

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, 5pm

Monday – Saturday 10am

Reconciliation Saturday 10.30am

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

Newsletter No 2090

9th March – 16th March 2024 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT - Year B

Prayer for those seeking sanctuary

Lord Jesus, we pray for those members of God's family who come here to escape oppression, poverty, persecution, violence, and war. Let them not meet with fear, doubt or suspicion from the local population. May those seeking sanctuary in our country receive a warm and generous welcome as they settle-in and commence their new life. Joyfully, we welcome the many gifts they bring to us. We make this prayer in Jesus' name. Amen.

Readings [Chron 36:14-16.19-23](#), [Eph 2:4-10](#), [Jn 3:14-21](#)

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: O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not!

Intercession: Lord, hear us

Response: Lord, graciously hear us!

Next Week: [Jer 31:31-34](#), [Heb 5:7-9](#), [John 12:20-30](#)

Ramblings St Paul clearly states the reason for rejoicing on the middle Sunday of Lent.

God, with rich mercy, because of his great love us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, brought us to life with Christ saved by God's grace, raised up with him, and seated with Christ Jesus and the Father for all the ages ahead. To reinforce the magnificence of God's love and mercy that comes to us in Jesus Christ whom God sent to us as light.

Light we know is important for plant growth and as Spring unfolds the glories of creation in all its splendour unfolds before our eyes. Yet, it is only a dim reflection of what the light of Christ brings to us in his mercy: new life, new beauty and a new appreciation of the utter goodness and wonder of God.

Anyone familiar with the 12-step Programme for Alcoholics Anonymous will recognise this reflection by Dennis Hamm sj:

It is all there: the profound awareness of need for rescue by another; the abandonment of self to God; the admission of one's own responsibility for the moral harm of one's behaviour; commitment to prayer, reflection, and outreach to others. The fact that the twelve steps are a "we" statement in the past tense testifies that it is an expression of a community which shares the experience of the healing power of rescue from evil by a caring God. That makes it a kind of credo or confession of faith. More accurately, it is a proclamation of sacred history: Here's how God has acted in our lives.

This explains very clearly what we are called to do during Lent. We seek a strengthening of our faith and a renewal of our lives FOR others and WITH others so that Christ's light will shine more brightly within us and in those with whom we journey.

Diary Dates

Sun 10 March



Coffee Morning after 8.30am and 10.30am will be to support **KISS**. All are welcome.

6.30pm Hitchin Theological Society St Mary's Church. Theme **The Quiet Women of Faith**. There will be presentations by Rev Verity Harvey and Alice Little

Mon 11 March

1pm OWG/LS Meditation Event LCR This year's meditation will be led by Beata Rozycka from Cafod. There will be a light Lenten lunch at 1pm followed by the meditation. All are warmly welcome.

9.30am Parent & Toddlers Hall

6pm & 7.15pm Beavers/Cubs – Scout Hall

7.30pm Pastoral Parish Council Meeting LCR

7.30 pm CTH Council meeting at Tilehouse Street Baptist Church. There will be a few items for report and planning and then a session on links between the churches and our local community. with Aimee Flack, the recently appointed North Herts Council Community/Partnership Officer and an update on the work of the Black Squirrel Credit Union. Members of all churches are welcome

Tue 12 March

10.30am "Tuesday Chat" Hall

2pm Craft Circle LCR

7pm Confirmation Induction session Hall for all those in Year 9 and above who wish to prepare for the Sacrament of confirmation this year. Please email [Ciara O'Reilly](#) for an application form if you have not already send her one.

7pm Scouts – Scout Hall

Dates cont....

Weds 13 March
10.30am Praise Group LCR *****
4.30pm FHC Non Faith Schools Hall *****
6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall *****
7pm Liturgy Committee meeting LCR
Thurs 14 March
10.45 – 12.15 Lent Group with Fr Tom LCR *****
1pm Italian Club Hall *****
6.30pm Brownies – Scout Hall
Fri 15 March
2-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall *****
2.30pm Scripture Fr Andrew Christopher House
Sat 16 March
10.30am First Reconciliation service for our First Holy Communion children after the 10am Mass. There will not be Exposition on this occasion and all other parishioners wishing for the sacrament of reconciliation will be accommodated after the children (20+) and their families have been for reconciliation. You are all very welcome to attend. There will be three Priests helping on this important occasion. *****
1-3pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

🙏 **Prayer diary** 🙏

- Tuesday** 11.30am **Meditation** Emmanuel Centre
7pm **Eucharistic Service** Church
To Zoom click on [Eucharistic Service](#)
- Wednesday** 9.30am **Rosary** Church
12pm **Charismatic Prayer** UCR
- Thursday** 6.30pm **Meditation** Emmanuel Centre
7 – 8pm **Exposition** Church
- 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 - 8pm



We pray for **Gerado Follano** whose funeral is **Tuesday 12th March at 11.30am** and **Antoinetta Ligouri** whose funeral is on **Thursday 21st March at 1.30pm**. May they rest in peace and rise in glory and may the Lord comfort their families.



