



CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

16 Nightingale Road, HITCHIN, SG5 1QS
(In the care of the Augustinians of the Assumption)



Newsletter No 1729

8th - 15th April 2017 – Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord (A)



Mass Times	
Saturday anticipating 6pm	
Sunday 8.30am, 10.30am and 5pm	
Monday – Saturday 10am	
Reconciliation Saturday 10.30am during Exposition	
Contacts	
Parish Priest Fr Tom O'Brien	07547 171570 thomasobrien@rcdow.org.uk
Fr Euloge Kasine	07424 004647 eulogeka@gmail.com
Fr Michael Lambert Counselling Support	07958 575442 michaellambert@rcdow.org.uk
Pastoral Assistants Trish Bonnett	Tel: 01462 459126 trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk
Susanna Hawksley Catechetics	susannahawksley@rcdow.org.uk
Parish Administrator Cheryl Saunders	Tel: 01462 459126 cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk
Parish Office Tel: Mobile: Website: E-mail:	01462 459 126 07547 171570 parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin hitchin@rcdow.org.uk
Parish Safeguarding Representative Trish Bonnett Telephone: 01462 459126 (Parish)	

Diary

Sunday 9th	Coffee Morning – UCM
Monday 10th	Christian Meditation Group LCR 11.45am
	Passover meal Hall 7.30pm
Tuesday 11th	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am
	Eucharistic Service Church 7.15pm
	Choir Practice Church 8pm
Wednesday 12th	Rosary Group for All Hall 9.30am
	Praise Group LCR 10am-12pm
	Confirmation 6-8pm and Mass of the Last supper rehearsal Church 7.30-8pm
Thursday 13th Maundy Thursday	Morning Prayer Church 10am
	Italian Club Hall 1pm
	Christian Meditation Group UCR 6.30pm
	Mass of the Last Supper Church 8pm
Friday 14th Good Friday	Morning Prayer Church 10am Walk of Witness
	Veneration of Cross Church 3pm
Saturday 15th	Vigil Service 3pm
Sunday 16th	Coffee Morning – One World Group



If you are going into hospital please take a copy of the leaflet in the church porch and notify the RC Chaplain Rev. Anthony Curran (Deacon) on Tel: **01438 285138**
Via text message: **07876 526935**
Email: chaplaincy.enhtr@nhs.net

If you are in Pinehill Hospital, please contact the parish directly. When you come out of hospital or if you are ill and housebound please ring the parish office so we can minister to your needs if required.

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If you have a need for prayer, please contact Mary on 07759195487 and let her know your prayer intentions.

Parish Prayer Bless this parish, Lord. Let our community reflect your own communion of love. Help us to live peacefully and humbly, attending to the call of your Spirit and mindful of our duty to everything you have created. Strengthen the bonds of our families and friendships with patience and kindness. Make us joyful messengers of your kingdom and a source of comfort for those in need.

Readings Is 50:4-7, Philip 2:6-11, Matt 26:14-27:66

Entrance Antiphon The children of the Hebrews, carrying olive branches, went to meet the Lord, crying out and saying: Hosanna in the highest.

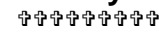
Psalm: **My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?**

Intercessions: Let every tongue acclaim
Response: **Jesus Christ is Lord!**

Next week: Acts:10:34.37-43, Col3:1-4, John 20:1-9

This week's counting teams:

Sunday Team: 5 Monday Team: 3



No cash for the collection? Just text Parish HITCH to 70800 to donate £5.



Faith Development Helpline

If you (or someone you know) needs to chat about your faith or have been feeling lost ring

07582 648433

Tues/Wed/Thurs 8pm-10pm.

Confidential service provided. No need to identify yourself



If someone close to you has died our Bereavement Team is specially trained to help. You can contact them through the Parish Office on 01462 459126.

Ramblings for reflection

Celebration, adulation, joy, praise, and uplift are all part of this exciting entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, after all, we much prefer celebrations even in the midst of sorrow or suffering. Celebration lifts our hopes, inspires, and creates the belief that anything is possible, and we all need those times in life. Jesus lived the present moment better than anyone and would have fully rejoiced with the people, whatever the future held. And the crowd were right! Jesus was the Son of David, the Messiah, the Christ. Jesus entry signified the authority and triumph the people saw in him. But, Jesus did not come as a victorious General or Conquering King but humbly, on a donkey. He had risen through the ranks, experiencing all the problems and difficulties of life, just as they had. He was one of them, and today they were backing him to be their Champion who would set them free from oppression, injustice and foreign rule. And they were right again! Jesus would be victorious, just not in the way they expected! Jesus victory would not involve violence, force, war or political wheeling and dealing as seen in the subsequent history of the Church. Steadfast to his Father's call Jesus sought to create right relationships, uphold the truth, and risk injury, not cause it, to achieve justice for the poor. Christians still follow this narrow path despite the consequences, suffering and rejection they encounter. The best tribute we can pay to Jesus, to show our deep gratitude and that he did not endure his passion in vain, is to join him on his last journey and be present at the defining events of the triduum: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. Holy Week needs to be lived, we need to be present, because the victory it offers stretches way, way beyond understanding and knowledge.

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Watching and Waiting at the altar of repose

After the Mass of the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday we will have a vigil at the altar of repose until midnight. Please sign up on the sheet for a slot to be with the Lord after the Mass.

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Following the appeal at all Masses last weekend we are still looking for people to help as follows:

Shadowing the senior servers this Holy week on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and at the Easter Vigil.

Pre-Mass support at weekday and all weekend Masses to help set up the altar and be on hand during the Mass to direct the altar servers if required.

Please speak to any of the pastoral team if you are willing to help.

There will be a second collection Easter Weekend in aid of Holy Places.

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For **Holy Week Services** times please take a copy of the sheet in the porch or you can find it on the home page of the parish website.

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Help and plants needed for the Altar of repose On Maundy Thursday (13th April) after 10am morning prayer we will be setting up the altar of repose in the hall. We need help moving the altar there and we need large plants to decorate the 'garden'. If you can spare an hour from ~10.30am please turn up. Plants can be left in the sacristy corridor.

April 22 10.30 am Earth Day 2017 Know the Creator through Creation: The livesimply team invite you to a session of prayer, discussion, video and reflection using the materials from the Catholic Climate Covenant.

April 23 2pm church car park The **livesimply team** are collaborating with the local Triangle Community Garden committee to take part in a Litter Picking event along Grove Road and the river. Please come and join us.



Dates for Diary

Monday 10 April

7.30pm Passover supper in the hall for those who have signed up.

Wednesday 12 April

Praise Group, after Mass in LCR. All are welcome.

AMORIS LAETITIA - THE JOY OF LOVE 26

The experiences and challenges of families (cont)

In some countries, many young people 'postpone a wedding for economic reasons, work or study. Some do so for other reasons, the desire to avoid the failures of other couples; or because of fear of something they consider too important and sacred; the social opportunity and economic benefits associated with simply living together, a purely emotional and romantic conception of love; the fear of losing their freedom and independence, and the rejection of something conceived as purely institutional and bureaucratic.' We (the Synod) need to find the right language, arguments and forms of witness that can help us reach the hearts of young people, appealing to their capacity for generosity, commitment, love and even heroism, and in this way inviting them to take up the challenge of marriage with enthusiasm and courage.

