

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 2092

23rd March - 30th March – PALM SUNDAY - 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: Is 50:4-7, Philip 2:6-11, Mark 14:1-15:47

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: We pray to the Lord

Response: Lord, hear us!

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

Ramblings The Passion read today is from the Gospel of Mark that we use this year. A week can be a long time in our lives. The situation in which we find ourselves at the beginning of a week can be very different from how things are at its end. It is hard to imagine a greater contrast than that between the beginning and the end of Jesus' final week.

The crowds welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem with great enthusiasm, declaring God's blessings on the One who came in the name of the Lord at the beginning of the week. At its end, the crowds cried out, 'Crucify him'. Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey to a great welcome to be carried out of the city a dead man a few days later, having suffered the cruellest form of death.

With our palms we identify with the welcoming crowd knowing all too well how the week will end. However, we also know that the death of Jesus on the cross was not the end of the story. Death did not have the final word. As we begin this holy week, we are given a preview of where this week is heading in the Passion. Normally Passion refers to a strong feeling or commitment. We all have a passion in that sense. The term can be readily applied to Jesus in this same sense. He suffered because he had a great passion for God and for humanity.

As we begin Holy Week, resolve to slow down a little so as to allow the momentous events that we are celebrating in the church to touch our hearts and minds. The core of this Holy Week, the Easter Triduum, begins with the celebration of the Eucharist on Holy Thursday evening and concludes with the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday night. This short time from the evening of Holy Thursday to Holy Saturday night is the most sacred time in the church's year.

Diary Dates

Sun 24 March



Coffee Morning after 8.30am and 10.30am will be provided by **The Scouts Group**. All are welcome.

Mon 25 March

9.30am Parent & Toddlers Hall

6pm & 7.15pm Beavers/Cubs – Scout Hall

7pm Passover Meal Hall see *detail over page*

Tue 26 March

10.30am Tuesday Chat Hall

2pm Craft Circle LCR

7pm Scouts – Scout Hall

Weds 27 March

4.30pm FHC Non Faith Schools Hall

6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall

Thurs 28 March **Maunder Thursday**

10am Morning prayer **No Mass**

1pm Italian Club Hall

8pm Mass of The Last Supper followed by Watching and waiting in the hall till midnight

Fri 29 March **Good Friday**

10am Morning prayer **No Mass** followed by carrying of the Cross for the CTH service in the Town Square at 11am

3pm Good Friday veneration of the Cross

6.30pm Stations of the Cross led by Fr Tom focusing on prayer for the conflicts in Gaza, Israel and Ukraine.

Sat 30 March **Holy Saturday**

10am Morning prayer **No Mass** and **no 6pm Mass in the evening**

8pm Easter Vigil Mass with baptisms, confirmations and renewal of baptismal vows.

See the Holy Services time sheet in porch for full details of all services in Holy Week.

There are No Pantry sessions on Friday 29th and Saturday 30th March

No scripture with Father Andrew until 12th April.

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 are sorry to tell you that Fr Justin Kasereka has had to return to the Assumptionist Province House in Paris to receive support with some health issues. He will not be able to celebrate Holy Week with us but will be with his community in France. We have assured him of our prayers and best wishes for his recovery. Please keep him in your prayers.

Parish life will continue as usual with Fr Adams taking on more of the liturgical and sacramental work. We need to ensure we do not overload Fr Tom, who is already working very hard in his pastoral role, even though he is 'retired'! Fr Andrew will also continue to support us in his loving and wise way.

Many thanks to all who came and supported the Coffee Morning last week in aid of "Prisoners of Conscience". A total of £128 was raised.



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

Message from Cheryl - Thank you all so much for all your prayers, cards, flowers and messages on the recent passing of my Dad - Pat Brack. It is so heartwarming to read such lovely comments. Thank you all.

Passover meal Monday 25th March 7pm Hall for the 80 people booked in - the lamb has been ordered. You need to bring a baked potato for each person, cooked and wrapped in foil (to keep warm), salad and toppings- to share with those around you, if you wish, sufficient wine for 4 toasts, soft drinks/water, cutlery, plates and glasses for each person.

Good Friday Holy Land collection- goes to The Priests of the Assumption for the support of the beleaguered Church in the Holy Land. Giving to this is a visible sign of our support to those who live the Christian faith in difficult circumstances in the land of its birth.




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. This will make accounting more straightforward. Please be assured that all such donations will end up in the right place !



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: Stella Buxton, Robert Vigor, Agostino Persichillo, Frieda Fern, Fr Michael Lee aa, Dorothy Stevenson, Luke Hobson, John Binks, Graziella Albanese, John Lawless and Tom Stevenson.

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

 Wisdom is a virtue which consists in giving our good acts a superior motive. It is a gift of the Holy Spirit, a particularly precious gift, all the more precious for being so rare. (Fr d'Alzon reflections)



Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 377 Pastoral Perspectives - Preparing Engaged Couples for Marriage
Quality in marriage preparation is important to help couples live the rest of their lives together 'with great courage and generosity'. 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

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