



# 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

Monday – Saturday 10am

Reconciliation Saturday 10.30am  
during Exposition. Most Masses are  
livestreamed [Livestream Mass](#)

## Newsletter No 1986

12<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> March 2022 – 2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT - Year C

**Prayer for Ukraine:** God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine; for peace and the laying down of weapons. Give comfort to those who fear for tomorrow. Grant wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide those who have power over war and peace. Hold and protect your precious children, at risk and in fear. We pray in the name of Jesus, Prince of Peace. Amen.

**Readings:** : Gen 15:5-12, 17-18, Phil 3:17-4:1, Luke 9:28-36

**Entrance Antiphon:** Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.

**Psalm:** **The Lord is my light and my help.**

**Intercession:** We pray to the Lord

**Response:** **Lord hear us!**

**Next Week:** Ex 3:1-8, 13-15, Cor 10:1-6, 10.12, Luke 13:1-9

**Ramblings** José Mourinho has long referred to himself as the “*Special One!*” Abram could well have adopted the same title but probably preferred to be called: *Chosen one*. This was the name the Father used speaking to Jesus on Mount Tabor: “*This is My Son, the Chosen One, listen to him!*” Paul is more adventurous in his letter to the Philippians. He called them God’s chosen ones. In baptism, we are called and chosen. Chosen to be Priests, Prophets and Kings like Jesus, our brother. Lent encourages us to think more deeply about what being ‘*Chosen*’ means. It is both a blessing and a privilege but it comes with responsibilities. Although we may never be called to suffer a Passion in the same way as Jesus, we are called to be healers and menders of brokenness in others. We are called to inspire hope, to encourage, affirm and inspire others as Jesus did. Above all, we are called to be instruments of God’s love so that others recognise how much God loves them and wants to help them realise their full potential. The special call, this Lent, is to be instruments of Peace in face of the hostilities in Ukraine. Let us not blame a nation for the hostilities created by one man. Let us not speedily condemn anyone for injustice before examining our own lives and the injustices with which we have corroborated, beginning with the destruction we have caused to the climate and creation. We now have the opportunity to show our remorse and ask forgiveness for all injustices by lovingly embracing the hardships imposed by the war. Let us be ready to help those unable to cope. Let it be our sign of repentance like that of the Ninevites. We may even cause God to relent and bring Peace more speedily to the sorely afflicted people of Ukraine!



Opportunities for communal prayer

**Tuesday** 11.30am Meditation Emmanuel Centre  
7pm Eucharistic Service Church

To Zoom click on [Eucharistic Service](#)

**Wednesday** 9.30am Rosary Church

**Thursday** 6.30pm Meditation Emmanuel Centre

**Friday** 10.30am Stations of the Cross Church

*All are welcome for private prayer at any time in the church which is open 8.30am - 7pm*

## Diary Dates

### Sun 13 March



After 8.30am & 10.30am Mass **KISS Coffee morning**. Tea & Coffee will be available in the hall with donations going to Disasters Emergency Committee via CAFOD to support their work in Ukraine -Please come and join us.

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11.30am New readers training in the church

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6.30 to 7.30 pm **CTH Theological Society** at St Mary's. Four speakers from different churches - Trish Bonnett, Sarah Crittenden, Fizz Gibbs and Paul Lanham - will speak on the theme of **Journeys and Pilgrimages**. Jane Robson of Tilehouse Street will be in the chair and there will as always be time for questions and comments.

### Mon 14 March

10.30am Lent Meeting Hall

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4.30pm New readers training in the church

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6pm Beavers & 7.15pm Cubs Scout Hall

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7.30pm PPC Meeting Church

## Diary Dates cont

<b>Tues 15 March</b>
<b>10.30am Coffee Morning</b> Hall +++++
<b>7pm Scouts</b> Scout Hall +++++
<b>7pm Confirmation Session 6</b> Hall
<b>Wed 16 March</b>
<b>2pm UCM</b> Hall +++++
<b>6pm Feed Up Warm Up</b> Scout Hall
<b>Thurs 17 March St Patrick</b>
<b>6.30pm Brownies</b> Scout Hall
<b>Fri 18 March</b>
<b>2-4pm Hitchin Pantry</b> Scout Hall
<b>Sat 19 March St Joseph</b>
<b>1-3pm Hitchin Pantry</b> Scout Hall



We are still working on a permanent solution to livestreaming the Mass again. We are moving to the **Ourladys Hitchinlsmass page**

from **Trish Bonnett**. Click here to access [Livestream Mass](#) It may not be daily initially but will try to establish that asap.

