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 2191

14th–21st Feb 2026 – 6th Sunday Ordinary Time 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: Sirach 15:15-20, 1 Cor 2:6-10, Matt 5:17-37

Entrance Antiphon: Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.
Psalm Blessed are those who walk in the law of the Lord!
Intercession: We pray to the Lord…
Response: Lord hear us.

Next Week:Gen 2:7-9; 3:1-7, Rom 5:12-19, Matt 4:1-11

Ramblings Fulfilling the Law has always been a challenge. Church Law is not the same as State Law although it is often treated as such. Church law is more of a guide to Christian living and living the faith as Jesus demonstrated so often. Jesus believed that the Law was the Love of God made visible.

Jesus came not to abolish the Law but to fulfil it, desiring to take us deeper, into the very heart that beats beneath every commandment.

We can think of the Law as a compass, pointing us towards something greater. The Israelites in Jesus day had detailed instructions—how to worship, how to treat one another, how to live justly. But Jesus wanted us to adopt a more radical, self-giving love. St Augustine wrote, *"Love, and do what you will"*—not as a permission for selfishness, but in recognition that genuine love naturally fulfils every true law.

In saying, *"You have heard it said... but I say to you,"* Jesus is not cancelling the old commandments but unveiling their deepest purpose. Don't just avoid murder—uproot anger from your heart. Don't just refuse adultery—guard your thoughts with purity. The Law said, *"Choose life"* and Jesus showed that choosing life means choosing love—unconditional love of God and neighbour—in every thought, word, and action.

This challenges both young and old, inviting us into something far more thrilling than rule-keeping: a relationship of love that transforms from within. The faithful should never let familiarity lead to coldness; our observance should continually burn with fresh devotion.

"Our hearts are restless until they rest in You." says St Augustine. Fulfilling the Law is not found in perfect external compliance but in hearts aligned with God's heart of love. Every commandment, when fulfilled through love, becomes not a burden but a pathway to freedom.

Diary Dates

Sun 15 Feb Half - term



Proceeds from this Sunday's One World Live Simply coffee morning will go to support **Zeytoun Olives**, a Palestinian co-operative which works to enable ethically produced olives to be marketed in the UK. Cakes, preserves and books will be on sale. All are welcome especially visitors and new parishioners.

Mon 16 Feb

Tue 17 Feb

10.30am Tuesday Chat Hall

2pm – 4pm Craft Club LCR

Weds 18 Feb **Ash Wednesday**

6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall

Thurs 19 Feb

1pm Italian Club Hall

No RCIA

Fri 20 Feb

2pm-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

2.30pm Scripture Fr Andrew Christopher House focusing on Letter to the Romans.



Sat 21 Feb

1-3pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

Prayer diary 🙏

Tuesday **11.30am Meditation** Emmanuel Centre
7pm Reflection on Sunday readings and prayer Church
Click for Zoom Link
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



We welcome into the Family of the Parish, through the Sacrament of Baptism, **Khairo Miguel, Solomon Adigun and Nathan Ogbesoyen.** We pray for their families as they continue their lives of Faith.

ECT or Experienced KS2 Teacher vacancy at Our Lady Catholic Primary School. For full details please go to OLS Job Vacancy

KISS Tea & Coffee Morning - thank you to all those who prepared, baked, helped, and supported last Sunday's KISS Coffee morning which raised **£220** – Your generosity is so much appreciated. Thank you also to those who made separate donations and commitments following Catherine Spreckley's talk after the Masses.

The Confirmation candidates will be attending Reconciliation together on **Sat 21st Feb**, please be aware it may be busier than usual. We will have all priests in attendance to ensure this r runs as smoothly as possible. **Reconciliation is also available after every Sunday Mass during Lent**.

Please pray for our catechumens and candidates on our RCIA programme who will be attending the **Rite of Election** at Westminster Cathedral on Sat 21st February. The Cardinal will formally acknowledge their readiness and will call them to the Sacraments of Initiation. The catechumens will now be called the Elect, as they prepare for full communion into the Catholic Church.

Upcoming **Sacramental preparation** courses in in our parish:
Baptism - Sun 19th April,
Marriage - Sat 9th May.
If you are interested in signing up for either course, please contact LJ. Details of all Sacramental Preparation can be found on the parish website.

The Funeral Service for Graham Felton 20th March at 2pm at North Herts Crematorium.

Other dates

18th Feb 12.30 Churches Together Ash Wednesday lunch at Holy Saviour Church in the church hall. Modest but tasty food, good fellowship, an opportunity to give to Christian Aid's work among the poorest of the poor. All welcome.

17th-24th July 2026 Westminster Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. Registration is now open at **Pilgrimage** or via the Pilgrimage Office **on 0207 798 9173**.

Other items of interest

Invitation to a Gower Pilgrimage May 26th-29th A group from St Mark's is planning on visiting the Gower Peninsula in South Wales to do a small part of the Gower Pilgrimage. They have a couple of rooms available in a large house that they are renting and would like to invite anyone who might be interested in joining them to get in touch with the vicar, Rev Maxine Howarth by email - priestmh71@gmail.com .

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

Prayers for our intercession: *We pray for people suffering from illness especially:* Pauline Lanaway, the Fennell families, Stella Paterson, Joe Darby, Antoinette Fernandes, Vincent Turner, Rogan Hodgeson, 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: George Prowse, Evert Fernandes, David Smith, Reszo Rudi Aranyi, Genaro Caruso, Antonio Faranda, June Winspeare, Peter Leeming, Emilio di Salvo, Raffaele Nacci, Calogero Salvaggio, Isobel Early, Flavia di Salvo, Antonietta Liguori, Gerado Follarno, Maria Comparetto, Carmela Tiseo, Giuseppe Policarpo, and Peter Robbins.

If you have been bereaved and would like to talk with a member of our Bereavement visitors please ring 07801 752141

Faith seeks God as the first truth that enlightens, hope is attached to him as the infinite Good; charity loves God just because he is God and for no other reason. So it is charity, that most excellent of all the virtues, by its very essence, communicates this excellence to all the other virtues which no longer human, are raised by charity to God himself. (Fr d'Alzon, meditation on charity).



Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 469 *Pastoral Perspectives – Casting light on crises, worries and difficulties.-* All these demanding situations can cause apprehension, feelings of guilt, depression and fatigue, with serious repercussions on a marriage.

Parish Safeguarding representatives: Trish Bonnett and **Maria Greene** via **01462 459126**

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

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