CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW



16 Nightingale Road, HITCHIN, SG5 1QS
(In the care of the Augustinians of the Assumption)

Newsletter No 2201

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

26th April – 2nd May 2026 – 4th 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:2:14.36-41, 1 Pet 2:20-25, Jn 10:1-10
Entrance Antiphon: The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.
Psalm: The LORD is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Alleluia.
Intercession: Lord hear us…
Response: Lord, graciously hear us!
Next Week: Acts:6:1-7, 1 Pet 2:4-9, Jn 14:1-12

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.

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.

Diary Dates

Sun 26 April



Our Confirmation Candidates will be running the tea and coffee morning after both 8.30am and 10.30am Masses, as part of their Fundraising Initiative. All are welcome to join us for a piece of cake!

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5:45pm, Confirmation Session **Hall**

Mon 27 April

9.30am Parent & Toddlers Hall

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6pm Beavers & 7.15pm Cubs Scout Hall

Tue 28 April

10.30am Tuesday Chat Hall

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2pm – 4pm Craft Club LCR

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7pm Scouts Scout Hall

Weds 29 April

4.30pm, FHC RE class, **Hall**

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6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall

Thurs 30 April

1pm Italian Club Hall

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7pm, RCIA, LCR

Fri 1 May

2pm-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

Sat 2 May

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

Archbishop Richard Moth's Pastoral Letter and Weekly Holy Hour Please pick up a copy of Archbishop Moth's Pastoral letter. There will be a weekly Holy Hour during Adoration on Saturday mornings at **10:30am** for the next month to pray for vocations. The Diocese have published a page on the diocesan website to support this Month of Prayer, which you may wish to make use of: https://rcdow.org.uk/month-of-prayer-for-priestly-vocations/ This page includes the prayer intentions and the diocesan prayer for vocations, which may be used during the weekly Holy Hour.

Envelopes If you donate to the church via offertory envelopes, or have requested to have envelopes, these can be found in the Sacristry ready for collection.

Thanks for Money Raised Many thanks to all those who supported the recent OWLS coffee morning. £161 was raised for Medecins Sans Frontiers which provides medical help in areas of conflict and disasters

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

Baptism
We welcome Charles and Jennifer Singleton and Ralph Chapman into the Family of the Parish through the Sacrament of Baptism.

Funerals
Mrs Frances Moxham on **18th May at 12pm**.

Other dates

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 Archbishop Richard will preach, and the Seminarians attend, as we pray for the gift of Vocations.

Archbishop Richard Masses for the Diocese Deaneries The Archbishop will be celebrating Masses for the Intentions of Deaneries of the Diocese during the four months May to August 2026. The Mass for the Stevenage Deanery will be on the **7th June**.

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



Prayers for our intercession: *We pray for people suffering from illness especially:* Rogan Hodgeson, 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*:* John Reilly, June Welbury, Damiano Ursa, Bernard Duffy, Daphne Barry, Mary Szpak, Alex Rashkov, Robina Tracey, Guiseppe Maurello and Richard Wilson.
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 479 *Pastoral Perspectives – Casting light on crises, worries and difficulties.- The challenge of crises."* One spouse may not feel full appreciated, or may be attracted to another person.

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

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 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.