



# 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 1836

27<sup>th</sup> April – 4<sup>th</sup> May 2019 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter - Year C

**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. Amen

**Ramblings for Reflection** Of the two appearances of Jesus this week, focus on the first: Receiving the breath of God and the power to forgive, which we all received this Easter. Since sin is anything that destroys life or cuts us off from God, then, visiting a lonely person can mean setting them free from isolation, from feeling unloved, forgotten. We received power to restore dignity, value and self-worth; show them that they are important enough to be visited. We have received this power because Jesus breathed his power into us. So, Jesus words *“Those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven and those whose sins you retain, they are retained”* make sense. Forgiveness is linked with visiting the lonely person or the person ignored or neglected by society – the sick, the imprisoned, the disadvantaged, the marginalised. To retain the sin means ignoring them, not setting them free in any shape or form - failing to fulfil our responsibility. The power of forgiveness, then, is not about choosing which sins to forgive. Jesus believed all people are open to forgiveness. We will be judged by those people we failed to set free because we failed to act!! *“Let us be renewed by God's mercy, let us be loved by Jesus, let us enable the power of his love to transform our lives too; and let us become agents of this mercy, channels through which God can water the earth, protect all creation and make justice and peace flourish.”* (Pope Francis 2013).

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Thank you all for your ever kind and generous donations to the various second collections we hold. A sum of £244.55 was raised on Good Friday for the Holy Land. Also, the Cardinal's Lenten Alms Appeal raised £653.22.

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**Readings Acts 5:12-16, Apoc 1:9-13.17-19, Jn 20:19**

**Entrance Antiphon:** Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

**Psalm:** Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

**Intercession:** Lord hear us

**Response:** Lord, graciously hear us!

**Next week: Acts 5:27-32.40-41, Apoc 5:11-14, Jn 21:1-19  
21:1-19**

## Passion of the Christ Trafalgar Square

Thanks to all who attempted to see this on Good Friday. There was a problem and it did not screen properly until about halfway through to view it the youtube link is <https://youtu.be/tbsZk02CUZ8>

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**On Easter Sunday,** bomb blasts across Sri Lanka targeting churches and hotels killed more than 350 people. The appalling nature of the Easter Sunday bombings means that many families will need support over the coming days, weeks and indeed years to come to terms with the loss of their loved ones. Caritas Sri Lanka has already established psychosocial centres to spearhead the trauma counselling that is now urgently needed in affected communities. Local aid experts on the ground have years of experience in counselling and they will work with the surviving families to provide practical assistance. Other partners who work on the ground with all communities are using their contacts to spread the message of peace and harmony and so calm anger and prevent retaliatory attacks on the Muslim communities – especially in Negombo where the worst loss of life occurred. We will hold a second collection this weekend after all Masses.

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**May 4<sup>th</sup> 10:45am Sacrament of Reconciliation for First Holy Communion children** Before your child receives the sacrament of Holy Communion, he or she must receive the sacrament of Reconciliation. This morning has been organised for them to do so. Members of the parish are welcome to come to the sacrament but are asked to allow the children to receive it first, on this occasion

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Thanks to everyone that supported the Super Seraph Dog walk event organised by Gius Walker. She raised £583. £89,000 more to go.

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**Lost Property** – there are pictures of the major items that are still in the lost property on the news page of the website. Please claim them by next weekend as they will then be recycled appropriately.

**Diary Dates**

**Sun 28 April**

**Coffee Morning** – St Elizabeth's

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**6pm Confirmation Session 11 Hall**

**Mon 29 April St Catherine of Siena – Patron saint of Europe**

Parents & Toddlers Hall	9.30am	Beavers Scout Hall	6pm
Christian Meditation Grp	11.30am EC	Cubs Scout Hall	7.15pm

**Tues 30 April St George, patron of England (moved due to Easter octave)**

Morning Prayer Church	9.30am	Scouts Scout Hall	7pm
Bethany Club	10.30am	Eucharistic Service	cancelled

**Wed 1 May**

Rosary Church	9.30am	RCIA EC	7.30pm
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**11am Mass** at Elmside. All welcome.  
**6.30pm Feed Up Warm Up** Scout Hut

**Thurs 2 May**

No Italian Club		Brownies Scout Hall	6.30pm
Christian Meditation Group	6.30pm EC	Choir Practice	Church 8pm

**10am St Pio Mass** followed by meeting in the LCR. All welcome

**All Day - POLLING STATION HALL**

**Fri 3 May SS Philip and James – Apostles**

Parents & Toddlers Hall	9.30am	Lectio Divina EC	2pm
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**Sat 4 May English Martyrs**

**10.30am Reconciliation** for first communion candidates Hall/Church. See note above

**Sun 5 May**

**Coffee Morning** – Bethany Club

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**6pm Confirmation Session 12 Hall**

**Other items of interest**

St Francis Ramblers invite you to join them on their walk on Saturday 4 May. Meet St Neots station (walkers' train due in at 1011 [calls Hitchin 0950]). Distance 11 miles with lunch stop (at The Offord Shoe, 90 High Street, Offord D'Arcy), finishing at St Neots. Please call Paul on 07847 282626 for more details. For more information about the club:- <http://www.stfrancisramblers.ukwalkers.com>

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Reminder - Cardinal's Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony, Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 8 June 2019 at 3pm.

The Cardinal will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 5th 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2019. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give your parish clergy the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email). Please note, date for names and details to be submitted has been extended to **Monday 29 April 2019**

**To donate to Our Lady's through text giving on your mobile phone !!**

**Just text Parish HITCH to 70800 to donate £5.**

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 126**

*Our Daily Love - bears all things* Paul says love 'bears all things' (panta stegei). The verb can mean 'holding one's peace' about what may be wrong with another person. It implies limiting judgment, checking the impulse to issue a firm and ruthless condemnation."



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

<b>Parish Priest</b> Fr Tom O'Brien 07547 171570	<b>Assistant Priest</b> Fr Euloge Kasine 07424 004647
<b>Parish Administrator</b> Cheryl Saunders <b>Pastoral Assistants</b> Susanna Hawksley Trish Bonnett	<b>Parish no</b> 01462 459126 E-mail: <a href="mailto:hitchin@rcdow.org.uk">hitchin@rcdow.org.uk</a> Website: <a href="https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/">https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/</a>

This week's counting teams:  
**Sunday Team: 3 Monday Team: 2**



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)