



# 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 & 5pm  
Monday – Saturday 10am  
Exposition Thursday 7pm-8pm  
Reconciliation Saturday 10.30am  
during Exposition

Newsletter No 1833

6<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> April 2019 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent – Year C

**A prayer for Yemen** Giver of life, who hears the cries from Yemen: of mothers choosing between medicine or food; of parents grieving children lost to starvation; of those who have given up everything in hunger. In your mercy, soften hardened hearts, change closed minds. Let people come before power. Let life be holy again. Let your justice and peace shape the lives of all people. Amen.

**Ramblings for Reflection** I believe nothing can happen that will outweigh the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. (Phil 3:8) We get to know people by living and sharing life alongside them. The more time we spend together, the greater the bond and the greater the innate ability to see through their eyes, feel with their feelings, know how they would react given certain situations. This is why we make our Lenten journey with Christ, encountering Jesus in the Gospels each day. St Paul did this after his conversion and every day thereafter. The more one is aware of Christ's presence, the more it becomes essential to discover that presence in every situation and circumstance. And there's the rub! Some situations not only seem devoid of God's presence, they seem to contradict the understanding of a loving God, a God of life who wants the best for us. The most obvious is the death of someone loved dearly, especially when that person is young. Remember! Jesus felt forsaken by the Father at his death! When Jesus said he would return to take us with him he did not before we have died. Jesus does not take us when we are alive but is there to welcome us on the other side of death. This makes Holy Week so important. We have to make that journey with Jesus, experience his suffering, his anxieties, even his despair. For then we will discover that Jesus is there for us whenever we have to make that same journey, experience that same abandonment, knowing that the end result is **RESURRECTION!**

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We pray for Luke Hobson whose funeral is on Wed 17 April 2019 at 1.30pm here at Our Lady's Church. May he rest in peace and rise in glory and may the Lord comfort his family.



**Readings: Is 43:16-21, Phil 3:8-14, John 8:1-11**

**Entrance Antiphon:** Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

**Psalm:** What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad

**Intercession:** Lord hear us

**Response:** Lord graciously hear us!

**CAFOD Emergency Cyclone Idai Appeal.** We will be holding a second collection this weekend for it. Your donation will give food, clean water and healthcare to people in desperate need. Gabriele, our expert working with the Church in Mozambique at this time, tells us, "We know that Idai has wiped out crops and livestock, damaged water supplies and wrecked sanitation facilities, leaving vulnerable families even more exposed. Your donation will give food, clean water and healthcare to people in desperate need. With the support and generosity of the Catholic community, we can reach the people who really need urgent, emergency aid."

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**Offertory Envelopes** for the new Tax Year 2019/2020 come into effect this weekend. If you use Offertory Envelopes and you have not picked them up yet, they will be available for collection in the Porch before and after each Mass this weekend. If you don't already use Envelopes and you would like sign-up to use them, you can do so at this time.

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The **Easter service sheet** is available for collection in the porch. This information is also on the website. Please note that there are two services of reconciliation next week on Wed 10 April at 7.30pm and Thurs 11 April at 2pm.

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**BAPTISM COURSE** The second part of the current Baptism preparation course will run on **Sun 7 April from 3:30pm - 4:30pm**, followed by the Rite of First Anointing at the 5pm Mass.

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## Diary Dates

Sun 7 April			
<b>Coffee Morning – UCM</b> ††††††††††			
<b>3.30pm Baptism Course Hall</b>			
Mon 8 April			
Parents & Toddlers Hall	End of Term	Beavers Scout Hall	End of Term
Christian Meditation Grp	11.30am EC	Cubs Scout Hall	End of Term
<b>7pm Church rehearsal for the Stations of the Cross.</b>			
Tues 9 April			
Morning Prayer Church	9.30am	Scouts Scout Hall	End of Term
Bethany Club	10.30am	Eucharistic service	Church 7.15pm
<b>8pm Choir Practice in Church</b>			
Wed 10 April			
Rosary Church	<b>9.30am</b>	RCIA EC	End of Term
<b>10.35am Praise Group – LCR.</b> All who love singing are welcome. We sing with enthusiasm with the help of a guitar, choosing the hymns from the last month's liturgy. ††††††††††			
<b>2.30pm Mass at Foxholes.</b> All welcome. ††††††††††			
<b>6.30pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hut.</b>			
Thurs 11 April			
Italian Club Hall	1pm	Brownies Scout Hall	End of Term
Christian Meditation Group	6.30pm EC	Choir Practice	Church 8pm
Fri 12 April			
Parents & Toddlers Hall	End of Term	Lectio Divina EC	2pm
Sat 13 April			
<b>9am Marriage Prep - Hall</b>			
Sun 14 April			
<b>Coffee Morning – Diapalante</b>			

## Future Events



### Mon 8 April - #Teamseraph

Calling all Walkers - be that with a dog or just a stroll! Come and support Team Seraph at King George's Playing Field, Old Hale Way, Hitchin. Walk 5 laps for £5. Walk 10 laps for £10.

