



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. All Masses are
livestreamed [Livestream Mass](#)

Newsletter No 1988

26th March – 2nd April 2022 – 4th 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: [Josh 5:9-12](#), [Cor 5:17-21](#), [Luke 15:1-3,11-32](#)

Entrance Antiphon: Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

Psalm: **Taste and see that the Lord is good.**

Intercession: Lord, in your Mercy

Response: **Hear our Prayer!**

Next Week: [Readings Is 43:16-21, Phil 3:8-14, John 8:1-11](#)

Ramblings For many there is a part of life from which we struggle to be free. The part of life that prevents us from doing the things we want to do out of love of God and encourages us to do the things we don't want to do that causes God and ourselves unnecessary suffering. This the part of life that brings us into close contact and empathy with the prodigal son once he woke up to what he had done to his father and to himself. Yet, it was also this part of his life that led him to return and seek forgiveness and urged him to return to his family. Only in the depth of his sin did he recognise and gradually appreciate how much his father had loved him through his early life and how important that love had been to him. Surely, he would have entertained the thought that his father would be angry with him and reject him, knowing that he had every right to do so. Was it not his deep sorrow and desire that drove him to ask forgiveness and provided him with the strength to return even if he was sent away? Sorrow can be motivated for several reasons. Fear of punishment; a sincere desire to say sorry for wrongs done; and out of a deep love for the person offended and a desire for them to be healed for the hurt caused.

*Sometimes we keep the sin in our lives well protected, guarded, covered over with lies. Sometimes we are not free enough to own our sin, so we cannot be healed of it. An unacknowledged wound cannot be healed. Fortunately, truth has a way of waiting for us to come forth and confess the lies of our lives. It has a way of gazing at us until we can bear the look of truth no longer. **Macrina Wiederkehr.** And God is **TRUTH.***

Prayer diary

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

Sat 26 March

10am **Marriage Course** Hall

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10am **FHC Non-Faith Schools** Hall

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7.30pm **Orpheus Choir** Church – tickets on door

Sun 27 March

No coffee this week – apologies

10.30am – **Children's Mass** Can children please bring any of the following pictures

- Parents welcoming home their children from a trip
- Parents celebrating with their children
- Child asking for forgiveness

Mon 28 March

10.30am **Lent Ecumenical Group** Hall

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6pm **Beavers & 7.15pm Cubs** Scout Hall

Tues 29 March

10.30am **Coffee Morning** Hall

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7pm **Scouts** Scout Hall

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7pm **Confirmation Session 7** Hall

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7.50pm **Choir**

Diary Dates cont

Wed 30 March
11am OWLS Lenten Meditation Hall *****
6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall *****
7pm RCIA EC
Thurs 31 March
6.30pm Brownies Scout Hall *****
8pm Choir practice
Fri 1 April
2-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall
Sat 2 April
1-3pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall
Sun 3 April
6.30 to 7.30 pm CTH Theological Society in St Mary's. The theme this time is Angels and three speakers - Ian Todd, Laura Cole and Ali Sheriff - will share their thoughts before a time of general discussion. All are invited.



Orpheus Choir 26th March 2022 7.30pm first concert in 2 years in our church! Tickets are still available at £5 on the door and include refreshment. All profits will go to the CAFOD fund for Ukraine.

Gardening Group Coffee Morning – Thank you to all who came to support last weekend's Coffee Morning. A total sum of £26 was raised.

Thank you!

I want to say a deep, heartfelt thank you to all the people who so kindly volunteered to get me to hospital for my treatment recently. I am blessed to live in such a generous parish. On behalf of the parish, I have made a donation of £75 to Pax Christi and £75 to CAFOD's fund for Ukraine. The work of both these organisations is so badly needed especially now. Thanks. Ann

We are planning to offer the full range of Holy Week services

- Passover Meal 7.30pm on Monday 11th April. (depending on numbers who wish to attend)
- Mass of the Last Supper 8pm Maundy Thursday 14th April
- Veneration of the Cross 3pm Good Friday 15th April
- Easter Vigil 8pm Saturday 16th April
- Easter Masses 8.30am, 10.30am and 5pm Sunday 17th April.

There is an online survey which is asking you questions about these services and also the reintroduction of Children's Liturgy and the 5pm Mass. There are hard copies of this in the porch also which can be left in the black offertory box on the wall to the left of the church doors.

We would be very grateful if you could complete this survey so we know that we have enough people volunteering to help at these services.

Our ability to offer the full liturgy is entirely dependent on you helping.

Click on the link to complete the survey [Holy Week Survey](#) (Takes less than 2 minutes)



Monday 11th April 7.30pm
Passover Meal in the Church Hall. **We want to reintroduce this and we really need numbers to justify the effort involved and to**

make it a real celebration. To date the survey says 20 people would like to attend. It would be wonderful if we could double that. To

celebrate Passover is to do what Jesus did with his disciples at the Last Supper. It is a chance for us to understand more deeply our Jewish roots and our Christian Eucharist. The Passover Meal is a family occasion and children form an integral part of the proceedings, so all are very welcome.

