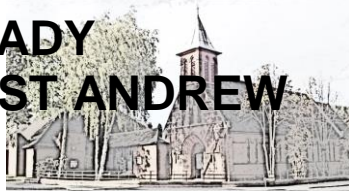




# CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

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 2094

6<sup>th</sup> April – 13<sup>th</sup> April 2024 – SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER - 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.

**Ramblings** On a Sunday when we focus on the mercy of God and recognise that mercy as one of the great symbols of God's love for us, we, too, want to exclaim with St Thomas "My Lord and my God!" As so often happens, the gospel helps us recognise that the deepest faith is often found in those who have lived through a period of great spiritual darkness, times of doubt and unbelief in which God seemed absent.

There is an element of doubt in all our believing that challenges our faith. We all live lives that can experience times of darkness and a sense of loss and dislocation from God when we feel God is distant, even absent from our lives. Fortunately, there are also times when God's presence seems very real and tangible when our faith is strong, uplifting and supportive. However, some people seem to have a much stronger experience of spiritual darkness than others. It is good therefore to have St Thomas show us that times of disturbing and isolating religious doubt can be the prelude to a deeply rooted and richly expressed faith hidden deep within.

Jesus offers us, and all those who have not lived and seen Jesus, words of reassurance by saying 'Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe'. Jesus acknowledges that our faith is every bit as genuine as the faith of the original eyewitnesses, those who saw and believed, revealing once again the power and strength of the mercy and love of God for us!

**Readings:** Acts 4:32-35, 1 John 5:1-6, John 20:19-31

**Entrance Antiphon:** Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

**Psalm:** Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.

**Intercession:** Lord in your Mercy

**Response:** Hear our Prayer!

**Next Week:** Acts: 3:13-15, 17-19, 1 Jn 2:1-5, Luke 24:35-48

### Diary Dates

#### Sun 7 April



**Coffee Morning** proceeds after 8.30am and 10.30am will go to support **local Refugees/Asylum Seekers**. All are welcome.

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**1.30pm – 4.30pm Divine Mercy Devotion** with 'bring and share refreshments' – all welcome.

#### Tue 9 April

**10.30am Tuesday Chat Hall**

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**2pm Craft Circle LCR**

#### Weds 10 April

**10.30am Praise Group LCR**

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

#### Thurs 11 April

**12.30pm Funeral Mass for William O'Reilly RIP**

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**1pm Italian Club Hall**

#### Fri 12 April

**2pm-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall**

#### Sat 13 April

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



**Tuesday 11.30am Meditation** Emmanuel Centre

**Next Eucharistic Service** 30<sup>th</sup> April

**Wednesday 9.30am Rosary** Church

**12pm Charismatic Prayer** Church

**Thursday 6.30pm Meditation** Emmanuel Centre

*All are welcome for private prayer at any time in the church which is open 8.30am - 8pm*



We pray for **Enzo Conetta** whose funeral is **Wednesday 10 April 2024 at 1pm** at **North Herts Crematorium** and for **William O'Reilly** whose funeral is on **Thursday 11 April 2024 at 12.30pm**. May they rest in peace and rise in glory and may the Lord comfort their families.

**Many thanks** for all those who supported the recent coffee morning. **£145** was raised for Diapalante's education centre in Senegal.

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**Thank you** all for your donations to the Lenten Alms – a total of **£371.38** was raised. The Good Friday Collection for the Priests of the Assumption in the Holy Land raised **£351.85**.

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**Repairs to church heating update** The source of the fault with the heating to the church is a leaky pipe between the boiler and the church. This has been identified as lying under the tarmac of the car park between the boiler room in the hall kitchen and the corner of the church. The means digging that area of the car park. Work will start on **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April** and hopefully not take longer than 3-4 days. It will not be possible to enter the church nor the hall via the ramp side of the porch. You are advised to go around to the front road entrance and up the steps. We are sorry for the inconvenience but the upside will be that we will have a warm church again.

It will not be possible to access the Hall Kitchen via the door to the car park.

Car park space will be limited The bays in front of the kitchen and along the church wall will be needed for contractors equipment and to allow space to dig the trench.

Inside the Church the Sacred Heart alcove and aisle to it from the main door, and the aisle along the north wall will be cordoned off to allow access

to the pipework entry into the church please use the other side of the church for mass and services.

**Thanks in anticipation of your patience.**

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If you are celebrating a significant wedding anniversary this year please consider attending the **Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony** at Westminster Cathedral on

**25<sup>th</sup> May at 2.30pm**. It is a memorable Mass. Please leave Cheryl in the Office the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email) by **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024**.

**Don't miss this!!**

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If you were not able to watch the Passion from Trafalgar Square on Good Friday you can see the video by clicking on the link [Passion Trafalgar Sq](#) You'll hear Trish even if you don't see her!

### Other dates

**14<sup>th</sup> April** 6.30 to 7.30 pm The next meeting of the **Hitchin Theological Society** is in St Mary's Church. The theme is **'Stewards of God's Creation'** and there will be presentations by Philip Nalpanis of A Rocha, the national eco-church organisation, and Mary Marshall of the local Green Party, followed by general conversation. All are welcome - and do come along if you have never been before.



**Prayers for our intercession** *We pray for people suffering from illness especially:* Mary O'Carroll, Betty Duncan, 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, John Clark, Greg Knight, Owen McFarlane and John McGill.

**We pray for those whose anniversary is about now:** Margarita Valenti, Julia Gray, Frances Mather, Marie Harrison, Dennis Bruce, Fr Robert Henshaw, Kenneth Christy, Thelma Ross and Bishop James O'Brien.

**Need for prayer? Contact Mary on 07759195487 with your prayer intentions.**



In our relations with one another, let us remember that charity passes away, does not last, if it limits itself to forms, to pure politeness. This is nothing more than skin deep. The world may settle for this, but Jesus Christ rejects it. He demands something other than the superficial and mere appearances (Fr d'Alzon reflections)



**Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 379** *Pastoral Perspectives - Preparing Engaged Couples for Marriage*

Everyone can support couples as they learn how to love this very real person with whom he or she plans to share his or her whole life.

**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

**Asst Priest** Fr Adams Tatsidjodoung 07438 408350

**Retired Priest** Fr Tom O'Brien 07547 171570

**E-mail:** [hitchin@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:hitchin@rcdow.org.uk)

**Website:** <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin>

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