Meet at 9am or 4pm at Tennis courts. If you can't make the date and would like to donate £10, text **Seraph** to **70085**. Raffle and light refreshments.

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**Fri 12 April Day of Prayer for Survivors of Abuse** - The Catholic Bishops' Conference of

England and Wales is encouraging the Catholic community to take part in a day of prayer for survivors of sexual abuse. For resources and prayers; <http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/day-of-prayer-abuse-survivors-120419> or see the events page on the parish website and click on the link.

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**Mon 15 April 7.30pm - Passover Meal** in the Church Hall. To celebrate Passover is to do what Jesus did with his disciples at the Last Supper. It is a chance for us

to understand our Jewish roots and our Christian Eucharist more deeply. The Passover Meal is a family occasion and children form an integral part of the proceedings, so all are very welcome.

You need to bring a number of things with you: **a baked potato for each person, cooked and wrapped in foil (to keep warm), sufficient wine for 4 toasts, soft drinks/water, cutlery, plates and glasses for each person.** Roast lamb is provided. (You can bring salad and toppings for the potatoes as well – to share with those around you, if you wish.)

It is a wonderful way to begin Holy Week. All ages welcome. Please sign up on the board in the porch as we need to know numbers by **8<sup>th</sup> April** so that we can order the meat.

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**Thurs 18 April 10:30** - 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 18th April. You can take them back anytime on Good Friday or Holy Saturday.



**19 April - Good Friday** As usual we mark this sacred day with a Walk of Witness and United Service. We gather in Bancroft Gardens at 10.30 am for prayer then walk behind three crosses along Bancroft and High Street for the service, led by our ministers with songs accompanied by musicians from Zeo Church, at 11 am.

**Hot cross buns will be distributed along the route and in Market Place.**



This year the Hot cross buns distribution is down to our church. Trish will not be at the Walk of Witness this year as she will be performing in the Passion at Trafalgar Square (which will be

streamed live in our church at 12pm). So she needs help to organise this. She can arrange to get the hot cross buns but she needs people to help separate them and give them out along the route and in the market square. We will put them into paper towels or bags.

Therefore, we need a few people who will be willing to meet early on Good Friday morning to prepare these and then help with the distribution along the walk and in the square. Please let Trish know if you can be one of these people. **She won't be able to do this without our help.**

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**Sat 11 May 11.30-3.30 - Model for Marriage Enrichment** – Teams of Our Lady. This November the GB Province of Teams of Our Lady (TOL) are celebrating the 60th Anniversary of their foundation at Westminster Cathedral. To mark their Jubilee Year, MFL Westminster



have, on behalf of Bishop Nicholas Hudson, arranged a day focused on this model for marriage enrichment and growth. Please join us at Vaughan House, Westminster, to learn a little more. To book a place please email [family@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:family@rcdow.org.uk)

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**Christian Aid Week Ickleford** - This year the house to house collection date is **12 - 18 May**. An Area Leader is needed to distribute envelopes, etc., to the collectors in the village. Rev. Ian Stears Handscomb has retired, having done it for some years, and has raised about a thousand pounds each time. If anyone is interested in knowing more please contact Helen Richardson [helenwrich@btinternet.com](mailto:helenwrich@btinternet.com) or tel 07880682681.

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**Mon 6 May 10am** - The annual Mass for Migrant People will take place this year on Bank holiday Monday at Westminster Cathedral, with Bishop Michael Campbell OSA presiding. There will be a banner procession at 10am, with Mass starting at 10.30am. Further information and a poster will follow nearer the time.

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**Sat 11 May 7:30pm CHRISTCHURCH QUIZ NIGHT** for Christian Aid, Christchurch, Bedford Rd, Hitchin. Fish/sausage and chip supper, Vegetarian option Tickets £11, No food £5 Teams of 6-8 For tickets contact: Sue Covington (452985) [suecov63@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:suecov63@hotmail.co.uk)

### **Other Items of Interest**

**Churches Together in Hitchin (CTH)** needs a new treasurer – not an onerous job - as a volunteer. If you have a little time to spare each month to help, please let Trish know.

