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 2199

12th – 18th April 2026 – 2nd Sunday Easter Divine Mercy 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: 2:42-47, 1 Peter 1:3-9, 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 praise to the LORD, for he is good, his mercy endures for ever.
Intercession: Lord in your mercy
Response: Hear our Prayer!
Next Week Acts:2:14.22-33, 1 Pet 1:17-21, Lk 24:13-35

Ramblings

Thomas the Apostle leads us into an encounter with the risen Christ meeting his friends and showing them his wounds and saying, “Peace be with you.” Showing his wounds and speaking peace belong together. Jesus’ wounds are not only proof that it is truly him; they reveal the steady, faithful mercy of God.

The resurrection is not a reset, as though Good Friday could be wiped away. The wounds remain because his love remains. They are the living signs of a love that did not turn back, a mercy that went all the way, even through suffering and death. In showing them, Jesus is saying: this is who I am—one who loves you to the end and beyond. These are not marks of defeat, but signs of victory, signs of mercy.

And Jesus comes to his disciples in their own woundedness. They had failed him, run away, denied him, and hidden in fear. Yet he does not accuse them. He shows them his pierced hands and side. It is as if he is saying: your weakness has not overcome me; my mercy is greater than your sin. I forgive you. Let us begin again.

Again and again Jesus says, “Peace be with you.” This is not a simple greeting. It is mercy spoken aloud. It is forgiveness given freely. Those who fled are not shamed, but restored. The wounds and the peace belong together: the wounds show the cost of mercy while peace is its gift.

And this mercy is not only for us to receive, but to share. As Jesus shows us his wounds, he asks us to recognise his love—and to reflect it. If we have been forgiven so much, how can we not forgive? If we have received such mercy, how can we withhold it from others?

With deep gratitude and wonder, we look upon Jesus. Now ask yourself, will you receive his mercy—and will you give mercy to others?

Diary Dates

Sun 12 April



Proceeds from this Sunday's coffee morning will be in aid of **Garden House Hospice** run by Alex as part of his confirmation programme. Cakes, preserves and books will be on sale. All are welcome especially new parishioners.

2:30pm Divine Mercy Mass

Mon 13 April

Tue 14 April

10.30am Tuesday Chat Hall

2pm – 4pm Craft Club LCR

Weds 15 April

4:30pm-5:30pm RE Sessions Hall

6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall

Thurs 16 April

1pm Italian Club Hall

Fri 17 April

2pm-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

Sat 18 April

9am-12pm FHC Session Hall

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.

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 7.30 am and depart from Aylesford at 5pm.
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.

Wednesday April 15 1.30pm to 3pm Hinsley room, Morpeth Terrace. Wetminster cathedral interfaith group further discussion of Pope Leo XIV's *Dilexi te.* https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/apost_exhortations/documents/20251004-dilexi-te.html Refreshments available and all welcome. The interfaith art exhibition Sharing light continues at Zedwell hotel basement bar Great Windmill St until April 12.

Offertory income – February 2026

Offertory	January
Envelopes	£ 518.32
Standing Orders	£ 6,657.09
Contactless	£ 383.50
Loose Plate	£ 1,095.79
Rent and Donations from Parish Clubs	£ 3,300
TOTAL	£ 11,954.70



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*:* Robin Payne, Fr Hilary Carter, Orwell Armantrading, John Lee, Oonagh Trumbler, Marjorie Best, Joe Fox-Topps, Noel Holton, George Bancroft-Livingston, Francesca Maurello, Victoria Beben, Bernard Mallett, Enid Middleton, George Moore and Christine Sweeny.



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 477 *Pastoral Perspectives – Casting light on crises, worries and difficulties.- The challenge of crises."*
At times, all it takes to decide that everything is over is a single instance of dissatisfaction, the absence of the other when he or she was most needed, wounded pride or a vague fear.

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.