Help needed with the sound system over Easter. Mike Eltringham who manages the sound equipment in the parish will need help at all the Masses from the afternoon of Saturday 23rd March for the 6pm Mass on Palm Sunday until Sunday 31st March Easter Sunday

with all the sound requirements for Holy Week. Can you please let [Trish](#) know if you can help. There is a vital need for support of Mike at this time – **He cannot do it all on his own!**

Appeal for your help with our Mass of the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday (28th March) 8pm and other services.



Once again I am appealing for help with the liturgy at our Mass. It would be great if I don't have to keep nagging everyone so please just volunteer at the first asking!!!

We need:

- 12 people to have their foot washed as apostles during the Gospel reading.
- 8 people in the congregation to have their foot washed by the 'Apostles' during the Gospel reading.
- 2 people who are involved in the medical profession to take up the oil for anointing the Sick
- 2 people who are have a child baptized on or after Easter to take up the oil of Catechumens
- 1 person who is being confirmed to take up the oil of Chrism.
- 4 people to take up the gifts of bread and wine
- 1 person to take up the bag of Lenten alms.
- 2 people to welcome parishioners as they come to the Maundy Thursday Mass (28th March) at 8pm.
- 2 people to welcome parishioners as they come to the Good Friday service (29th March) at 3pm
- 2 people to welcome parishioners as they come to the Easter Vigil Mass on Saturday (30th March) at 8pm.

Looks a lot doesn't it but if you are coming to these services anyway then just volunteer to help at them too. Please let [Trish](#) know asap what you can help with (she'll only nag if you don't so just volunteer – you know it makes sense!!)



Cheques for Easter Collections. It would be appreciated if cheques for the Easter collections are made out to the Parish, and not to the Order. You can be assured the Priests will get your financial gifts. This will make accounting more straightforward. Many thanks.

There are only a few days left to help Our Lady Immaculate and St Andrew Church - Hitchin to win

£500!! Sign up to easyfundraising, and you'll enter us into the draw. From then on, you can also raise free donations for us when you shop with your favourite brands. There are 8,000 brands to shop with and 8,000 ways to support us: [Easyfundraising](#)

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Thanks to everyone who responded to the appeal for items for the family who had been Asylum seekers. We got everything they needed in just over a day. I will let you know if there are any more needs. At present there is no need for clothing for the residents at either of the hotels so please do not leave anymore items in the porch. I am having to take donated items to charity shops as we do not have any room for storage.

Other dates

12th March 7pm The Well gathering at St. Johns 296 Sundon Park Rd. LU3 3AL All welcome. We are pleased to welcome back Sue and Charles Whitehead, Charles KSG was president of ICCRS for 10 years based in the Vatican.

Other items of interest

Ann Milner – a fellow parishioner who is undergoing treatment for a health condition at present is booked onto an ***Icon Writing 6 Day Retreat, April 7th - 12th at Godalming*** Ann now has to have treatment on the 8th April and can no longer do the retreat. She has paid a non-returnable deposit and doesn't want any of it

back but she doesn't want the Franciscan centre to lose out on the rest of the income. So she is wondering if there might be someone in the parish (or anyone else you might know) who would like to take advantage of this retreat, paying just half the cost - which will be £225. If the person did want to contribute something additionally, Ann would be very pleased if they made a small donation to Pax Christi. She thoroughly recommends the centre and the food is absolutely wonderful. Click for the link to details about the retreat and the [Franciscan Centre](#) in Godalming. If you are interested in this unique opportunity please contact [Ann Milner](#) so she can re-register you with the Centre and you may need to choose which Icon to write.

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Triangle Community garden message We have lots going on this spring for adults and children alike including veg growing workshops, nature photography, fabric collage, essential cycle maintenance skills and a mini-beast safari! Plus our wonderful Triangle Tribe for families with kids aged 12-16 and our Family Forest School for 3-12 year olds. [Triangle Garden Activities](#)

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The **Ash Wednesday Lunch** at Walsworth Road Baptist church raised **£417** for Christian Aid. Thanks to all who came and to the Walsworth Rd team, plus volunteers from Tilehouse Street Baptist Church, for organising. Food from the Hitchin Food Rescue Hub was used towards it too.



Prayers for our intercession *We pray for people suffering from illness especially:* Mary O'Carroll, Sandra Massey, Betty Duncan, William O'Reilly, Pauline Lanaway, the Fennell & Conetta families, Stella Patterson, Maria Victoria Lahitte-Martins, Regine Hallinan, Evie Roberts, Niall Heffron, David Laing, Ann Milner, Ann Harte, Joe Darby, Antoinette Fernandes and 4 year old Ava Risdon-Stapley

We pray for those whose anniversary is about now: Joyce Tredgett, James Campbell, Paul Anthony Brown, Peter Docherty, Peter Atthews, Lynda Jude, Regina Lorenzetto, Clare O'Sullivan, Carrie Szanto, Valerie Burkin, Baldassare Alfano, Edith Marjorie Dean, John Braganza, David Laing who died this week and Geraldo Follano whose funeral is on Tuesday.

