



CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

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



AUGUSTINIANS
OF THE
ASSUMPTION
Thy Kingdom Come



24th March – 31st March 2018 – Palm Sunday Passion of the Lord

Mass Times

Saturday anticipating 6pm

Sunday 8.30am, 10.30am & 5pm

Monday – Saturday 10am

Exposition Thursday 7pm-8pm

Reconciliation Saturday 10.30am during Exposition

Contacts

Parish Priest

Fr Tom O'Brien

07547 171570

thomasobrien@rcdow.org.uk

Fr Euloge Kasine

Assistant Priest

07424 004647

eulogeka@gmail.com

Fr Michael Lambert

Counselling Support

07958 575442

michaellambert@rcdow.org.uk

Fr Andrew O'Dell

Retired Priest

01462 459126

Pastoral Assistants

Trish Bonnett

also Safeguarding Rep

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

Diary

Sunday 25th

Coffee Morning – Gardening Group

Confirmation Session 9 Hall - 6pm

Monday 26th

Beavers 6-7pm

Parents and Toddlers – Hall 9.30am

Meditation UCR - 11.45am

Cubs 7.15-8.15pm

Passover Meal - Hall - 7.30pm

Tuesday 27th

Scouts 7-9pm

Morning Prayer Church - 9.30am

Bethany Club Hall – 10.30am-3pm

Eucharistic Service - 7.15pm

Choir Church 8pm

Wednesday 28th

Rosary Church - 9.30am

RCIA EC - 7.30pm

Thursday 29th

Brownies 6.30-7.45

Holy Week Service sheet applies

No Christian Meditation Group

8pm Mass of the Last Supper

Friday 30th

Holy Week Service sheet applies

No Parents & Toddlers

Good Friday

No Lectio Divina – EC 2pm

Saturday 31st

Holy Week Service sheet applies

Sunday 1st April

Coffee Morning – Zoe's Place

Easter Sunday

Readings: Is 50:4-7, Philip 2:6-11, Mark 14:1-15:47

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?

Intercession: Lord come to our help

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: 4

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The CTH Easter service times booklet are available for us to distribute along various roads as soon as possible. Please take a pack (or two) for early delivery.

Faith Development Helpline

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

07398821315

Tues/Wed/Thurs 8pm-10pm.

Confidential service provided. No need to identify yourself

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Hospital

If you are going into hospital please take a copy of the leaflet in the church porch and notify the Chaplain 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.



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 How quickly things change! From triumph to tragedy. From 'Hosanna to the son of David' to 'Crucify him! Crucify him!' How could this happen to Jesus? Yet, we are easily persuaded by the majority, the loudest speaker or by what we see and hear! Too easily we believe that we were wrong about someone brought low and look to place the blame elsewhere! Why doesn't Jesus defend himself at his trial before Pilate? Pilate appeared to be looking for any reason to defend Jesus and defy his accusers, but Jesus would not comply. In the end, Pilate blamed his accusers for crucifying Jesus, and, to our shame, we did the same for hundreds of years. Only Jesus was man enough (and God enough) not to blame anyone, quite the opposite, he offers forgiveness. What is more, Jesus takes all the hatred, bitterness, cruelty, inhumanity, anger, our fears and self-seeking, and transforms them into new life, into a resurrection that opens up a totally new future. It is as though Jesus sucked in all the evil humankind could throw at him and breathed out goodness and love, hope and possibility; creating a freshness - a 'Spring' - that promises a newness only too eager to reveal itself. The great challenge is that we are invited to pass through that same depth of despair that makes us cry out with Jesus "My God, my God, why have you deserted me!" and still trust in God when all seems lost. Only then will we truly experience the gift of life that Jesus won for us!!

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There will be a second collection this weekend in aid of Easter Flowers for the Church

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There will be a second collection on Good Friday in aid of Holy Places (taken in all churches around the world). Our collection goes specifically to maintain the Holy Shrine of St Peter of the Cock Crow which is run by the Assumptionists. They believe this to be the house of Caiaphas and that Jesus was held there overnight before his trial and crucifixion.

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Many thanks for your kind and generous donations to CAFOD last weekend. £325.98 was raised.

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Cheques for Easter Collections - It would be appreciated if cheques for the Easter collections are made out to the Parish - i.e. Our Lady's Church and not to the Order. This will make accounting more straightforward. Please be assured that all such donations will end up in the right place.

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Stations of the Cross on Good Friday rehearsals Sunday 25/3 3pm and Wed 28/3 6.30pm. The service is at 6.30pm on Good Friday. A must to come to.

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Altar of repose We need help on Maundy Thursday morning after morning prayer to set up the altar of repose (move the altar from the bereavement area into the church hall and set up the plants around it to remember Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane. If you have any large green plants you could lend for this display please could you bring them to the church on the by 10.30am on Thursday 29th March. You can take them back anytime on Good Friday or Holy Saturday.

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Watching and Waiting with the Lord following the Mass of the Last Supper will be in the hall. Please sign up for a slot on the board in the porch.

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Thursday's meditation and Friday's lectio divina group(s) will not be meeting during Holy Week or First week of Easter - meetings recommence Thurs 12th and Friday 13th April at usual times.

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Easter Monday Pilgrimage to St. Albans - A group of us from Hitchin will be walking to St. Albans, mainly on footpaths. We will meet at The Three Moorhens carpark at 7:15am, aiming to leave at 7:20am in order to arrive in time for the service which begins at 3.00pm. Bring a picnic lunch. Walkers will need to make their own arrangements for transport home. It will also be possible to join in at various points along the route. For further details speak to Roger or Naomi Morris - 01462 458073).

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A Sunday Missal was left in the Church last weekend. If it belongs to you, please collect it from the Parish Office. Many thanks.

Diary date

Monday 26th March

11am Mass at Stagenhoe. Trish is unable to give a lift to this event. Apologies.

AMORIS LAETITIA - THE JOY OF LOVE 73
The family and the Church The experience of love in families is a perennial source of strength for the life of the Church. 'The unitive end of marriage is a constant summons to make this love grow and deepen.' (Relatio Finalis 2015, 49-50)

