



# 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 2041

1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> April 2023 – Palm Sunday - 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** Is 50:4-7, Philip 2:6-11, Matt 26:14-27:66

**Entrance Antiphon:** The children of the Hebrews, carrying olive branches, went to meet the Lord, crying out and saying: Hosanna in the highest.

Psalm: **My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?**

**Intercession:** Lord in your Mercy

Response: **Hear our Prayer!**

**Next Week:** Acts:10:34.37-43, Col3:1-4, John 20:1-9

**Ramblings** Jesus is testimony that being treated shamefully does not mean he was shamed. Rather, those who treated him shamefully were the ones who were shamed. Amidst all the external suffering experienced in the Passion, the inner strength of Jesus to fulfil the Father's will and the immense love Jesus has for us, both humbles us and fills us with admiration for him. No wonder St Paul writes: ". . . all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father."


The all-embracing love that Jesus evokes within us is such that we automatically fall to our knees in adoration and wonder in his presence. This we do on Good Friday before we begin our prayer.

There is something of this spirit among the people who welcome Jesus into Jerusalem before his death laying their cloaks and tree branches before him. It is good for us to celebrate this moment of exaltation at the beginning of Holy Week. Rather than think the people are fickle in turning against Jesus, own the fact that it is our sins, yes - our sins - that brought him to the Cross. Only in our shame and culpability can we ever experience the true Joy of the resurrection knowing that our sins have been forgiven and pulled up by their roots. That nothing of them remains!

*Help me believe the truth about myself no matter how beautiful it is. Let me be the peace for which I pray. Teach me to energize others, to stir up their enthusiasm without overwhelming them. Make my power to love stronger than my love of power. Robe me with wisdom. May I never fear a death that brings me life. Transform me into a song of gratitude, an evening star for those who are lost. Transform me into a protective mantle for all who need rest.*

## Diary Dates

**Sun 2 April Palm Sunday**

 **Coffee Morning** after 8.30am and 10.30am Masses by the **Scout Group**.

**Mon 3 April**

**7.30pm Passover meal** in the hall. See board in porch for what you need to bring if booked.

**Tues 4 April**

**10.30am "Tuesday Chat"** Hall

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**2pm Craft Circle** LCR

**Weds 5 April**

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

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**7pm Rehearsal Mass** of the Last supper for all Altar servers, Apostles, readers and bringers of oils and gifts

**Thurs 6 April Maundy Thursday**

**10am Morning prayer** followed by setting up of the altar of repose in the hall. All help welcome.

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**8pm Mass of the Last Supper** followed by watching with the Lord until midnight

**Fri 7 April Good Friday**

**No Warm Spaces today**

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**10am Morning prayer** followed by walk to town centre with Cross to join Churches Together in Hitchin for a united service in the market square at 11am, led by ministers of member churches and the music will be provided by Christchurch singers and instrumentalists. Hot cross buns will be distributed to anyone who is around!

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**3pm Liturgy of the Passion**

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**6.30pm Stations of the Cross** led by Fr Tom

**Sat 8 April**


**10am Morning prayer**

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

Sat 8 April cont....

8pm Easter Vigil Mass

 **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

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

Have you got any **large potted plants** we can borrow for our 'garden' for the altar of repose for the watching and waiting with the Lord on Maundy Thursday. If so can you bring them to the hall on Thursday morning by 10.30am please.

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The replicas of the Stained Glass are now in a different position for your comments.

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**Thank you** all for your generosity with clothes for the children of the Asylum Seeking families. We still need some underwear and socks for the boys ages 3,7,10,11-12 & 14-15. We also have one 14 year old 6ft tall lanky young man so we need some slim fit adult clothes. If you have any of these items please leave them in the porch.

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The next Marriage Preparation course in Hitchin Parish is on **Saturday 22nd April** 2023. The course will start at 10am-4pm. To book a place please email your full names (both parties) to [roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk). The fee is £75 per couple.



**Other Dates**

**4th April 7-9pm Come to The Well** at St. John's Parish Centre 296 Sundon Park Road LU3 3AL Tuesday, donation only event, everyone welcome. Speaker Derek Williams ( well- known International Catholic Evangelist )

**22nd April - Quaker Quiz night on 22 April - 7- 9.30 pm** at Church House, Churchyard, Hitchin SG5 1 HP. Tables of 4, 6 or 8. £10 per person. In aid of Hitchin Peace Garden to install a wheelchair-friendly path around the garden. . Raffle and light supper provided. Bring own drink. If interested, please let Cheryl in the office know. Many thanks.


**Other items of interest**


Fr Gerry O'Shaghnessy sdb and myself are leading a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land - 16th 24th Feb. 2024.

They have a few places left if anyone would like more information - please contact Sr Susan Richert on [religious@dioceseofnottingham.uk](mailto:religious@dioceseofnottingham.uk)


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This is the last chance to join Westminster Youth Ministry for two weeks in Porto, Fatima and Lisbon from 25 July to 9 August 2023 to celebrate World Youth Day with Pope Francis and 2 million other young people. Thanks to the support of the Cardinal's Appeal, the reduced cost for the pilgrimage is £1,500 inclusive of transport, accommodation, WYD Pass, insurance and some meals. There are last few places remaining at this price and applications will close on 14 April 2023. For more information and booking forms email Phoebe Prendergast at [phoebeprendergast@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:phoebeprendergast@rcdow.org.uk) or Holly Cook at [hollycook@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:hollycook@rcdow.org.uk) or call us on 020 3757 2516.

 Lourdes AA, Following on from last week's item. When our first Assumptionists went to South America one of their first preoccupations was to bring Lourdes to Argentina and Chile. Shrines were erected in both countries. In Santiago (Chile) there is a most beautiful Basilica and shrine similar to Lourdes in France. In fact that area of the city is officially known as Lourdes.

 **Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 329** *Love made fruitful - Being sons and daughters*  
Our elderly are men and women, fathers and mothers, who came before us on our own road, in our own house, in our daily battle for a worthy life.(Catechesis 4.3.2015)

**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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<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> }
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