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

3rd – 9th May 2026 – 5th 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:6:1-7, 1 Pet 2:4-9, Jn 14:1-12
Entrance Antiphon: O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.
Psalm: May your merciful love be upon us, as we hope in you, O LORD. Alleluia!
Intercession: Lord hear us…
Response: Lord, graciously hear us!
Next Week: Acts: 8:5-8, 1 Pet 3:15-18, Jn 14:15-21

Ramblings

Let us move beyond calling Thomas the Apostle 'the Doubter.' His questions are not fractures in faith but signs of desire. When he asks, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" he speaks for every soul longing for clarity rather than certainty. Because Thomas questions, Jesus reveals a truth we might otherwise overlook: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life." Thomas's courage shows that God is not found through maps or mastery, but through relationship. Rather than Thomas the Doubter, he is Thomas the Seeker, a man whose questioning opens pathways.

In a quiet harbour town, Kai, a fisherman, stands at the edge of the quay as mist gathers over the water. "If you are the way," he whispers, "show me how to walk when I can barely see." Someone nearby gestures toward a faint glimmer rippling across the tide and replies, "Step toward the voice that knows you." As Kai moves, something steadies him, a presence giving courage for the next step. He learns that the way forward is revealed not all at once, but through faithful movement. The path appears as he walks…..
The early Church taught that faith is not the silencing of questions but their true home. Augustine wrote, "Faith is to believe what you do not see; the reward of this faith is to see what you believe." Trust is not blindness, but a willingness to walk before sight arrives. Thomas shows that questioning can be an act of faith, and that Christ meets honest hearts not with rebuke, but with revelation and life.

Diary Dates

Sun 3 May



Proceeds from this Sunday's coffee morning will go **Dipalante.** Cakes will be on sale. All are welcome especially new parishioners and visitors.

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

Mon 4 May

9.30am Parent & Toddlers Hall

6pm Beavers & 7.15pm Cubs Scout Hall

Tue 5 May

10.30am Tuesday Chat Hall

2pm – 4pm Craft Club LCR

7pm Scouts Scout Hall

Weds 6 May

6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall

Thurs 7 May

10:30-12pm St. Pio Prayer Group Hall

1pm Italian Club Hall

7pm, RCIA, LCR

Fri 8 May

2pm-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

Sat 9 May

10am-4pm **Marriage Prep Course** Hall

1-3pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

Thomas's questions echo in every generation, in kitchens and chapels, amid doubt and devotion alike. They invite us to name our fears, voice our longing for truth, and admit our hunger for love. When Jesus is met with such openness, grace pours in like light through stained glass, strengthening what is uncertain.

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

Weekly Holy Hour 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.

Tea & Coffee Morning: Last week the Confirmation candidates raised £200 for the Hitchin Pantry. Thank you for your continued support.

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.

Gift Aid Donors We will soon be submitting our claim for the 2025-2026 tax year. If you Gift Aid your donations and did not pay tax or stopped paying tax in that year can you please email the Parish Office. Thank you.

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

Baptism We welcome Remy Ogundero into the parish community through the sacrament of Baptism.

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

Offertory income – March 2026

Offertory	December
Envelopes	**£ 531.60**
Standing Orders	**£ 7,964.89**
Contactless	**£ 586.50**
Loose Plate	**£ 2,014.29**
TOTAL	**£ 11,097.28**



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*:* Mary Skeet, Margaret Brooks, Gerado Erdos, Sheila Richards, Domenico Guarisco, Matthew Kay, John O'Mahoney, Dora Vega, Brian Green, Maria Mareri, Andrew Cresswell, Martina Cash, Elizabeth Cassidy, Ann Kennedy and David Wilson.
If you have been bereaved and would like to talk with a member of our Bereavement visitors please ring 01462 459 126

The spirit of the Assumption congregation can be expressed very briefly as; love of Our Lord, of the Blessed Virgin , his mother, and of the Church his Spouse… Not only must I avoid everything that might prevent me loving Jesus wholeheartedly, but at the same time I must love everything that was dearest to him.



Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 480 *Pastoral Perspectives – Casting light on crises, worries and difficulties.- The challenge of crises."* Jealousy and tensions may emerge, or new interests that consume the other's time and attention.

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.