



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 2091

16th– 23rd March 2024 – FIFTH 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: Jer 31:31-34, Heb 5:7-9, John 12:20-30

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: A pure heart create for me, O God.

Intercession: Lord, in your Mercy

Response: Hear our prayer

Next Week: Is 50:4-7, Philip 2:6-11, Mark 14:1-15:47

Ramblings As we approach Holy Week, we are called to ponder the scripture readings. Ronald Rolheiser suggests that to ponder is not to reflect, nor look for words or understanding - even knowledge about the readings is not helpful. Pondering involves putting ourselves into a helpless situation; a situation over which we have no power to help or change. Pondering asks us to join someone in their hopeless situation and be present to their helplessness and become vulnerable and helpless with them. We cannot take away another's pain and nor should, we but we can accompany them and let them know that they are not alone.

There is a story about a mother who lost her child at a very early age and was inconsolable. She was sitting in a room surrounded by friends and family in a grief that was palpable when another friend came into the room and sat next to her. She put her arm round the mother and began to cry with her. She stayed for about ten minutes sharing the tears after which she stood up and left – no word spoken. As she left, it seemed that the heavy grief in the room became less heavy.

Let us ponder the readings this week which prepare us to walk with Jesus through his passion and death, not trying to work it all out or even to understand all the whys and wherefores. Instead ponder the journey Jesus is taking and accompany him. By making this journey in this way you be more open to and develop an empathy with Jesus and his helplessness. Thus, you will come closer to Jesus and Jesus will come closer to you.

Then, maybe, just maybe, by being with Jesus in this way, you may well have helped him face his sufferings and passion and help him fulfil his mission of love knowing he was not alone!

Diary Dates

Sun 17 March



Coffee Morning after 8.30am and 10.30am will be provided by the **One World/Live Simply** group to support

'Prisoners of Conscience' a charity which helps people imprisoned for their beliefs. Cakes, preserves and books will also be on sale. All are welcome.

Mon 18 March

9.30am Parent & Toddlers Hall

6pm & 7.15pm Beavers/Cubs – Scout Hall

Tue 19 March

NO "Tuesday Chat"

2pm Craft Circle LCR

7pm Scouts – Scout Hall

Weds 13 March

6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall

Thurs 21 March

1pm Italian Club Hall

6.30pm Brownies – Scout Hall

Fri 22 March

2-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

2.30pm Scripture Fr Andrew Christopher House
There will be no Scripture with Fr Andrew on Friday 29th March and 5th April.

Sat 23 March

1-3pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

KISS Tea & Coffee Morning - thank you to all those who prepared, baked, helped, and supported last Sunday's KISS Coffee morning which raised a staggering **£200**.



The Holy Week Service Times sheet is now in the porch. Please help yourself to a copy.

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 **Patrick Brack** whose funeral is **Monday 25th March at 12.30pm**. May he rest in peace and rise in glory and may the Lord comfort his family.

+++++

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!**

Other dates

Wed 20th March 7 pm **The Readings at the Easter Vigil** - the 'four nights of salvation' As Holy Week approaches Fr Adrian Graffy explains the significance of the readings at the

Easter Vigil. The event is on live stream free of charge at www.whatgoodnews.org

Fri 29th March 11am Annual service arranged by Churches Together in Hitchin will take place on Good Friday, in Market Place. It will be led by ministers of local churches with music by the choir of St Mary's. All are invited - come individually or with a group from your church, carrying a symbol of your faith, so that we can make it a significant act of witness on this sacred day.


Sun 7th April Divine Mercy Sunday programme in our church from 1.30pm-5.45pm. All welcome. For full details of programme see posters or [website](#).


Other items of interest

Apply to be a human rights monitor in Palestine and Israel – details to be found at [Human Rights Monitor](#)

Make a note to look at your recycling habits and make a change this Monday Don't forget to bring your recycling to the parish for the benefit of charity. Details of what you can recycle are found at [Recycling](#).

Prayers for our intercession *We pray for people suffering from illness especially:* Mary O'Carroll, Betty Duncan, William O'Reilly, Pauline Lanaway, the Fennell & Conetta families, Stella Patterson, Maria Victoria Lahitte-Martins, Regine Hallinan, Evie Roberts, Niall Heffron, Ann Milner, Ann Harte, Joe Darby, Antoinette Fernandes. Ava Risdon-Stapley, and John Clark
We pray for those whose anniversary is about now: Janet Singleton-Stonehouse, Mavourneen Haydon, Delia Hehir, Keith Skinner, Leonard Scott, Joan Dalton, Linda Dalton, Daphne McKenzie, Agnes Cook, Douglas Slater, Andrea Hughes, Kathleen Gibbons, Pat Stevens, Maureen Brack, John Jarvis, Imelda Eaton, Sylvia Watkins, Vincent Scott and for David Laing and Pat Brack who died recently.
If you have a need for prayer you can contact Mary on 07759195487 with your prayer intentions

 Holiness consists in the grace of God that descends from above and the energy of the soul that receives it so that it might bear fruit, there is no holiness without the grace of God that precedes it, nor without the strength of will that corresponds with grace. (Fr d'Alzon reflections)

 **Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 376** *Pastoral Perspectives - Preparing Engaged Couples for Marriage* In marriage preparation, 'it is not great knowledge, but rather the ability to feel and relish things interiorly that contents and satisfies the soul'. Ignatius of Loyola, Spiritual Exercises.

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	