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 2194

7th – 14th March 2026 – 3rd Sunday Lent 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 Ex 17:3-7, Rom 5:1-2.5-8, John 4:5-42
Entrance Antiphon: My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.
Psalm: O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts.'
Intercession: Lord in your mercy
Response: Hear our Prayer!
Next Week Sam 16:1.6-7.10-13, Eph 5:8-14, John 9:1-41

Ramblings

We are blessed to live in a country where clean water flows at the turn of a tap. It comes so easily that we hardly think about it. Yet in many parts of the world this simple gift is precious, fragile, and sometimes out of reach. In Jesus' time, drawing water from a well was a daily task, often done together. It was a place where stories were shared and unexpected meetings took place. Water has always mattered because water gives life. It points beyond itself to God, the true source of living water. In Exodus, the people complained of thirst in the desert, yet even their grumbling couldn't stop God caring for them. St Paul reminds us that God pours love into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.

We encounter Jesus today sitting by a well, thirsty after his journey, and he asks a Samaritan woman for a drink. This is much more than a simple request. It is an invitation. Jesus sees the deeper thirst within her: a longing for love, dignity, purpose, and hope. And thus reveals his own longing too: "His thirst to bring every person life in all its fullness."

Thirst is not a problem. Thirst is a gift which pulls us forward. We grow when we thirst for goodness, for grace, for forgiveness, for healing, for a deeper faith. Without thirst we stagnate.

A child once told me, "I'm not thirsty for God today but I will be later!" And perhaps that is true for us all. Some days our thirst is strong, other days it hides. But it always returns, because God has placed that longing within us.

Jesus meets us, as we are, by the wells of our lives. He does not force us to drink. He simply offers living water, patiently, gently, joyfully and always hoping we will choose life.

Diary Dates

Sun 8 March



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

Mon 9 March

9.30am Parent & Toddlers Hall
6pm Beavers & 7.15pm Cubs Scout Hall

Tue 10 March

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

Weds 11 March

1:30pm – Funeral of Mary Sanchez
6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall

Thurs 12 March

1pm Italian Club Hall
7pm RCIA LCR
6pm Brownies Scout Hall

Fri 13 March

2pm-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

Sat 14 March

1-3pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

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

Announcement: Patricia (Trish) Bonnett. I am writing to let you know that after 18 years as the Pastoral Assistant for Hitchin Parish, Patricia has retired from her role. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Patricia for the significant contribution she has made in her loyal service to the Diocese and to wish her well for the future.

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Thanks to all those who supported last Sunday's coffee morning which raised £145 for **Hitchin Pantry.**

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CAFOD Thank you for your contributions, for CAFOD, so far £208.45 has been donated. If you haven't already done so it's not too late to make a donation. Donations can be handed into the Parish Office. If you wish to "Gift-Aid" your donation, please use on the the CAFOD green green envelopes or if you would lie to go online you can donate using this link www.cafod.org.uk/parish. CAFOD is deeply grateful to everyone who contributed to the recent CAFOD appeal. Your donations will make a real difference.

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

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Upcoming **Sacramental preparation** courses 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.

- **Confirmation Session 5** - Sunday 8th March
- at 5.45pm, Hall
- **FHC RE class for children who attend non-Catholic schools** - Weds 11th March at 4.30pm, Hall
- **RCIA** – Thurs 12th March at 7pm, LCR
- **FHC Session 5** - Saturday 14th March at 9.30am, Hall

The **First Holy Communion children** will be attending Reconciliation together on **Sat 14th March**, please be aware that it may be busier than usual. We will have all priests in attendance to ensure this runs as smoothly as possible.

Reconciliation is available after every Sunday Mass during Lent.

Baptism Noah Kimberley Sun 8th March at 12pm

Funerals

Graham Felton 20th March at 1pm at North Herts Crematorium.

Joseph Darby 19th March at 11:30am

Other dates

Monday 9th March 4.30pm Stations of the Cross in the Lower Committee Room followed by a light Lenten supper.

The late Ann Milner devised many wonderful liturgies for use in Lent and at other times of the year. On Monday members of the One World Live Simply Group will remember Ann as we follow one of her Stations of the Cross based on the teachings of Pope Francis. This will be followed by a light Lenten supper ending at about 6pm. All are welcome.

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The Praise Group is meeting on **11th March at 10.30 am**, in the lower committee room. All who love singing are welcome. We sing with enthusiasm, choosing the hymns from the last month's liturgy.

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Wednesday 11th March at Our Lady, Queen of the Apostles, 141 Woodhall Lane Welwyn Garden City, AL7 3TP

Archbishop Richard Moth will meet with the clergy of the Stevenage Deanery and Lea Valley Deanery. He also wishes to meet with the faithful of those deaneries. All are invited to attend the solemn Mass, which he will preside over at **6:30pm**, followed by a fraternal gathering with the faithful. You are encouraged and warmly welcome to greet the new Archbishop of Westminster, Mgr Richard Moth.

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A Day with Mary is taking place at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 14th March 2026 (9.45am to 5:00pm). Further information is available at **https://www.adaywithmary.org/** or **https://eventcatholic.com/**

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15th March at 3pm The Healing and Wholeness Service has been cancelled this Sunday.

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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. It will be led by ministers of local churches, the preacher will be the Rev Jane Robson of Tilehouse Street Baptist Church just before she retires from her ministry here on Easter Day, and the hymns will be accompanied by the music group from The New Testament Church of God. As each

year, 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.

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

Easter Cards will be for sale after the Sunday 8:30am and 10:30am Mass. Also on Tuesdays after the 10:00am Mass.

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Passover Meal – Monday of Holy Week 30th March. Fr Adams is asking for a volunteer to organize the Passover meal this year. All the information for what is required and the resources are provided. Please let Fr Adams know if you as an individual or a team are willing to take this on.

Lenten Appeal 2026 As we continue our journey through Lent, thank you to everyone who has already supported the Lenten Appeal. The priorities of the appeal touch the lives of parishioners every day: families seeking support, young people shaping the future, individuals facing difficult circumstances, and parishes responsding with care and compassion. This special Appeal provides a meaningful way for people to contribute to our shared work. I invite you to pray, to reflect, and to give as you are able, so that together we may continue this vital work of faith, hope, and love across our Diocese. To donate today please visit www.rcdow.org.uk/LentenAppeal.

Alternatively envelopes are available in the porch. Thank you for your support and helping our diocesan family to continue this vital work.

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



Prayers for our intercession: *We pray for people suffering from illness especially:* Diana Marshall, Angelo Persichillo, 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: Felicity Osborne, Lynda Jude, John Smith, James Campbell, Peter Docherty, Regina Lorenzetto, Carrie Szanto, Valerie Burkin, Baldassare Alfano, Patrick Brack and Enzo Conetta. **If you have been bereaved and would like to talk with a member of our Bereavement visitors please ring 01462 459 126**

Charity seeks God for his own sake.It is so caught up with the very beauty of God, with his very nature, that it disregards what ever benefits it may get out of it. It loves God for being God and for no other reason. 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. (Fr d'Alzon meditation on charity)



Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 472 *Pastoral Perspectives – Casting light on crises, worries and difficulties.- The challenge of crises."*

In resolving sincerely to forgive the other, each has to ask quietly and humbly if he or she has not somehow created the conditions that led to the other's mistakes.

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

Parish Priest	Fr Adams Tatsidjodoung 07438 408350	**E-mail:**	hitchin@rcdow.org.uk
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.