



CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

16 Nightingale Road, HITCHIN, SG5 1QS

(are of the Augustinians of the Assumption)

Newsletter No 1936



Daily Mass at 10am is open to the public and is livestreamed on [Livestream Mass](#) and posted to the homepage of the parish website by 11.30am daily. If you can come another day please leave Sunday for those who can't.

27th March – 3rd April 2021 – PALM & PASSION SUNDAY - Year B the gospel according to Mark

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

Psalm: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Next week: Acts:10:34.37-43, Col3:1-4, John 20:1-9



Ramblings Palm and Passion Sunday

"He was without any comforts of God
— no feeling that God loved him
— no feeling that God pitied him
— no feeling that God supported him.
God was his sun before
— now that sun became all darkness...
He was without God
— he was as if he had no God.
All that God had been to him before was taken from him now.
He was Godless — deprived of his God.
He had the feeling of the condemned, when the Judge says:
"Depart from me, ye cursed,"
"who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his power."
He felt that God said the same to him.
Ah! This is the hell which Christ suffered.
The ocean of Christ's sufferings is unfathomable...
He was forsaken in the [place] of sinners.
If you close with him as your surety, you will never be forsaken...
"My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"
[The answer?] **For me — for me.**"
Robert Murray McCheyne

Mass attendance over the past week

Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri
25	53/25*	19	13	16	19	15

*Livestream attendance

Holy Week Services PB – Please book

Sunday 28th March Palm Sunday Masses

10am **Limited space** 12pm **Plenty space** PB

Mon - Weds 29th – 31st March Mass 10am

Thursday 1st April Maundy Thursday

10am Morning prayer

7pm Mass of the Last Supper **Space** PB

Friday 2nd April Good Friday

10am Morning prayer

11am-2pm Private prayer with Stations of the Cross at the top of each hour.

3pm Passion of the Lord **Fully booked**

4-6pm Private prayer with Stations of the Cross at the top of each hour.

Saturday 3rd April Holy Saturday

10am Morning prayer

7pm Easter Vigil **Plenty space** PB

Sunday 4th April Easter Sunday Masses

10am **Space** 12pm **Plenty space** PB

Diary Dates

Mon 29th March – Wed 31st March

10am Mass in the church.

Wed 31 March

6pm Churches Together 15 minutes of prayer each Wednesday in Lent at 6pm. The last in the series, is led by the Rev Val Reid of Christchurch on the theme 'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.'

The Zoom joining instructions each week are as follows

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84078666759?pwd=eVovOHBWUkJFYTCydXhlcTNnRGdRUtO9>

Meeting ID: 840 7866 6759

Passcode: 768859

Wed 31 March

6pm – Feed Up Warm Up – Scout Hall

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Confession during Holy Week

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available in the garden with Fr Euloge and Fr Tom by appointment after 10.30 on most days. During Holy week we advise the following **Please telephone (not text) Fr Euloge (07424 004647) or Fr Tom (07547 171570) after 2.30pm** in the afternoon to make appointments for after 10.30am on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of Holy Week (next week).



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Cheques for Easter Collections. It would be appreciated if cheques for the Easter collections (which go to the priests) 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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There will be a second collection on **Good Friday** for the **Holy Land**. This supports the beleaguered Church in the Holy Land. Giving to this is a visible sign of our support to those who live the Christian faith in difficult circumstances in the land of its birth. There will be a basket by the doors inside the Church. Many thanks for your continued generosity during these difficult times. There are details of the importance of this on [Holy Week Services](#)

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GIFT AID - TAX REBATE CLAIM

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We will shortly be submitting the tax rebate claim for money donated to the Church under the Gift Aid Scheme in the tax year ending April 2021. If you have signed up for Gift Aid but no longer pay tax, please inform either David, our Planned Giving & Gift Aid Organiser, or Cheryl, our Parish Administrator, through the Parish Office so that we do not submit an inappropriate claim.