You need to bring a number of things with you: **a baked potato for each person, cooked and wrapped in foil (to keep warm), sufficient wine for 4 toasts, soft drinks/water, cutlery, plates and glasses for each person.** Roast lamb is provided. (You can bring salad and toppings for the potatoes as well – to share with those around you, if you wish.)

It is a wonderful way to begin Holy Week. All ages welcome. **Please sign up on the board in the porch** as we need to know numbers by **4th April** so that we can order the meat.

Good Friday 15th April For the first time since 2019, there will be a Churches Together **Good Friday service at 11 am** in Market Place. It will be led by ministers of member churches, with Christchurch providing the music - and hot cross buns will be distributed! It has not been possible to arrange a Walk of Witness from Bancroft Gardens beforehand - all are invited to come along either individually or in small groups from your church, maybe carrying a symbol of your faith, and to gather round the three crosses.

Although the decision has been taken to currently suspend second collections in the light of the pandemic, many of you may have chosen to donate directly to the charities concerned. Please see message below from **CAFOD** – Thank you so much for your support of Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal. Your support means we can respond in crises such as Ukraine where our Caritas aid workers and volunteers could quickly help families fleeing conflict. It also means we're there in the long-term. We work alongside communities as they rebuild their lives once the conflict is over, as in Sierra Leone. For lots more detail on how your donations are being used, please go to the CAFOD website www.cafod.org.uk

Collection on Good Friday goes for the support of 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.

Cheques for Easter Collections. This collection goes to our Priests. It would be appreciated if cheques for the Easter collections 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!

Message from The Foodbank - The Distribution Centre at Mrs Howard Memorial Hall will be open on Good Friday April 15th. from 10am to 12 noon. The Hitchin and Baldock centres will remain closed. All will return to normal hours on Tuesday April 19th.

Other items of interest

Final call for the **Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony** Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 14th May 2022 at 3pm. The Cardinal is 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 2022. 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).

Christians against Poverty (CAP)

A message from Carlton Andrews, Manager of the CAP Debt Centre in Hitchin - 'As you would expect in these difficult times, we are seeing an increase in the number of people contacting CAP to ask for help with their financial issues and we are already booked until May. Befrienders play an

important part in the CAP debt process as they attend each appointment at the client's home and keep in touch with and encourage the client between appointments. This could involve an exchange of texts, meeting up for coffee or visiting the client and supporting them in some tricky phone calls or paperwork. Each of these is an opportunity to share their faith, and if the client agrees, to pray for them.

We are now looking to add to our current team of Befrienders. There is no requirement for a regular weekly commitment or a certain number of hours per month, so the role would suit someone looking to help but needing some flexibility too. No previous experience needed'.

If you are interested in being a Befriender, please contact Carlton (Tuesday or Wednesday) on 07305 460031

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.

Family Worker

Walsworth Road Baptist Church Hitchin

Love families and love Jesus? Looking for a change to a more fulfilling role?

You could be the person God is calling to the new post of Family Worker at WRBC. We are a friendly, all-age church with approximately 80 members who are seeking to build on our existing work with families. You would be working in a team with our Minister, Church worker, Youth worker and volunteers. This is a new part-time role offering 16 hours a week with considerable flexibility to fit the job around your life. Funding has already been secured for 2 years.

If you are interested or know somebody who might be the person we are seeking, please contact our Minister Rev. Andrew Henton Pusey on Minister@wrbchitchin.org.uk



Supported by the Mayor of London, one hundred Wintershall players bring their electric and moving portrayal of the final days of Jesus to this iconic location in the capital.

The 90-minute production is completely free of charge - a gift to Londoners and visitors.


No tickets are required. There is a performance at 12 noon and 3:15 pm. The production is open air with visibility maximised using large screens. There is a realistic interpretation of the crucifixion so parental guidance is advised. British sign language interpretation is provided.


The designated Disabled Seating Area will be on the North Terrace at the top of the stairs in front of the National Gallery. Level access is available from East and West of the Square. All stewards in the Square will be able to assist you and direct you. If you do not have a wheelchair please bring a folding chair.

Please do not attend the Passion of Jesus if you have tested positive for COVID-19 or if you are unwell. Please wear a face covering in crowded and enclosed spaces including when you are travelling on public transport.



The 12pm performance will be larger screen. livestreamed in our church. (Internet allowing!) Do come along and see it on a

 We have just received copies of the English translation of the Spiritual Writings of our founder Fr Emmanuel d'Alzon. Each article is prefaced with a summary of its contents. We will be using these for our weekly reflection. Our Congregation is consecrated to Christ. Love of Christ naturally includes love for Mary his mother and for the Church his spouse. This threefold love of Christ, Mary and the Church is for Fr d'Alzon a particular characteristic of the Assumptionist religious.

 **Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 276** *Love made fruitful - love and pregnancy* The love of parents is the means by which God our Father shows his own love. He awaits the birth of each child, accepts that child unconditionally, and welcomes him or her freely.

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

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