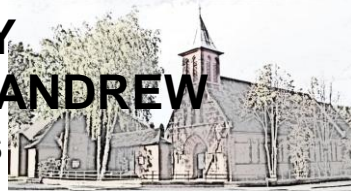


CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

16 Nightingale Road, HITCHIN, SG5 1QS

(In the care of the Augustinians of the Assumption)



Our church is closed in the current coronavirus pandemic. **Daily Mass is posted as an audio file to the homepage of the parish website by 10am daily.**

All sacramental programmes have ceased at present.



Newsletter No 1885

4-11 April – **PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD** – the gospel according to Matthew

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: [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?

Intercession: We pray to the Lord

Response: Lord, hear us!

Next week: [Acts:10:34.37-43](#), [Col3:1-4](#), [John 20:1-9](#)



Ramblings It seems that this year is the first time Wimbledon has been cancelled since 1945. Fortunately, this will not happen to Easter. The great loss this year will be the Walk of Witness that takes place throughout the land on Good Friday. Not only because the absence of this witness to Christ crucified will be lost but because it is one of the great testimonies to the increasing unity that is growing among the Churches and proof that Jesus does lead us into Unity. This year we are gifted with the possibility of much more time for reflection. Quite rightly, we focus on the inhuman sufferings that Jesus endured but isn't this an indication of how much he wanted to help us and of his desire to do the Father's will? It is too easy to treat lightly the depth of despair that Jesus reached but it was real, not virtual. It was his faith and trust in the Father that pulled him through. Seeing his Mother and the women present along with John would have also helped. This is why it is so important for us to make this journey of the Passion with him each year so that we, too, will learn from his faith and trust in the father when life became impossible, when we too reach the depth of despair that he did. It also reminds us of the importance of friendship and of being present for others in difficult times and enlisting their presence when we are in that situation. Although the Cardinal has asked us not to bless the palms this year, we need to celebrate the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem to better enter into the despair that Jesus experienced when nearly all his trusted and beloved friends left him alone. Nothing is too much for Jesus in the support he gives to us. Let him be our model in helping those around us knowing that Jesus will never, never, never desert us!!

Imagine the Scene Bruce Levitan

If it wasn't for the pain
you might almost think the scene inspiring.

If it wasn't for the blood
you could almost imagine them smiling.

If it wasn't for the tears
you would think the women were praying.

This isn't the scene of paintings
though, God knows, there are enough.
This is God dying,
and no amount of imagination
comes close to our experiencing
what He did for us.

Diary Dates

Wed 8 April

6pm – Feed Up Warm Up – Scout Hall

Programme for Holy Week

Please note we are working on a solution to live stream these services via FaceBook. We will let you know when we have that up and running.



Palm Sunday Mass will be available to be heard by 10am on Sunday. There will be no blessing of palms during this Mass. Our priests will read the

Passion in three voices.

Other notes:

1. Susanna Hawksley's daughter Theodora will be reflecting on suffering and bereavement on the Sunday service on Radio 4 at 8.10am this coming Sunday.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000h28l>

2. **What if everyone on Sunday April 5 in the morning, puts a branch on the door of their house or in the window, to celebrate Palm Sunday? It could be any green branch you can find. Despite the social distancing, this would help keep us connected as we enter into the Holiest of Weeks. We may be physically isolated, but not separated. We are united as the Body of Christ. We are the Church.**



Maundy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper will be on Thursday at 6pm celebrated by Fr Euloge. This will be available to be heard after 8pm. The

priests will renew their priestly commitment during the mass. This is usually done at the Chrism Mass in the cathedral. The Washing of the Feet will be omitted and there will be no procession to the Altar of Repose. The reserved Sacrament will be kept in the Tabernacle.

Other notes:

St Chad's Cathedral in Birmingham will be the focus of national coverage of Watching on Holy Thursday: www.stchadscathedral.org.uk



Good Friday service will be at 3pm. Fr Andrew will be leading this service. In the solemn intercessions there will

be a special prayer for the afflicted in times of a pandemic.