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**Saving Hitchin from Plastic bags:** Helen Richardson of CTH has started a scheme, with support from local shops and Hitchin Initiative, to provide homemade Borrow Bags for when people have gone into town without a bag. It saves buying a plastic one. The bag is used and returned to any of the shops who have them. She needs help to make more bags. She has the printed Borrow Bag labels to stitch on. Do contact her if you can help or need more information. Helen Richardson: [helenwrich@btinternet.com](mailto:helenwrich@btinternet.com) or tel 07880 682681

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St Michael's Catholic Grammar School in North Finchley is appealing to parents of Year 5 Catholic girls who may be considering applying to take the entrance tests in September 2019. St Michael's is expanding by an extra 32 places. Priority is going to be given to girls who are "Pupil Premium". This means girls who are having, or have had, free school meals because of low income or could be eligible to apply for free school meals. If you think your daughter could be in this category and you would like to find out more about the school and how to apply, the school invites you to attend on Tuesday 14 May 2019 at 7pm in the school hall. **This is a specific evening targeted at support only for families in this category.** There is an open afternoon and evening for all parents on 27 June 2019 at 3.30pm and 7pm.

[Office@st-michaels.barnet.sch.uk](mailto:Office@st-michaels.barnet.sch.uk)  
[www.st-michaels.barnet.sch.uk](http://www.st-michaels.barnet.sch.uk)

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**The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE)** is keen that people take

part in a Government consultation on a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) for packaging. Please see their website for details:

<https://www.cpre.org.uk/>

The actual consultation website is: <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/environment/introducing-a-deposit-return-scheme/>

More details on the parish website.

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If you or your friends and family are looking for a new opportunity at the Diocese of Westminster, please visit the website <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/>

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**MEDJUGORJE IRISH CENTRE PILGRIMAGES APRIL - OCT 2019:**

7 nights B&B and Airport Shuttle service from Dubrovnik or Split for €279 per person sharing.

Book any flight - any time and we provide guaranteed airport shuttle service.

Call us for further info and book the dates that suit you. Tel. 020 3239 8662 or email

[reservations@med-irishcentre.com](mailto:reservations@med-irishcentre.com)

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If you want to stay on top of what is going on in the parish you can be first to see new entries

on the parish website. Go to the home page (see above), scroll down and towards the bottom, on the right hand side, you can sign up for email alerts. Click on the link, add your name and email address and you are all signed up. (please note you do not get an alert every time a change is made to the website. We send you an alert if it is an event or update of particular interest).

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A way to support Our Lady's is now available to us - through text giving on your mobile phone !! Just text **Parish HITCH to 70800** to donate £5. This amount will be added to your phone bill and the Parish will receive 97p for every pound donated. This is not intended to be an alternative to giving by Standing Order or Envelopes or the Loose Plate even but rather to provide an easy way to make an extra donation to top-up your regular giving or to give if you have no cash to hand or to give if you are just visiting the Parish. At the moment, only donations in multiples of £5 per text are available and the donation cannot be Gift Aided. Thank you in advance for your support of this new scheme but please do not text during Mass !!

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Don't forget to continue to recycle and raise money for good causes. If you haven't already taken one, please grab a poster with all the details from the porch and put it up where it will remind you to bring things when you come to church. Remember that Diapalante also collects old *working* pens, pencils and crayons for sending to needy families so please bring them in whenever the One World Group or Diapalante have a coffee morning. Any added to the other recycling container are tested and separated for this. Pam Brannigan will also take working ones!

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

**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

**AMORIS LAETITIA - THE JOY OF LOVE 123**

*Our Daily Love - Love rejoices with others*



Love 'rejoices in the right'. We rejoice at the good of others when we see their dignity and value their abilities and good works. This is impossible if we are always comparing and competing - even with our spouse or siblings.

**Contacts** for email details see <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/contact/>

**Parish Priest** Fr Tom O'Brien  
07547 171570

**Assistant Priest** Fr Euloge Kasine  
07424 004647

**Parish Administrator** Cheryl Saunders  
**Pastoral Assistants** Susanna Hawksley  
Trish Bonnett

**Parish no** E-mail: [hitchin@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:hitchin@rcdow.org.uk)  
**01462** Website: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/>  
**459126**

This week's counting teams:  
**Sunday Team: 6 Monday Team: 3**



If you are going into hospital please notify the Chaplain on Tel: **01438 285519** or Email: [spiritualcare.enh-tr@nhs.net](mailto:spiritualcare.enh-tr@nhs.net)