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 2197

28nd March – 4th April 2026 – Palm/Passion Sunday Year A

A Parish Prayer for Peace 2026 Lord, send us the gift of peace. Change the hearts of those who choose violence and wage war. Turn them away from persecution and lead them towards peace. Transform hatred into understanding, anger into compassion, and fear into hope. Through your love, heal what is broken. Fill us with your Spirit, so that with one voice, we may cry out together, throughout the world: Lord, send us the gift 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: Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy!
Intercession: Lord in your mercy
Response: Hear our Prayer!
Next Week Acts:10:34.37-43, Col3:1-4, John 20:1-9

Ramblings

I remember that day as if it were carved into my very bones. The road into Jerusalem shimmered in the heat, and even the air hummed with expectation. I was just a humble donkey, used to carry heavy loads and keeping my head low. But, on that morning, everything changed. Gentle hands rested on my neck, and I felt the weight of someone unlike any other settle on my back. It was Jesus, and though I could not speak, I knew I carried more than a man. I carried peace, truth, and a love deeper than the earth beneath my hooves.

As we moved slowly forward, people poured out to meet us. They shouted out with joy, waving palms high in the air. And their faces were bright with hope. Cloaks were thrown before my feet; it was as if the whole city wished to honour the one I carried. Their cries of 'Hosanna' rang out around me, filling me with a pride that I had never felt before. For that one sweet hour, I was part of something far greater than myself.

Yet, amidst all the shouting and cheering, I felt a shadow pass across Jesus. He did not turn back. His eyes were fixed ahead, steady and sure, as if he could already see the suffering waiting for him. I sensed the weight in his silence and a determination that no pain, betrayal, or cruelty would stop him from doing what he had come to do. I carried him proudly forward, but with a trembling heart. For I knew that his courage would lead him to a place I could never follow. And still he went on, driven by the power of love alone.

Now, when I remember that day, I bow my head in gratitude. For, the one I carried, carried the whole world in return. 'Thanks be to God!' Thanks be to God!'

Diary Dates

Sun 29 March



Proceeds from this Sunday's coffee morning will go to support **the Scouts Group**. Cakes, preserves and books will be on sale. All are welcome especially new parishioners.

Mon 30 March

9.30am Parent & Toddlers Hall
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7pm Passover Meal, Hall
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6pm Beavers & 7.15pm Cubs Scout Hall

Tue 31 March

10.30am Tuesday Chat Hall
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2pm – 4pm Craft Club LCR

Weds 1 April

6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall

Thurs 2 April

1pm Italian Club Hall
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6pm Brownies Scout Hall

Fri 3 April

No Hitchin Pantry this week

Sat 4 April

No Hitchin Pantry this week

Prayer diary 🙏

Tuesday **11.30am Meditation** Emmanuel Centre
Wednesday **9.30am Rosary** Church
Thursday **6.30pm Meditation** Emmanuel Centre
Friday **9.30am Rosary** Church
Saturday **10.30 Exposition & Reconciliation**
All are welcome for private prayer at any time in the church which is open 8.30am - 8pm

If you donate to the church via offertory envelopes, or have requested to have envelopes, these can be found in the Administrator's office ready for collection.

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Stations of the Cross will be on Friday after the 10am Mass every week until Good Friday evening.

Reconciliation is available after every Sunday Mass during Lent.

Upcoming Sacramental Preparation Courses
Baptism Course- Sun 19th April **Marriage Course**- Sat 9th May
If you are interested in signing up, please contact LJ or see parish website for more details.

RCIA- At the Easter Vigil, the Elect and candidates on our RCIA programme will become full members of the Body of Christ, the Church. Please keep them in your prayers.

Other dates

Passover Meal Monday 30th March 7pm in the Church Hall. To celebrate Passover is to do what Jesus did with his disciples at the Last Supper. It is a chance for us to understand more deeply our Jewish roots and our Christian Eucharist. The Passover Meal is a family occasion and children form an integral part of the proceedings, so all are very welcome. Please see the sign-up sheets on the board in the porch for more info.

Wintershall Passion of Jesus, Good Friday April 3rd, Trafalgar Square Free performances at 12pm and 3.15pm. A dramatic presentation of the Passion of Jesus which should not be missed. Get there early to get the best views in Trafalgar Square. Come prepared to sit on the ground in whatever the weather may be. You won't regret witnessing this extraordinary event. For those who cannot get to the Square it is also livestreamed: https://www.wintershall.org.uk/event/the-passion-of-jesus-2026/

Good Friday united service Churches Together in Hitchin is once again holding a united service for Good Friday - 3rd April, 11.00 am in Market Place. We invite you to come in groups from your own churches, carrying symbols of your faith, and once again we hope for a gathering that fills the square on this sacred day. For further information, contact John Richardson on 07505 426876.

Divine Mercy Pilgrimage to Aylesford Priory on Saturday 11 April led by Marian Fathers as a Preparation for Divine Mercy Sunday. The coach will leave Ealing Broadway station at 730 am and depart from Aylesford at 5 pm.
Please call Millie on WhatsApp 07957594646 if you would like to join them.

Divine Mercy Sunday 12th April 2026
Program starts at 2.30pm. Exposition and Benediction with ongoing Confession, then 3pm Chaplet followed by The Holy Sacrifice of The Mass. After Holy Mass bring and share in the hall and dance to beautiful Christian music.

Need for prayer? Contact *Mary* on *07759195487* with your request



Prayers for our intercession: *We pray for people suffering from illness especially:* Diana Marshall, Pauline Lanaway, the Fennell families, Stella Paterson, Antoinette Fernandes, Vincent Turner, Paul O'Reilly, Pauline Phillips, Steph Dias, Glennice Burlison, Michael Burke, Evie Roberts, Michael Flatley, Ken Buck, Elizabeth Donnelly, Jim Brookes and the Sheldon family.

We pray for those whose anniversary is about now: John Binks, Graziella Albanese, John Lawless, Tom Stevenson, Leda Bolden, Rosie Gannon, Madeleine O'Connell, Ecaterina Boundy, Giuseppe Corda, Helena Pickup, Philip Kirk Snr, Martina Cash, Vincenzina Logan, Joe Waters, Giuseppina Coco, Liam Murray, John Barrow and Helen Snowdon.



If you have been bereaved and would like to talk with a member of our Bereavement visitors please ring 01462 459 126

Fr d'Alzon, Meditation for Holy Week. Imagine Pilate presenting Jesus to the crowd. Pilate proclaims; "Here is your King" and the people reply; "We have no king but Caesar" You raise your voice and say, "Yes, He is my King – I intend to restore His Kingdom."



Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 475 *Pastoral Perspectives – Casting light on crises, worries and difficulties.- The challenge of crises."* "The arduous art of reconciliation, which requires the support of grace, needs the generous cooperation of relatives and friends, and sometimes even outside help and professional assistance." Relatio Finalis 2015, 81.

Parish Safeguarding representative: Maria Greene via **01462 459126**

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Retired Priest	Fr Tom O'Brien 07547 171570	**Website**:	https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin

Parish Tel no 01462 459126	**Sacramental Co-ordinator** L J Ross	ljross@rcdow.org.uk	press 5
	Administrator Siobhan Morgan	hitchin@rcdow.org.uk	press 2

Please note that the Administrator's working hours are Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri (9am-2pm). The Administrator works from home on Mondays, but is contactable by email.