without you, they are just words. You who are present (*including those present virtually*) make the words real because they are the lived experiences of your lives. **Thoughts from the Assumptionist Rule of Life:** *The Reign of Jesus Christ for us and our neighbour takes place in our common life (parish). However diverse our works and activities we continue to share in the life and mission of the community(parish). Fraternal-life (parish) has to be built every day. Welcomed as a gift from God, it requires a daily conversion for each of us that strengthens our fidelity and that of our colleagues. Our love for God and humanity is*

tested and manifested in the genuineness of our relationships. No one can experience the joy of this life unless he/she commits himself/herself to it totally.

Diary Dates

Sun 25 July – Sat 31 July
10am Mass in the church
Sat 24 July
2pm Baptism of Annie Hamilton Davy
Sun 25 July
2pm Baptism of Hope Jones
Mon 26 July St Joachim & St Anne
Wed 28 July
6pm – Feed Up Warm Up – Scout Hall
Thurs 29 July Sts Martha, Mary & Lazarus
Sat 31 July St Ignatius Loyola

Plan for the future

After discussions in the Pastoral team there will be some changes taking place in the church over the coming weeks.

We are asked by the Bishops to continue to provide hand sanitizer and face coverings are strongly recommended to be worn in church. We will continue with daily fogging of the church and other cleaning required when necessary. We will continue to have every other pew blocked off but from next weekend there will be no divide in the centre of the active pews and parishioners are asked to fill the pews from the middle and leave a socially distanced space between different households.

From 6pm Mass on 31st July the congregation will come out for communion. Starting from the front row to the back you will come out into the centre aisle and go up to the altar to receive communion and then return back to your pew via the far walls. The area around the font will come

up for communion after the two big banks of pews have finished. Initially the stewards will help with this movement until everyone is in the routine.

We also need to continue with the **track and trace system** so you are still required to use the QR code on the NHS app or sign in on the sheets for weekday Mass or be ticked off by the stewards for weekend Masses.

Sunday 5th September we will reintroduce the choir at the 10.30 Mass and congregational singing is permitted but face masks must be worn. There will be no singing at the 6pm or 8.30am Masses. Altar servers will be invited to have update training over the summer in preparation for their return to service in September.

We will also be writing to those groups who used to organise the coffee mornings after Mass to see if they would like to start up again in September.

All changes will be subject to the prevailing conditions locally for the virus.

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Other items of interest

A group of young Christians (18-30s) are organising a Relay, walking from the G7 in Cornwall (13th June) to COP26 in Glasgow (1st November) for climate justice. People are joining the Relay from thousands of different churches all along the route. Walkers can be of all ages but to be one of the leaders you have to be under 30!

The Relay reaches London on 2nd August and Hertfordshire on 10th August. There will be overnight stops in the parishes of Ashford, Twickenham, Muswell Hill, Borehamwood, Hemel Hempstead and Tring.

Two events are being hosted on behalf of the Diocese of Westminster in Central London **on 6th August** – a vegan lunch at Farm Street Church, Mayfair, at 1pm followed by a walk to Westminster Cathedral and an Ecumenical Climate Prayer Service at the Cathedral at 3.30pm.

***Friday 6th August, 1-3.30pm** : YCCN Climate Relay Lunch at Farm Street and Walk to Westminster**Cathedral* –

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/163375276851>

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***Friday 6th August, 3.30-4pm**: Ecumenical Climate Prayer Service at Westminster Cathedral Welcoming the YCCN Relay* –

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/163372454409>

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Arts & Crafts fair at St Mark's Church on Sunday 15 August 1 - 5pm. 14 stalls offering a wide range of arts, crafts, vintage collectibles, books and bric-a-brac, from church members, other churches and charities - please tell your friends and family about this and come along for a sociable afternoon where they can also hopefully raise some funds. Refreshments will be available.

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"The time for action is now"

Environment Bishop will say at Justice & Peace Conference 23-25 July 2021

Fr Tom will be attending this event. For full details of what is being covered go to

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/liv>

[e-simply/](https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/liv)



(Fr Emmanuel d'Alzon) ,Before I can love Jesus Christ I must know Him, and to know Him I must study his perfections. I will find this knowledge in the Sacred Scriptures, of which He is the pivot and goal; "The purpose of the Law is Christ" Rom 10:4



AMORIS LAETITIA THE JOY OF LOVE 241 *Passionate Love - The erotic dimension of love*

In his catecheses on the theology of the body, St. John Paul II taught that sexual differentiation not only is 'a source of fruitfulness and procreation' but also possesses 'the capacity of expressing love: that love precisely in which the human person becomes a gift.' .Id. Catechesis (16 January 1980), 4:Insegnamenti 111/1 (1980),151. . St. John Paul II

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