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**Thank you** to all those who supported last Sunday's coffee mornings. Just under £50 was raised for our Lady's Special Support Group. Parish groups hope to continue to provide refreshments on Sunday mornings after the 8.30 and 10.30 masses.



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We have a number of **Lent and Easter activity books** for infants and juniors in the porch priced

55p each. Please do take these for your children as soon as possible. Your money can be left in the pamphlets box just inside the church doors.

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On 19<sup>th</sup> March Rob Hitchcock and Br Adams attended the Pre-Synodal Assembly at Westminster Cathedral and found the day very rewarding.

The summaries for the day are now available for all to read and can be found at <https://rcdow.org.uk/synod/>. It makes very interesting reading.

The pastoral team in our parish have met three times to review all the sharings from our gatherings and are gradually implementing actions from what has been said by you.

## In response to the desire to see young people and children back in the Masses:

1. We will be bringing back the colouring boxes from next weekend. Children can take a colour pack and a liturgy specific colouring sheet. All packs should be returned after Mass and colouring sheets taken home to display. 😊
2. The Children's Mass will resume on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month. The first Mass will be on 27<sup>th</sup> March and the celebrant will be Fr Euloge. Next week we will publish the theme and we will ask that children bring something they have made or coloured to that Mass for a 'Show and Tell'
3. We are planning to have a one off Children's liturgy at the 10.30 Mass on Palm Sunday in the hall for all children and for the younger children with their parents. We will be making an appeal soon for helpers to lead and support the children's liturgy in the future. It can only happen if people support it.
4. We will be sending a **survey** out this coming week for young people to tell us what they want from the church and how we can meet their needs. Please do get your young people to complete this survey online as it will inform our actions in the future.

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We pray for **Anthony Kuzminas** whose funeral is on Tuesday 29 March 2022 at 2pm. May he rest in peace and rise in glory. May the Lord comfort his family.

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**Orpheus Choir 26<sup>th</sup> March 2022 7.30pm first concert in 2 years in our church! Tickets are £5 each** from the parish office. Seating will be on a first come basis. The music includes

*Benedicite* Vaughan Williams

*Locus Iste* Bruckner

*Crucifixus* Lotti

*Ave Maria* Verdi

*Ave Maris Stella* Grieg

*Cantique de Jean Racine* Fauré

*The Continental* Magidson/Conrad

*Over The Rainbow* Arlen/Harburg

*The Long Day Closes* Arthur Sullivan

*Wiegenlied* Brahms





Trish will need help on the evening in the following ways:

- Stewards to greet people and sell tickets on the door.
- People to help with tea and coffee in the interval (no money to handle as included in ticket price)
- Bringing cakes for the refreshments.
- Helping with clearing at the end.

**Please let Trish know if you are willing help in this way.**

### Parish Pals-YOUNG ADULTS SOCIAL

What- an opportunity to pray in front of the Blessed Sacrament and socialise

When: Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March @ 7pm

Where : Church

Why-you get to meet likeminded people

Who-(YOU) open to all 18+

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**Our new readers training courses begin this Sunday** with session 1 after 10.30 Mass and also on Monday at 4.30pm in the church. Session 2 is Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March and Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March. It isn't too late to join this – just let Trish know asap. The pastoral team would love to see **Family groups** reading at Mass – with a mix of voices delivering readings. If your family would like to do this please let us know and we can arrange for this to start happening and if you cannot make the training as above we'll arrange additional sessions.

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are very grateful to parishioners for all the contributions of tins, packets etc. We are noticing an increase in people who need help in providing for their families. Non-perishable goods can be placed in the named crate in the porch, fresh food can be brought to the Scout Hall on Friday and Saturday afternoons. At the moment we need:

- Cheese
- Butter
- Pizzas
- Washing powder
- Toiletries

If you would like your donations to be collected please ring Pam Brannigan (01462 632587)

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**Tuesdays during Lent** we meet at **7pm** in the church to consider the readings for this coming Sunday with material from the Diocese entitled **Encountering the Spirit** – Next Tuesday the

focus is **Mountain Top** with quiet reflective music. We pray for our needs and those of others. We share communion under both kinds in a safe way.

If you wish to have 45 mins of quiet with the Lord amidst the bustle of your life please do join us. The Zoom link to join us is [Eucharistic service](#)

Please email Trish if you want a copy of the service sheet sent to you.



**Our Lady Queen of Apostles** (141 Woodhall Lane, Welwyn Garden City AL7 3TP) are going to have a **Vigil of Prayer for Ukraine** on **Saturday 12th March after their 6pm Mass**. It will last from 7pm until midnight and will include Scripture and hymns, the Rosary and Stations of the Cross. The final hour will be before the Blessed Sacrament ending with Benediction at midnight. Everyone is most welcome.

