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 2198

5th – 11th April 2026 – Easter 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 Acts:10:34.37-43, Col3:1-4, John 20:1-9
Entrance Antiphon: I have risen, and I am with you still, alleluia. You have laid your hand upon me, alleluia. Too wonderful for me, this knowledge, alleluia, alleluia.
Psalm: This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice in it and be glad.
Intercession: Lord hear us…
Response: Lord, graciously hear us!
Next Week Acts:2:42-47, 1 Peter 1:3-9, John 20:19-31

Ramblings

A strange and heavy darkness fell upon the world the day that Love was rejected on a Cross. It was not simply the absence of light — it was something felt deeply within the bones of creation itself. Think of a child who has lost a parent, a village caught in the crossfire of a war it did not choose, a people crushed beneath the boot of a power that serves no one but itself. We know that darkness. We live alongside it. It has many faces, and our world today is not short of them. Fortunately the Gospel refuses to leave us there.

There was once a little girl living in a city under siege. Each night, she placed a single candle on the windowsill. When asked why, she said simply: "So that they know someone is still here."

The women in the gospel do precisely that. In the grey hour before dawn, they go to the tomb. That early light is fragile, hesitant, almost afraid. But it is enough. Enough to take one step. Enough to carry grief forward.

Then, suddenly, everything changes. The earth shakes. An angel descends, radiant with light. The guards, armed and powerful, collapse in fear. And the women are told: "Do not be afraid. He is risen."

This is the answer to every war, every tyrant, every system that grinds human dignity to dust. It is not a political slogan. Not a military victory. It is something far deeper — the declaration that death itself has been defeated, that Love has the final word, and that no power on earth can unsay it.

Their mourning becomes worship. Their fear becomes joy. Christ, risen, meets them on the road — and sends them out. He sends us out too. Into a world aching for peace. His peace. The peace Christ has won for us. The darkness does not have the final word. It never does.

Christ is risen! Go and spread the news!! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Diary Dates

Sun 5 April



Proceeds from this Sunday's coffee morning will go to support **Hitchin Pantry** which provides subsidised shopping for low-income families and individuals. Cakes, preserves and books will be on sale. All are welcome especially new parishioners.

Mon 6 April

Tue 7 April

10.30am Tuesday Chat Hall

2pm – 4pm Craft Club LCR

Weds 8 April

6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall

Thurs 9 April

10:30am-12pm St Pio Hall

1pm Italian Club Hall

Fri 10 April

2pm-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

Sat 11 April

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

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.

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

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.

Holy Hour for the Dignity of Human Life A Holy Hour has been arranged to take place at 5.30pm, Rome time - **4.30pm in the UK - on Sunday 19 April** during the Spring Plenary of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. We will be holding a Holy Hour at the same time to unite in prayer with the Bishops. This is to present a unified, prayerful front to offer this petition to Our Lord for the dignity of life from conception to natural end and to pray that assisted suicide will not become law.

Other items of interest

Thanks to everyone who supported the recent Diapalante coffee morning which raised £204 for our education centre in Senegal.

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The Parish Council would like to send their thanks to all the volunteers and helpers who made the Passover Meal a successful event.
Happy Easter and God bless you all.

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The parish library is now in the Lower Committee Room. Parishioners are encouraged to use it. There is a wide range of books, so you may find something that pleasantly surprises you!

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You can collect photographs of deceased parishioners, which were previously displayed near the Statue of Mary at the back of the Church, in the Sacristy.

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*:* Giuseppe Benucci, Doreen Rolfe, Margagharita Valeni, Julia Gray, Frances Mather, Dennis Bruce, Fr Robert Henshaw, Kenneth Christy,Grace McDonald, Thelma Ross and Bishop James O'Brien.
If you have been bereaved and would like to talk with a member of our Bereavement visitors please ring 01462 459 126

If I really love Our Lord I will seek him,above all in the Sacrament of his love. He is there as the object and the model of my admiration – and it is there that I will acquire the strength of persuasion in order to get others to come and adore him too.
(Fr d'Alzon meditation on the Eucharist)



Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 476 *Pastoral Perspectives – Casting light on crises, worries and difficulties.- The challenge of crises."* It is becoming more and more common to think that when one or both partners no longer feel fulfilled, or things have not turned out the way they wanted, sufficient reason exists to end the marriage. Were this the case, no marriage would last.

Parish Safeguarding representative: Tomasz Pernak via **07969 362341** and **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.