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 2200

19th – 25th April 2026 – 3rd Sunday of Easter 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: 2:14.22-33, 1 Pet 1:17-21, Lk 24:13-35
Entrance Antiphon: Cry out with joy to God, all the earth; O sing to the glory of his name. O render him glorious praise, alleluia.
Psalm: O Lord, you will show me the path of life. Alleluia.
Intercession: Lord hear us…
Response: Lord, graciously hear us!
Next Week Acts:2:14.36-41, 1 Pet 2:20-25, Jn 10:1-10

Ramblings

There come times in life when we realise that we are moving in the wrong direction. We drift into habits or choices not really right for us, and we become more and more unsettled. We experience a growing restlessness and develop a sense that we are moving away from where we should be. And, despite knowing it's wrong, we continue heading in the wrong direction. More often than not this choice is not deliberate. It can start with disappointment, with something that hurt or with confusion. Our emotions cloud our vision, and we find ourselves walking away when we should perhaps be staying still or turning back.

This is what happened to the disciples making their way to Emmaus. The two disciples are walking away from Jerusalem, leaving behind the very place where everything is about to change. The Cross has shattered their hopes, and in their heaviness of heart, they forget the promise of resurrection. They now focus only on the image of Jesus dead on the cross. This can so easily happen to us when sorrow clouds our minds or disappointment narrows our vision, and we find ourselves walking away from what we most deeply need.

Fortunately, the risen Christ responds with a simplicity that speaks straight to the heart: he does not call them back from a distance, but walks beside them on their mistaken path. He listens. He allows them to speak, even though their story is incomplete. Jesus then speaks in a way that opens their hearts and minds to the wisdom of the Holy Spirit.

Diary Dates

Sun 19 April



Proceeds from this Sunday's **One World Live Simply** coffee morning will go to support Medecins Sans Frontiers, an organisation which provides emergency medical help in areas of conflict and disasters. Cakes, preserves and books will be on sale. All are welcome especially new parishioners.

3pm-5pm Baptism Course Hall

4:30pm Holy Hour for the Dignity of Human Life

Mon 20 April

9.30am Parent & Toddlers Hall

6pm Beavers & 7.15pm Cubs Scout Hall

Tue 21 April

10.30am Tuesday Chat Hall

2pm – 4pm Craft Club LCR

7pm Scouts Scout Hall

Weds 22 April

6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall

Thurs 23 April St George National Solemnity

1pm Italian Club Hall

7pm RCIA LCR

Fri 24 April

2pm-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

Sat 25 April

1-3pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

Maybe there is a lesson here for us. When we see others walking in the wrong direction, we may be called to do what Jesus did, walk with them for a while, listen to them patiently… and then, with gentle care and the aid of the Holy Sprit help them find their way back.

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.

Thank you to all who helped and supported with last Sunday's coffee morning. An amazing £195.29 was raised for the Garden House Hospice.

Upcoming Sacramental Preparation Courses
Marriage Course- Sat 9th May.
Please contact LJ or see parish website for more details.

Baptism
We welcome Lyla Renny into the Family of the Parish, through the Sacrament of Baptism.

Funerals
Ronald Neeves on 20th April at 11:30am
Mrs Frances Moxham on 18th May at 12pm.

Other dates

Holy Hour On this Sunday, 19 April at **4:00 pm**), a prayer event titled "The Holy Hour" will be held for 30 min at the parish in collaboration with the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales. The purpose is to promote a culture of life, affirming the dignity of life from conception to natural end, and to pray that assisted suicide legislation is not enacted.

A Day With Mary pilgrimages this year
Pilgrimage to Fatima (8 July to 15 July 2026) Closing date 28 April 2026
Pilgrimage to Italy (1 September to 10 September 2026) Closing date 23 June 2026
Further information is available at **https://www.adaywithmary.org/**

Procession of Our Lady of Willesden
The May procession is on *Sunday May 10th at 3pm*, and the Preacher will be Fr Nigel Woollen, Parish Priest of Our Lady of Victories, Kensington. The intention of the Procession is the Protection of London, and for Peace. The October procession is on *Sunday October 18th at 7pm* at which the Archbishop Richard will preach, and the Seminarians attend, as we pray for the gift of Vocations.

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

Prayers for our intercession: *We pray for people suffering from illness especially:* Rogan Hodgeson, 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: Paul Bogeja, Don Sherriffs, Alice Campbell, Ciro Niali, Doreen Levitt, Margaret Sawyer, Marian Cook and Peter Skeet.

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

It is a pleasure to learn that new Assumptionist communities are being started. For example at Vinh in Vietnam a community for young people who want an experience of community life is being founded separate from our parish community there. May this venture be blessed.



Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 478 *Pastoral Perspectives – Casting light on crises, worries and difficulties.- The challenge of crises."* Inevitably, situations will arise involving human weakness and these can prove emotionally overwhelming.

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

Parish Tel no 01462 459126	**Sacramental Co-ordinator** L J Ross	ljross@rcdow.org.uk	press 3
	Administrator Siobhan Morgan	hitchin@rcdow.org.uk	press 1

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.