



# 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 1989

2<sup>nd</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> April 2022 – 5<sup>th</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:** : [Is 43:16-21](#), [Phil 3:8-14](#), [John 8:1-11](#)

**Entrance Antiphon:** Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

Psalm: **What marvels the Lord worked for us!**

**Intercession:** We pray to the Lord

**Response:** Lord hear us!

**Next Week:** [Lk 19:28-40](#), [Is 50:4-7](#), [Phil 2:6-11](#), [Lk 22:14-23:56](#)

**Ramblings** Everything about Jesus and his teaching is simple and straight forward; so why do we make it so complicated? St Paul suggests that knowing Jesus is what is important. Unfortunately, academics immediately think this is about knowledge and understanding, forgetting that knowing also refers to a relationship which is experiential. When people want to know us, we talk about our history, achievements, our work and what we have done, but that is not who we are even though it will colour how we are seen by others. Who I am concerns what makes me tick, what is important and of value, what motivates me and where I find fulfilment and most of all the influence and power of my faith in Jesus Christ that shapes my life. Relationships are nourishing, energising, motivating, inspiring; sources of joy and sorrow, of suffering and exultation, frustration and discovery. Relationships give flesh and blood to the importance and value of mystery which always guides us into something deeper and richer and shows us that there is so much more. The Scribes and Pharisees often played games with people's lives as they did with the woman caught in adultery. (*It is impossible to commit adultery on your own!!*) We only find faults in others that exist in ourselves in another guise. This is why not a single stone was thrown!! Being free from sin, Jesus does not see the faults in our lives only our goodness and our potential for love and sacrifice and care and kindness and . . .! No lectures about right or wrong or the evils of adultery were given, just a simple request *Go and sin no more!!* Jesus sends the woman forth trusting and believing she would do just that. And Jesus forgives us our faults with the same love and trust he showed that woman. Telling us to *Go and sin no more!* Surely that is someone with whom you would want a relationship??

## 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

Sun 3 April
Coffee Morning after 8.30am and 10.30am Masses in Hall for Hitchin Pantry ***** 6.30-7.30pm 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.
Mon 4 April
10.30am Lent Ecumenical Group Hall
Tues 5 April
10.30am Coffee Morning Hall ***** 2pm Reconciliation Prep Non Faith Schools
Wed 6 April
6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall ***** 7pm RCIA EC
Thurs 7 April
6.30pm Brownies Half Term
Fri 8 April
2-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall
Sat 9 April
1-3pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall



The proceeds from this Sunday's coffee mornings after the 8.30 and 10.30 masses will be used to buy fresh produce for the pantry.

Please come and support us. We are also asking for a range of plants to help build a 'living roof' for the new container adjacent to the Scout Hall. In particular we need: rockery plants that flower; strawberry plants; trailing lobelia; pinks; miniature roses; mint; geraniums; trailing fuchsias; mint; herbs. Many thanks.

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**The children's Mass** last Sunday at 10.30am was a wonderful celebration. Over 20 children listened to a joyful talk from Fr Euloge and some of them stood up and displayed their drawings around the theme of Coming Home. The lively music was delivered by Greg and the music group and it was just fun watching everyone do the actions to 'The Love of God is truly wonderful. A family brought up the offerings. We were so grateful to have this celebration and look forward to many more to come. The next children's Mass will be **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April.**



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There is a selection of lovely paintings by a Parishioner from Letchworth for sale in the Hall. There are more on their way. Please do take a look next time you're in the Hall. All proceeds will go to the Ukrainian Appeal through CAFOD.

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**Grateful thanks** to all who attended the Orpheus Choir concert on Saturday and/or provided cakes for the event. It was a huge success with nearly 100 people in attendance including the choir. Thanks also to all those who helped steward, serve refreshments and clean up afterwards. We made a profit of £370.51 which has been sent to CAFOD's Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal. With your support, the staff and volunteers of their sister organisations can continue to provide meals, shelter and protection to the hundreds of thousands of people fleeing Ukraine.