If you are not sure whether or not you have signed up for Gift Aid or whether you have paid enough tax to cover what we will claim, David or Cheryl will be able to let you know. Similarly, if you have not yet signed up for Gift Aid, but would like to do so, it is not too late and you should contact David or Cheryl who will make the necessary arrangements for you. Also, can we take this opportunity to remind you that a Gift Aid

donation must be made in the name of the person who pays the tax on the money that is donated; if that is not the case, please let us know and alternative arrangements can be made. Last but not least, can we again say a big "thank you" to all of you who have signed Gift Aid Declarations as the tax rebate plays such an important part in financing the running of the Church particularly in these difficult times.

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Enter the #easyfundraising Easter Giveaway to give Our Lady

Immaculate and St Andrew Church - Hitchin the chance to WIN a £500 donation. You can enter too and increase our chances of winning! Simply click through to any participating retailer from the competition page to enter. You can also earn TWO extra entries if you make a purchase with any of them before 4th April. Enter now:

<http://efraising.org/Vf8KvV6SHQ>

A huge "thank you" to everyone who uses Easyfundraising to help raise funds. To date, we have raised £572.57!

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Diocesan Covid-19 Vaccination Confidence

Event: With the support of Local Authorities Westminster Diocese is hosting a webinar on **Saturday 27th March 2021 10am-11.30am** to encourage confidence in COVID-19 vaccination among all our communities. There is concern that BAME communities are less likely than White-British ethnic groups to accept vaccination. A group of Catholic clergy from BAME communities and medical professionals will share information on health and wellbeing in the context of COVID-19 and vaccines. All are welcome. You do not have to register to attend. **Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://zoom.us/j/92895192155>

Meeting ID: 928 9519 2155

Password: 844612

Other items of interest



Wintershall

@Wintershallplay - Nonprofit Organization

Wintershall news On Good Friday Wintershall will livestream the Passion performance recorded in Trafalgar Square in 2019 (the one with Trish in it!! Will you spot her) at 12 noon and 3pm, this will

be on their [Facebook page](#). They will also record a brief introduction to the livestream together with Cardinal Vincent Nichols and the Bishop of London which will be done early Good Friday morning from Trafalgar Square.

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Workshop online event Saturday 10 April from 11am to 12.30. 2021 is a critical year as world leaders decide how the world rebuilds from the pandemic. As Catholics we have an important role to play in calling for the world's poorest communities to be included. Join us to find out how to meet your MP as a parish group. Sat 10 April, 11am to 12.30; book at cafod.org.uk/mpmeeting

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A series of talks beginning on 20th April on the **Old Testament** by Fr John Deehan Bookings are through Eventbrite. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-old-testament-a-guide-for-the-perplexed-fr-john-deehan-series-tickets-147585890371>

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The Passage's mission and work is developing to cope with more people becoming homeless it is raising funds through the Big Give until Wed 31st March to support No Night Out a new initiative to take newly homeless people off the street straight away. Further details of the work is at www.passage.org.uk.


Double your Donation, Double your impact. This is a matched giving scheme for online donations. If someone (can be company, individual or trust) gave £10 online matched giving of £10 would bring the Gift up to £20 (and for individuals to £22.50 with Gift Aid with higher rate tax relief it may cost the donor less than £10). For more information ring Andrew Hollingsworth 020


75921886 andrew.h@passage.org.uk
Donate at <https://tinyurl.com/NoNightOut>

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Job vacancies in the Diocese can be found on the [Job Vacancy page](#) on the parish website.

 Today there is only one Assumptionist residence in Jerusalem but one all pilgrims should visit. St Peter in Gallicantu is on the site of the house of the High Priest. (Caiaphas). If Jesus was kept in prison overnight (our Maundy Thursday) it was most probably in the cell accessed originally through a hole in the ground. The first century stone stairway is part of the excavations available for pilgrims to see.

 **AMORIS LAETITIA THE JOY OF LOVE 224** *Passionate Love - The world of emotions*
Jesus was deeply moved by the sufferings of others (Mk 6:34). He felt deeply their grief (Jn 11:33), and he wept at the death of a friend (Jn 11:35). These examples of his sensitivity showed how much his human heart was open to others.

 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 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 } 01462 459126 press 4 Trish Bonnett trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk }
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 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
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