Other notes:

Wintershall will be streaming a pre-recorded film on Good Friday at 12pm and 3 pm. It will include clips from their Wintershall Passion plus rehearsal clips/interviews from the One Good Friday teams, as well as an interview with Peter Hutley and messages from Cardinal Vincent Nichols and Bishop Jo Bailey Wells.

You can watch from the comfort of your own home this year, on their Facebook page here (you don't have to be on Facebook to see it) <https://www.facebook.com/Wintershallplay> and afterwards on the Wintershall website Passion page.

<https://www.wintershall.org.uk/passion-jesus-london>

Warning.....They make a promise during this film to be back bigger and better in 2021!



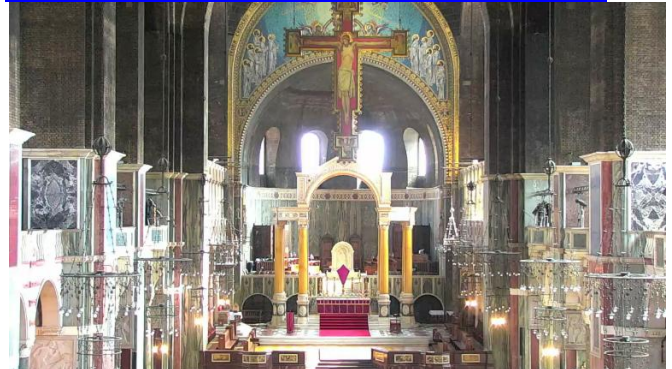
Easter Vigil will be at 7pm on Saturday. This will be available to be heard by 9.30pm. Following the Greeting, the Lucernarium,

the preparation of the fire will be omitted, and the Paschal Candle will be lit and placed in the candlestand without a procession. The Easter Proclamation (the Exsultet) follows immediately. Since there is no procession, this part of the Vigil will take place in the Sanctuary. The Paschal candle is enthroned in the centre of the church.

The Liturgy of the Word follows, noting the requirements of the readings, psalms and prayers. The Renewal of Baptismal Promises will be made but there will be no blessing of water.

Holy Week Programme at Westminster Cathedral (Live Streamed)

<https://www.churchservices.tv/westminster>



Sunday, 5th April 2020 - Palm Sunday

- 10:30** Mass with Cardinal Vincent Nichols
- 16:30** Vespers & Benediction
- 17:30** Evening Mass

Monday, 6th April 2020 - Holy Week

- 09:00** Morning Mass
- 12:00** Holy Hour
- 17:30** Evening Mass

Tuesday, 7th April 2020 - Holy Week

- 09:00** Morning Mass
- 12:00** Holy Hour
- 17:30** Evening Mass

Wednesday, 8th April 2020 - Holy Week

- 09:00** Morning Mass
- 12:00** Holy Hour
- 17:30** Evening Mass

Thursday, 9th April 2020 - Maundy Thursday

- 17:30** Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper with Cardinal Vincent Nichols

Friday, 10th April 2020 - Good Friday

- 15:00** Celebration of the Passion of the Lord with Cardinal Vincent Nichols
- 18:00** Stations of the Cross

Saturday, 11th April 2020 - Holy Saturday

- 20:30** Easter Vigil with Cardinal Vincent Nichols

Sunday, 12th April 2020 - Easter Sunday

- 10:30** Mass with Cardinal Vincent Nichols
- 16:30** Vespers & Benediction
- 17:30** Evening Mass

Parish Mailing This week Trish has been stuffing envelopes all week so that every parishioner on the parish database receives the following:

- A pastoral letter from Fr Tom
- A pastoral letter from Cardinal Vincent
- A letter about how to continue your offerings to the church from the co-ordinator of gift aid
- A copy of the prayer sheet **No one is alone!** Prayer when confined to your home
- A sheet with the data we hold on you in the parish asking you to make any amendments necessary or confirm is correct to return in a reply paid envelope. This will help us undertake a much needed audit on our database in line with General Data Protection regulations (GDPR)
- A reminder of the buddy system if you would like someone to regularly keep in touch with you and / or do shopping, collect prescriptions etc if you are not able to get out.

We do hope that you find this helpful.