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**Next Sunday is Palm Sunday and the start of Holy Week.** We will have blessing of palms at all Masses in the garden (if the weather is inclement it will be in the hall) On arrival to church please collect your palms and be in place in the garden at the start time of the Mass ie 6pm, 8.30am or 10.30am.

There will be children's liturgy in the hall at the 10.30 Mass for all ages, children age 5 and under

should be accompanied by a parent. We will return to the church just before the offertory and the children will take the gifts up on this occasion.

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**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm Passover Meal** in the Church Hall. There are only 6 spaces left as we are limiting numbers to 60 people. 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.)

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**The 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.

This retiring collection will take place after the Service on Good Friday as you leave the Church. For details of the importance of this go the letter from Cardinal Sandri: [Holy Land Collection](#)

**Other Dates**

**6th April, 7.30 pm North Herts Inter-faith Forum online meeting on Refugees** The Forum is arranging a Zoom meeting on the theme *Refugees - what do people need and what can we provide?* Speakers from Herts Welcomes Refugees will take part. For details on how to join, contact Chris Kell on [chriskell37@gmail.com](mailto:chriskell37@gmail.com)

**7th April 6.30 to 9.00pm Prayer for Ukraine** at Walsworth Road Baptist Church. All are welcome to come and take the opportunity to reflect, lament, light a candle, write a prayer - whatever feels appropriate.

**Good Friday 15th April** For the first time since 2019, there will be a Churches Together Good Friday service at 11am 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.

**11<sup>th</sup> June Imperial Male Voice Choir** at St Mary's Tickets will be available at £15 from early-May from: [www.ticketsource.co.uk/imvc](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/imvc) (+ booking fee ) Click here for further [Details](#)

**Other items of interest**

**Good Friday Sponsored Walk** After the morning service, you can join this Walk being organised by the North Herts Methodist Circuit in aid of Phase and Herts Welcomes Refugees. Full details and sponsor forms are available from the Phase office - 01462 422940

**Stepping Stones** The Upper Room and Caritas are delighted to be working in partnership to deliver a new FREE online programme for volunteers in project interested to become Dignified Work Champions. Called 'Stepping Stones', it will enable participants to learn how to address issues surrounding employability among people experiencing homelessness or hardship, and to take the lessons back to their congregations and communities. For more details go to: [Stepping Stones](#)

**'The Passage**, a Catholic charity working with homeless people is raising funds through the Big Give a matched giving scheme. Every £1 donated online by 12.00 noon on Tuesday 19 April 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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Our thoughts are with the those impacted by the crisis in Ukraine. To help, Amazon is


partnering with its global humanitarian partners to provide immediate relief in Ukraine. Customers who wish to support the people of Ukraine can do so by donating products to Save The Children through [their Amazon wishlist](#). More information about how Amazon is helping can be found [here](#).

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There will be a complete timetable for Holy week sent out soon but below is a summary of what we plan to offer.

9/10 April	<b>Palm Sunday</b> Masses Sat 6pm, Sun 8.30, 10.30
11 April	Passover Meal 7.30 pm
14 April	<b>Maundy Thursday</b> Morning prayer 10 am Mass of the Last Supper 8 pm
15 April	<b>Good Friday</b> Morning prayer 10 am followed by Walk to Town Square 10.40am for 11am Streaming of the Passion from Trafalgar Square 12pm Liturgy of the Passion 3 pm Stations of the Cross 6.30 pm
16 April	<b>Holy Saturday</b> Morning prayer 10 am Easter Vigil 8 pm
17 April	<b>Easter Sunday</b> Masses 8.30, 10.30
18-23 April	Mass 10 am

 Love of our Lord; Our Lord is the perfect model of all spiritual life - first as God, since to live spiritually is to participate in the very life of God; then as man, since his humanity reflects the infinite perfection of God.

 **Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 277** *Love made fruitful - love and pregnancy* With great affection I (Pope Francis) urge all future mothers: keep happy and let nothing rob you of the interior joy of motherhood.

**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> FrTom O'Brien 07547 171570	<b>Assistant Priest</b> Fr Euloge Kasine 07424 004647	<b>Parish</b> 01462 459126 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>
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