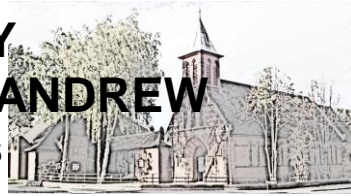


# CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

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 1886

11-18 April – EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION – 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:** Acts:10:34-37-43, Col3:1-4, John 20:1-9

**Entrance Antiphon:** I have risen, and I am with you still, alleluia. You have laid your hand upon me, alleluia. Too wonderful for me, this knowledge, alleluia, alleluia.

**Psalm: This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad.**

**Intercession:** Lord in your Mercy

**Response:** Hear our Prayer!

**Next week:** Acts:2:42-47, 1 Peter 1:3-9, John 20:19-31



## Ramblings Easter Sunday A 2020 A New Dawn. Light from Light

For those who cycle, every day this week has been better than the day before. In fact, if there had been no cars or lorries, it would have been one ideal experience after another. There were other cyclists out and about, people were out walking, singly and in pairs, families together, dog walkers, and the odd runner here and there. People were patiently queuing at a safe distance from each other, awaiting a shop to open. It was as though the world had come to its senses at last, ceased its senseless rushing about and

begun to listen to life all around, and happy with what it found. There was an ease, peace and gentleness about everything. This was Easter come early for sure – without the Easter eggs . . . But it wasn't! There was something missing, something radically wrong. Idyllic as it may have seemed, there was an unspoken and silent cry yearning to be heard. It was as though everything was fixed at a moment in time waiting expectantly for something to happen, not quite knowing what, but wanting it all the same. In human terms many would have called it: *to be set from the LOCKDOWN!* **We would call it RESURRECTION!!**

I have a hard time imagining Easter this year without your presence here . . . . then I was reminded of a story told by Anthony de Mello SJ about listening. Before the vigil begins, I will pause and listen to the alleluias that I know will be singing in your hearts and wait until they fill the whole evening of prayer with joy, praise and welcome for the Risen Christ – a true brother, a true Saviour who is ringing out life for you, for me, and for everyone.

**THE TEMPLE BELLS:** *The temple was built on an island and it had a thousand bells. Bells big and small, fashioned by the finest craftsmen in the world. When the wind blew or a storm raged, all the bells would peal out in a symphony that would send the heart of the hearer into raptures. But, over the centuries, the island sank into the ocean and, with it, the temple bells.*

*An ancient legend said that the bells still rang out ceaselessly, and could be heard by anyone who would listen. Inspired by the legend a young man travelled thousands of miles, determined to hear those bells. He sat for days on the shore facing the vanished island and listened with all his might. But all he heard was the sound of the sea. He made every effort to block it out but to no*

avail; the sound of the sea seemed to flood the world. He kept at his task for weeks. Each time he got disheartened he would listen to the village pundits as they spoke with unction of the mysterious legend. Then his heart would be inflamed . . . only to become discouraged when weeks of further efforts yielded no results.

Finally, he decided to give up the attempt. Perhaps he was not destined to listen to the bells. Perhaps the legend was not true. It was his final day, and he went to the shore to say goodbye to the sea and the sky and the wind and the coconut trees. He lay on the sand, and for the first time, listened to the sound of the sea. Soon he was so lost in the sound that he was barely conscious of himself, so deep was the silence the sound produced. In the depth of that silence, he heard it! The tinkle of a tiny bell followed by another, and another and another... till every one of the thousand temple bells was pealing out in harmony, and his heart was transported with wonder and joy.

- If you wish to hear the temple bells, listen to the sound of the sea.
- If you wish to see God, look attentively at creation.
- Don't reject it; don't reflect on it. **Just look at it.**

**If you want to hear the joy and alleluias of Easter sung laughingly by Jesus, he is singing in the hearts and lives of you, me and others throughout Hitchin and beyond. You just have to listen!!**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Jesus is Risen!**

**He is risen indeed!!**

**Alleluia!!**

††††††††††

**European Bishops call faithful to give a sign of hope Apr 10th, 2020**



**Source: COMECE**

*"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)*

Ahead of Easter Sunday celebrations, Cardinal Jean-Claude Hollerich SJ and Cardinal Angelo Bagnasco, respectively Presidents of the Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Union (COMECE) and of the Council of the Bishops' Conferences of Europe (CCEE), invite all Catholics to spread a message of hope by lighting a candle at their window on Easter eve.