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Normally we would be having our Passover meal this Monday evening and we certainly will miss that but last year at the meal we showed a youtube clip. This group, Six13 (there are 613 *mitzvots* or commandments in the Jewish tradition), is made up of Jewish men who are dedicated to singing about their faith. They have a strong Jewish identity; their mission is to connect Jews around the world with their heritage, through music. This isn't an irreverent skit; it's a real attempt to teach about Passover in a way that is fun.

We wanted to share it with you again.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Q7Jo7FkLH4>



[Six13 - Uptown Passover \(an "Uptown Funk" adaptation for Pesach\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Q7Jo7FkLH4)

Susanna has found another great version by the same group which might appeal to children too. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qervY5HSzqM>



Other items of interest

Cardinal's Media Interviews and Articles

On Thursday, a video was released of the Cardinal in conversation with Archbishop Justin Welby and Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis on the effect of the pandemic on the closure of places of worship, how this is affecting our prayer life and ending by praying Psalm 23 together. Here is a link <https://youtu.be/xoVD2pegDJA>

Over the coming days, the following are also scheduled:

Today, 4th April: The Times *Credo* column
Good Friday: The Telegraph opinion column

Easter Sunday

Catholic Universe Easter edition: front page interview
BBC Radio 2 at 7.30am
Sunday Service on BBC Local Radio stations at 8am
BBC Radio London 9.30am
BBC Radio 4 The World This Weekend at 1pm

- The Cardinal has recorded a video message about Easter Duties and Confession. The video, along with a BSL version, is available at <https://rcdow.org.uk/cardinal/news/cardinal-obligation-to-easter-duties-removed-this-year/>

These links can also be found on the parish website. The four key pages at the moment are the homepage, where you can find the link to the daily Mass, the Coronavirus page, the Prayers and Positive readings page and the Good news page (***we could do with a lot more of your personal good news stories. Please email Trish***). We try to keep these updated at all times.

Healthy Hub provides Coronavirus support in North Herts

North Hertfordshire District Council (NHDC) has tailored its Healthy Hub service to provide residents with information, advice and support in response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.



The Foodbank is no longer accepting donations of food. They are only asking for monetary donations which they are using to provide supermarket vouchers for the needy. Thank you for your generous response so far. If you would like to donate you can do so at <https://www.goldengiving.com/secure/direct-debit/create/lethworth-foodbank>

This will include how to:

- stay mentally well and physically active whilst staying at home
- access essential items such as food and medication
- receive financial support
- entertain and engage children
- stay socially connected
- volunteer your help

Residents can contact the Healthy Hub by calling the hotline on 01462 474111 which is open from Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm. Alternatively, send an email to: healthyhub@north-herts.gov.uk or visit the website: www.healthyhubnorthherts.co.uk

 <small>AUGUSTINIANS OF THE ASSUMPTION The Kingdom Come</small>	<p>Brother Patrick Duffy spent most of his life in the kitchen. He was cook first of all in France, then in England where he provided for the novices and students. Despite the rationing he always managed to provide healthy food.. Humble and quiet service marked Brother Patrick.</p>
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To donate to Our Lady's through text giving on your mobile phone !!
Just text **Parish HITCH** to **70800** to donate £5.

<p><u>Faith Development Helpline</u> 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</p>		<p>AMORIS LAETITIA THE JOY OF LOVE 174 Our Daily Love - Conjugal Love - Joy and Beauty Beauty - that 'great worth' which is other than physical or psychological appeal - enables us to appreciate the sacredness of a person, without feeling the need to possess it.</p>
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If you have a need for prayer, please contact *Mary* on 07759195487 and let her know your prayer intentions

Parish Priest Fr O'Brien 07547 171570	Assistant Priest Fr Kasine 07424 004647	Euloge Parish 01462 459126 E-mail: hitchin@rcdow.org.uk Website: https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/
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Parish Administrator Cheryl Saunders	cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk	
Pastoral Assistants Robert Hitchcock	roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk	
Trish Bonnett	trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk	

<p>This week's counting teams: Sunday Team: 4 Monday Team: 3</p>		<p>If you are going into hospital please notify the Chaplain on Tel: 01438 285519 or Email: spiritualcare.enh-tr@nhs.net</p>
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