If you have a need for prayer you can contact Mary on 07759195487 with your prayer intentions

 God does not want to reign over slaves, but over free souls. He wants to reign over sons and daughters whom he is able to love with paternal tenderness. (Fr d'Alzon reflections)



Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 375 *Pastoral Perspectives - Preparing Engaged Couples for Marriage* Engaged couples, as they sincerely commit themselves to grow in love and self-giving, help foster the growth of friendship and fraternity in the Christian community of which they are part. Italian Bishops Conference, 22.10.12

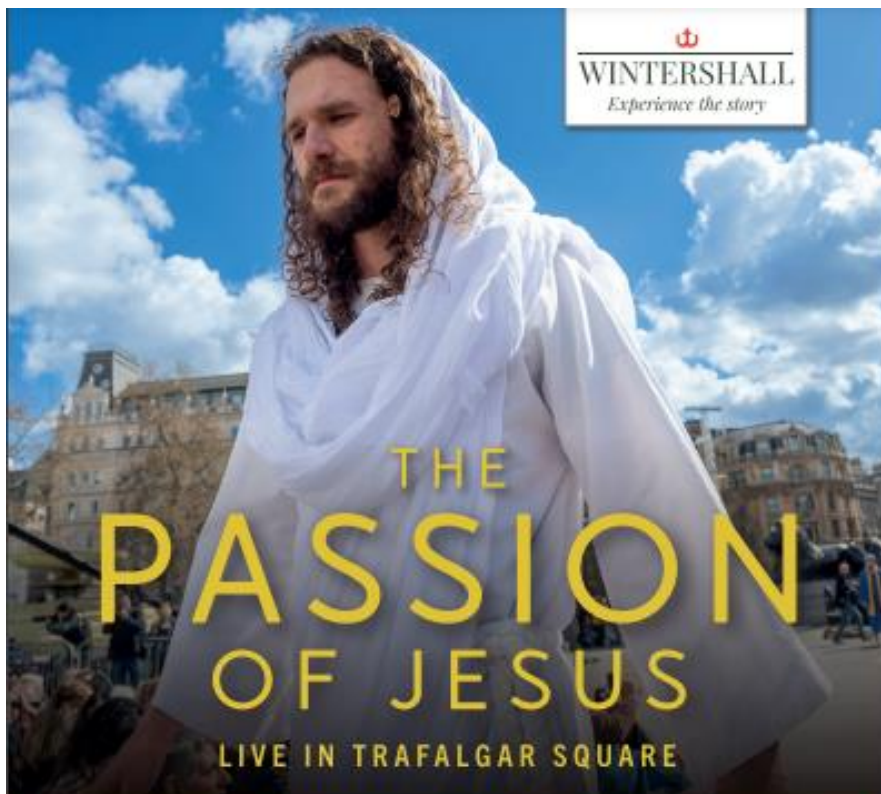
We are a Safeguarding parish EduCare (now part of Tes) safeguarding leaflets can be downloaded from our website at <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/diocese/safeguarding-in-our-parishes/>
Safeguarding representatives: Trish Bonnett and Maria Greene via 01462 459126

Parish Priest	Fr Justin Kasereka 07438 793351	E-mail: hitchin@rcdow.org.uk
Asst Priest	Fr Adams Tatsidjodoung 07438 408350	Website: https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin
Retired Priest	Fr Tom O'Brien 07547 171570	Parish Tel no 01462 459126
Administrator	Cheryl Saunders cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk	} press 2
Pastoral Assistants	Ciara O'Reilly ciaraoreilly@rcdow.org.uk	} 01462 459126 press 5
	Trish Bonnett trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk	} press 5

HOME / THE PASSION OF JESUS

The Passion of Jesus

29 Mar 2024 • Trafalgar Square



GOOD FRIDAY 29 MARCH 2024
FREE PERFORMANCES 12 NOON AND 3.15 PM



WWW.WINTERSHALL.ORG.UK

Wintershall CIO, Charity Number 1167111



SUPPORTED BY
MAYOR OF LONDON

These performances contain a realistic interpretation
of the crucifixion - parental guidance is advised.

Once again Trish is in the Passion of Jesus at Trafalgar Square on Good Friday and if you haven't been to it yet then here is another opportunity to see what it is all about with the other 20,000 people who come!

There are performances at 12 noon and 3:15 pm. No tickets are required, the 90-minute performances are completely free of charge - a gift to Londoners and visitors. This event is very popular - please arrive 40 minutes before your chosen performance.

For those who cannot make it to the Square the performances will be livestreamed on our Facebook Page.

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 production is open air with visibility maximised using a large screen. There is a realistic interpretation of the crucifixion so parental guidance is advised. British sign language interpretation is provided.

Those who wish to access the Designated Accessibility Area will need to book here before the 12th of March, space is very limited. The entrance to the Accessibility Area is on the west side of the North Terrace (near Canada House) in front of the National Gallery. Please bring a folding chair or wheelchair for the Accessibility area (no chairs allowed in the rest of the Square, audience sits on the ground or stands up).

<https://www.wintershall.org.uk/passion-jesus>