"It is a small but significant and symbolic message of hope in this historical and dramatic moment in which millions of people in Europe and the rest of world are affected by much sufferance and uncertainty caused by the Covid-19 pandemic" - state the two leaders of the Catholic Church in Europe.

This initiative also aims at reinforcing the sense of community in the EU and all European countries. The current context of fear leads us to be wary of the other, who is perceived as a potential danger. "More than ever," say the two Cardinals "we must cultivate the furrows of brotherhood: it is together and united that we will overcome this scourge."

On 12 March 2020, when the World Health Organisation (WHO) officially declared the outbreak of coronavirus a pandemic, the two Church leaders raised a common prayer to God for help, comfort and salvation. On that occasion, the two Cardinals joined Pope Francis in reiterating the closeness of the Church to all those struggling due to the pandemic: the victims, their families and all healthcare workers, volunteers and faithful who are in the frontline, caring for those affected and bringing them relief.

††††††††††

**Joint statement  
from Church leaders  
in Britain and Ireland**



### **Holy Week Statement from British and Irish Church Leaders**

God's world is in the midst of an unprecedented crisis. In the nations that make up Britain and Ireland the Covid-19 virus continues to affect people at an alarming rate, health services along with many of our institutions and organisations, both local and national, are under extreme

pressure and people are getting used to living in a very different way, many in extreme isolation. As with all such crises, there is a danger that the most vulnerable in society will be most badly affected.

Christians the world over are entering an important time in the church year as we look to the events of Jesus Christ's death and resurrection. At the centre of our common faith are both the depths of despair and the heights of joy. In the Bible and in the songs and liturgies of the Church, we see Jesus entering fully into human suffering. In His rising again, that suffering is redeemed and transformed into hope and joy. After Jesus' death his disciples were afraid and all seemed lost and hopeless, but the risen Christ met them in their despair and restored hope through his victory over death. We pray that the world today might know this hope in place of despair.

In the Book of Daniel we read about God's people being taken into exile in Babylon. Daniel could not pray in the Temple in Jerusalem, but he continued to pray in exile – opening his window to face Jerusalem. Though he was on his own he joined with the prayers of the people wherever they were. Now we too are separated from each other physically, but when we pray in our homes we join in with this ancient tradition of our home as a place of prayer. Wherever we are, whenever we pray, when we speak and think of Christ, there he is in the midst of us. We join our prayers with all those who pray in our own churches and communities and around the world.

As church leaders from across the many and varied churches of these Islands we urge all people to join us in prayer this Holy Week and Easter; to pray for those who suffer, those who face untimely death and all those who care for them; to celebrate our common faith at a difficult time; to help and support our neighbours in need; and to observe all the safeguards in place to slow the spread of disease.

### **Our Prayer**

***Loving God, in Jesus Christ, who died and rose again for our salvation, cast out the darkness of our anxiety, fear and mourning, enfold us in your love and give us joy and hope this Easter. Amen.***



**7pm The Easter Vigil service for tonight** will be available to watch following the links on the website <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/holy-week-triduum-services-in-our-ladys-church/>

Or going directly to our facebook page where it will be live streamed.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/OurLadysHitchin/>

It will also be available to listen to after the event at

<https://soundcloud.com/user-270729464>

### **Diary Dates**

<b>Wed 15 April</b>
<b>6pm – Feed Up Warm Up – Scout Hall</b>



Fr Etienne Pernet, one of Father d'Alzon's first companions and founder of the Little Sisters of the Assumption. He saw the need not only of nursing the sick poor but also the need to keep the family going while a worker was ill. His sisters nurse, care for the home, cook and so on. His cause for beatification has been introduced.

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

**07398821315**

Tues/Wed/Thurs 8pm-10pm.  
 Confidential service provided.  
 No need to identify yourself



**AMORIS LAETITIA THE JOY OF LOVE 175**

Our Daily Love - Conjugal Love - Joy and Beauty  
 In a consumerist society, the sense of beauty is impoverished and so joy fades. Everything is there to be purchased, possessed or consumed, including people.



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

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

**Assistant Priest** Fr Euloge Kasine  
 07424 004647

**Parish 01462 459126**  
 E-mail: [hitchin@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:hitchin@rcdow.org.uk)  
 Website: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/>

**Parish Administrator** Cheryl Saunders [cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk)  
**Pastoral Assistants** Robert Hitchcock [roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk)  
 Trish Bonnett [trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk)



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



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)