



# 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 1991

16<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2022 – EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION - 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:** 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: Readings Acts 5:12-16, Apoc 1:9-13.17-19, Jn 20:19-31**

**Ramblings** Rather than daffodils it is bluebells that will greet Jesus on Easter morning. They are around every year at this time but this year they are given pride of place. Take note they have a special Easter message for you!



After the crucifixion all who knew Jesus would have asked themselves why this happened, how could it have happened. They would have felt guilty for letting Jesus down or not doing enough along with the many *if onlys* that follow any kind of tragedy. The inward focusing can become almost suffocating as seen in Mary Magdalen when she found the empty tomb.

The vacated tomb was much more than empty, it spelt desolation, made no sense, was vacuous, devoid of meaning. Maybe we need to enter into that state of utter degradation to be able to welcome a risen Lord.

To have everything turned around in the blink of an eye is beyond anything words can hope to describe. The real Joy of Easter, isn't how we feel or what we experience, however uplifting and exhilarating, but that Jesus is alive, Jesus is risen! All that brutal and inhuman suffering, all that pain, betrayal and denial, all the periods of hopelessness and being forsaken, have become the very soil of New Life – Risen Life. This life comes as a light that opens up the Easter vigil.

This light changes everything we see, turns the focus away from ourselves outwards to the people and the world around us. And, just like the love that is at the heart of the New Light, we see everything with the eyes of love. You will need the rest of your life to realise the full splendour and wonder of your vision. However, if you ever become lost, look at the bluebells!

**Be filled with Easter Light and the Love that is its origin!**

### Prayer diary

Opportunities for communal prayer

**Tuesday 11.30am Meditation** Emmanuel Centre

**Wednesday 9.30am Rosary** Church

**Thursday No Meditation**

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

### Diary Dates

**Sun 17 April EASTER SUNDAY**

**Coffee Morning after 8.30am and 10.30am**  
**Masses in Hall for One World Group**

**Mon 18 April EASTER MONDAY**

**Tues 19 April**

**10.30am Coffee Morning** Hall

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**4pm Reconciliation** Prep Non F Schools Hall

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**7pm Confirmation Session** 8 Hall

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**7pm Scouts** Scout Hall

**Wed 20 April**

**6pm Feed Up Warm Up** Scout Hall

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**7pm RCIA**

**Thurs 21 April**

**1pm Italian Club** Hall

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**6.30pm Brownies** Scout Hall

**Fri 22 April**

**2-4pm Hitchin Pantry** Scout Hall

**Sat 23 April**

**9am Gardening session** at church.

Everyone welcome to help. Lots to do.

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

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**1-3pm Hitchin Pantry** Scout Hall

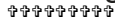
**Sun 24 April**

**10.30 Mass Children's Mass** – theme *Things I believe in but have not seen*. Bring your pictures!

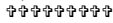




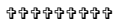
**to everyone** – a cast of dozens – who worked so hard to prepare our church and liturgy for this year’s Triduum. It is so good to be back to the complete liturgy again.



**Next Sunday** the 10.30 Mass is a children’s Mass with a theme of **Things I believe in but have not seen**. Children are asked to bring pictures or items of anything that you might believe in which you have not seen in real life eg unicorns, tooth fairy.....



Many thanks to all those who supported last Sunday’s coffee morning. £84 was raised to support Diapalante’s education centre in Senegal.



**UKRAINIAN APPEAL** Parishioners Gabriela and Rachel Kay will be selling cakes after the 8.30 and 10.30 masses this Sunday. All proceeds will go to Cafod’s Ukrainian appeal. Please support them. Coffee will also be available in the hall.

**Other Dates**

**23<sup>rd</sup> April 10am-12noon Permanent Diaconate 'Come and See'** The Permanent Deacon is a man who serves the Church through ministry of Word, Altar and Charity, under the direction of the Bishop and Priest. For men who may be interested in learning more about the Permanent Diaconate, to Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, Westminster SW1P 1QN. For further information see [Permanent Diaconate](#)

**8<sup>th</sup> May 3pm Procession at the Shrine of Our Lady of Willesden, Nicoll Road, NW109AX.** Preacher, Most Rev Kenneth Nowakowski; Eparch of the Holy Family of London (Ukrainian Catholic Church), who will be accompanied by the Icon of the Mother of Protection- Pokrova. Come and join the praying of the Rosary for asking the prayers of the Black Madonna of Willesden for the protection of London, and for

Peace and Restoration in Ukraine.

Bakerloo Line & Tube, Willesden Junction Station (Old Oak Lane exit), Buses 18, 187, 206, 226, 228, 260, 487

**Other items of interest**

A new confidential listening helpline will launch this month. **Catholic Listeners, Diocese of Westminster**, has been set up for those who are returning to the faith. The helpline is all about listening to others, listening to those who might have become isolated due to the pandemic. This service is based on the Landings ethos of compassionate listening. Although we are not a counselling service, we have a professional team trained on signposting to other services and agencies.


Sometimes just communicating with someone who listens and understands can help clarify a way forward. Simply talking about a problem can ease a burden. We aim to help those in need of a safe space to talk.


For further information please contact Ade at [Catholiclisteners@gmail.com](mailto:Catholiclisteners@gmail.com)

**We are here to listen 0800 448 0704**



**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.

 **Love of the Blessed Virgin.** Our love of Mary flows from our love of Christ; we love her because she was the first one Jesus loved on earth. She was given to us as a model perfectly suited to our human condition and as a mother overflowing with tenderness and power. Her love gives our love for Christ its freshness, its thoughtfulness and its apostolic zeal.

 **Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 279** *Love made fruitful - love and pregnancy* Prepare yourself for the birth of your child, joining in Mary’s song of joy: ‘My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord and my spirit exults in God my Saviour.’ (Luke 1:46-47)

**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> 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>
<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> }	