If any of our parishioners would like to attend for any time during the 5 hours and are willing to give lifts to others please let Trish know and we can co-ordinate transport.

**AND**

**Walsworth Road Baptist Church** are opening their church for people to come and go as they will, and hopefully to stay and pray. This will be on Thursday evenings from 6.30-9pm each Thursday during March (and may be extended as the situation develops). There may be some led prayers, there may be some spontaneous open prayers, but there are few prescriptions, only a space with at least one person available as support/ host/ welcome, and one where people can come and reflect/ lament/ light candles/ write prayers/ etc as they feel appropriate.

We are not looking to collect physical contributions for Ukraine, but we are pointing people to supporting BMS World Mission and/ or Link to Hope (with whom we 'do' the Christmas Shoebox project - Link have projects both in Ukraine and in neighbouring countries where resources for Ukrainian refugees have been provided already).



## Other Dates

**Wednesday 13th April at 7pm, A Meditation for Lent** St Hugh of Lincoln Church, Letchworth Garden City.

Haynd's Passion - The Seven Last Words performed by the Jubilate Chamber Choir. Musical director: John Edwards.

Entrance is free but there will be a retiring collection in aid of Caritas Bakhita House to provide accommodation and support to women escaping human trafficking and modern slavery.

## Other items of interest



*Mothers Together*

Reflections on the Sunday Gospels through Lent given by members of Verbum Dei with a focus on motherhood.

Wednesdays 8 pm - 9:30 pm on Zoom  
9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th March 2022  
6th and 13 April 2022

For more information please email:  
[ARIKANA.MASSIAH@GMAIL.COM](mailto:ARIKANA.MASSIAH@GMAIL.COM)

Click below for a sign up form.

<https://forms.gle/TMiTZV6514ZZ8XeW6>

**The Passage**, a Catholic charity working with homeless people is raising funds through the Big Give a matched giving scheme from 12.00 noon on Monday 14 March. Every £1 donated online between 12.00 noon on Monday 14 March and 12.00 noon on Monday 28 March makes £2 and £2.25 if you are a taxpayer through Gift Aid. Please visit: <https://bit.ly/BigGiveMarch22> to support the campaign. The campaign 'It takes more than a house to make a home' focuses on the services we provide to people who have been homeless in their journey to being happily settled in a new home. The Passage would be very grateful for your support. For questions about the campaign or assistance making a donation please ring 020 7592 1856.'

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**CTH Council meeting** For various reasons, we have not been able to have a meeting of the Council this year but one is now planned for **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May, 7.30 pm** at Our Lady's Church. Father Tom, the CTH Chair, will invite us to reflect on the theme of Journeying Together, joining Catholics and others throughout the world as they go along what is officially called 'The Synodal Pathway'. More details in due course but do book the date now.

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**Churches Together in Hitchin Ash Wednesday lunch** Many thanks to all who came to the lunch at St Mark's. It was good to have this fellowship again after a two-year break and £210 was sent to Christian Aid

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**CAP Job Club on Wednesday 10am-12 noon each week** If you know of anyone looking for work, we are running an 8-week course. You can just turn up at Zeo Centre Bedford Rd, Hitchin SG5 1HX and receive help and support with job searching. For more info contact: [lsmith@capjobclubs.org](mailto:lsmith@capjobclubs.org) / mobile 07931833838



A double celebration. Fr Roland Imhoff at our house for elderly priests at Albertville, France, celebrated his 104<sup>th</sup> birthday on March 1<sup>st</sup> and his 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination the following day. Congratulations Father Roland.



**Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 274** Love made fruitful - love and pregnancy It is important for a child to feel wanted. A child is a human being of immense worth.

**Safeguarding reminder** EduCare (now part of Tes) leaflets can be downloaded from our website at <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/diocese/safeguarding-in-our-parishes/>



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

<b>Parish Priest</b>	Fr Tom O'Brien 07547 171570	<b>Assistant Priest</b>	Fr Euloge Kasine 07424 004647	<b>Parish</b> <b>01462 459126</b> 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>
<b>Parish Administrator</b>	Cheryl Saunders	<a href="mailto:cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk">cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk</a> }		
<b>Pastoral Assistants</b>	Robert Hitchcock Trish Bonnett	<a href="mailto:roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk">roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk</a> } 01462 459126 press 4 <a href="mailto:trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk">trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk</a> }		