



# CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

16 Nightingale Road, HITCHIN, SG5 1QS  
(In the care of the Augustinians of the Assumption)



<p><b>Mass Times</b>  Saturday 6pm  Sunday 8.30am, 10.30am  Monday – Saturday 10am  Reconciliation Saturday 10.30am  during Exposition. All Masses are  livestreamed <a href="#">Livestream Mass</a></p>
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## Newsletter No 2037

4<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> March 2023 – 2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT - Year A

**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 12:1-4, Tim 1:8-19, Matt 17:1-9  
**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:** **May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.**  
**Intercession:** Lord, hear us  
**Response:** **Lord, graciously hear us!**  
**Next Week:** Ex 17:3-7, Rom 5:1-2.5-8, John 4:5-42

### Ramblings Transfiguration:

Jesus reveals something of his hidden self that speaks of glory and divinity. This took place after Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist and his time in the wilderness with the Father discovering how best to respond to his mission. All the baptised are blessed with inner glory, inner divinity. Because God dwells within us, we are temples of God.




It appears that the early followers of Christ did not see this hidden glory, possibly because their faith was not strong enough? Jesus told Peter, James and John not to speak about their experience. Since God dwells in all of us, we are encouraged to find the presence of God hidden in those we encounter. What riches and treasures do they hold that remain hidden from us and possibly from them too?

In Baptism we were given a mission to bring the good news to others. Abraham's mission called him to leave his home and its security and venture into the unknown with the promise that he would be the father of a great nation. Did Abraham leave because of the promise of future greatness for his descendants or because he knew that this is what God wanted from him? . . . Maybe a little of both!

Jesus clearly wished to do the will of his Father and often found time for quiet prayer to make sure he was following his Father's will. His ignominious death showed he did not want earthly glory.

An old adage states that the faults we find in others are a reflection of the more serious faults we have within ourselves. The reverse is also true. The goodness, the hidden treasures, we find in others helps us recognise our inner treasures and riches expressed by God's presence. In this process both are transformed!

### Diary Dates

<b>Sun 5 March</b>
 <p><b>Coffee Morning</b> after 8.30am and 10.30am Masses is in support of The Gardening Group. All are welcome.  +++++</p> <p><b>3pm Healing and Wholeness Service</b> in the church. Join us if you want to pray for yourself or others and receive the Sacrament of the anointing of the sick and/or Reconciliation.</p> 
<b>Mon 6 March</b>
<p><b>10am Funeral Mass of John Drumm.</b> May he rest in peace and rise in glory.  +++++</p> <p><b>6pm Beavers &amp; 7.15pm Cubs</b> Scout Hall</p>
<b>Tues 7 March</b>
<p><b>10.30am "Tuesday Chat"</b> Hall  +++++</p> <p><b>2pm Craft Circle</b> LCR  +++++</p> <p><b>7pm Scouts</b> Scout Hall</p>
<b>Weds 8 March</b>
<p><b>10.30am Praise Group</b> Hall  +++++</p> <p><b>11.30am Funeral Mass of Rezzo Aranyi.</b> May he rest in peace and rise in glory.  +++++</p> <p><b>4.30pm FHC Non Faith Schools</b> Hall  +++++</p> <p><b>6pm Feed Up Warm Up</b> Scout Hall  +++++</p> <p><b>7.30pm RCIA</b> EC</p>
<b>Thurs 9 March</b>
<p><b>6.30pm Brownies</b> Scout Hall</p>
<b>Fri 10 March</b>
<p><b>10am-4pm Warm Spaces</b> Hall includes coffee after morning Mass. Do pop in.  +++++</p> <p><b>2-4pm Hitchin Pantry</b> Scout Hall  +++++</p> <p><b>2.30pm Scripture</b> Fr Andrew Christopher House</p> 
<b>Sat 11 March</b>
<p><b>1-3pm Hitchin Pantry</b> Scout Hall</p>

🙏 **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  
2pm **Charismatic Prayer** UCR

**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*



**We welcome Oliver Taylor & Sofia McQuilton** (10.30 Sunday) into the Family of the Parish, through the Sacrament of Baptism. We pray for them and their Families as they start this important time in their lives – the life of Faith.

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Last Monday's OWLS meditation, led by Trish, was well attended and well received. She gave a very interesting presentation about her visit to the Holy Land last year illustrated by pictures of the significant locations in the life of Christ and accompanied by short reflections. The talk was followed by a light lunch. Donations totalling £66.10 from attendees will be passed on by Trish to the Hitchin Pantry

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Thanks to all who prepared or came to the Ash Wednesday lunch in St Mary's. £282.50 was raised for Christian Aid, much-needed as it responds to the needs of those affected by the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria.

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**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 7.30pm**  
**Passover Meal** in the Church Hall. 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 **27<sup>th</sup> March** so that we can order the meat.

**Other Dates**


**12<sup>th</sup> March** 6.30 to 7.30 pm **Hitchin Theological Society** at St Mary's. The theme is **Salvation** and speakers will include Matt Summerfield of Zeo Church and Katy Little of St Mary's. There will be the usual time for comments and conversation after the presentations. All welcome


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**14<sup>th</sup> March** 7.30pm our first **CTH Council meeting** of the year will take place at St Mark's.


**Other items of interest**

**Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Holy Land:** Join us on our pilgrimage/retreat to the Holy Land, led this year by Bishop John Sherrington and Fr John Farrell OP. Dates: Sunday 19th November to Monday 27th November. Route: Galilee – Jerusalem – Bethlehem. Flying from Heathrow on BA. Cost is for full board £2265 per person sharing a room, £682 single room supplement. Travel insurance essential. You can book online at <http://www.tangney-tours.com/WHL> or call Gill at Tangney Tours 01732 886666 or Elizabeth at the Pilgrimage office 0207 798 9173

 Our prayer challenges our life in the light of the Gospel, We must ask ourselves to what extent our life enters into our prayer and to what extent our prayer affects our life and that of the community. (Prayer, Rule of life)

 **Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 325** *Love made fruitful - The elderly* 'Do not cast me off in the time of old age: forsake me not when my strength is spent' (Psalm 71:9) This is the plea of the elderly.

**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	E-mail: <a href="mailto:hitchin@rcdow.org.uk">hitchin@rcdow.org.uk</a>
<b>Asst Priest</b> Fr Adams Tatsidjoun 07438 408350	Website: <a href="https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/">https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/</a>
<b>Parish Tel no</b> 01462 459126	

<b>Parish Administrator</b> Cheryl Saunders	<a href="mailto:cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk">cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk</a> }	
<b>Pastoral Assistants</b> Robert Hitchcock	<a href="mailto:roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk">roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk</a> }	01462 459126 press 4
Trish Bonnett	<a href="mailto:trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk">trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk</a> }	