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 2203

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

10th – 16th May 2026 – 6th 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: 8:5-8, 1 Pet 3:15-18, Jn 14:15-21**
Entrance Antiphon: Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth: The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.
Psalm: Cry out with joy to God, all the earth. Alleluia.
Intercession: Lord hear us…
Response: Lord, graciously hear us!
Next Week: **Acts:1:1-11, Eph 1:17-23, Matt 28:16-20**

Ramblings

During the Sundays of Easter we hear Jesus speaking to his disciples at the Last Supper. He also speaks to us. Listen carefully. Jesus says, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." Love and obedience are not rivals here; they are one and the same. Real love is not vague or sentimental. It has shape and direction. It shows itself in faithfulness and in choosing God's way of life.

We often think that rules restrict us while love sets us free. We also assume that the law belonged to the Pharisees, while Jesus was only concerned with being kind and warm. This is not true. Jesus certainly rejects cold legalism but does not reject the law. He fulfils it. Jesus reveals its deepest purpose: love! Every commandment teaches us how to love well.

There was a woman who visited her elderly neighbour every day of the week. Some days she felt tired or impatient, but she went anyway. She bought groceries, listened to the same stories, made the same cup of tea each time. This is not sentiment. This is love chosen, again and again. Her actions gave love substance.

In the same way, love in the Gospel is first of all a decision, an act of the will. This is why Jesus can command it. Love means willing the good of another, even when it is costly but it is not something we are not expected to manage on our own. Jesus gives us the help of the Holy Spirit, the Advocate – who walks beside us.

The Holy Spirit does more than defend us. The Spirit comforts, strengthens, and slowly changes us from within. God does not burden us with impossible demands. Through the Spirit, the commandments become a path to freedom, because they teach us how to love as Christ loves: fully, faithfully, and for life. Alleluia!

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.

Diary Dates

Sun 10 May



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

Mon 11 May
9.30am Parent & Toddlers Hall
6pm Beavers & 7.15pm Cubs Scout Hall

Tue 12 May
10.30am Tuesday Chat Hall
2pm – 4pm Craft Club LCR
7pm Scouts Scout Hall

Weds 13 May
4:30-5:30pm FHC RE Class Hall
6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall

Thurs 14 May
1pm Italian Club Hall
7pm **RCIA**, LCR

Fri 15 May
2pm-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

Sat 16 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

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/.

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.

Baptism We welcome **Remy gundero** and **Giulio Riccio** into the parish community through the sacrament of Baptism. Please keep them, and their families, in your prayers.

First Holy Communion: Our First Holy Communion Mass will be celebrated at 2pm on Sunday 7th June. Please continue to pray for the FHC children, and their families, as they prepare to receive the Blessed Sacrament for the first time.

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

The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London is holding a First Saturday Divine Mercy Recollection Day at the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, on **Saturday 6th June 2026 from 10:30 am to 4:30 pm.** The Recollection Day will include Holy Mass, Talk, Hour of Mercy with Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. All welcome. Pls call millie on 07957594646 for more information. Coaches from Slough, Ealing Broadway, North London, Barking and Victoria.

Christian Aid Week 10-16th May
Across the world children living in poverty go to bed hungry. Please support their hardworking parents to change this. Donate to help fund tools and training to enable families to cultivate crops and feed their children. Envelopes are available in the porch beside the red postbox and will be collected after all masses. A Giftaid form is attached to the envelope.

Christians against Poverty (CAP) Job Club -3rd June, 10am-12pm A new CAP Job Club course will be starting on Wednesday at Zeo Church, Hitchin. The course is for eight weeks. The course and materials are free and we also provide a light lunch, again, free of charge. The maximum number of clients per course is ten at the moment.
We work with clients to help them:
1. set goals;
2. write and improve CVs and application forms;
3. understand what employers are looking for in a potential employee;
4. improve interview skills and techniques.

We will also be hosting a **coffee morning** on Wednesday **20th May from 10am-12pm**, at Zeo Church, whereby people can come and meet Joanne and the team before the course starts to: ask questions, understand more about the course and see whether the course is right for them.
For further information, please contact Joanne Chico by email joannechico@capjobclubs.org or telephone 07498 100017.

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: Trefor James, James Devaney, Ted Wallace, George Callaghan, Peter Metrovetch, Richard Rataj, Terrance O'Keefe, Francesca D'Angelo, Calogero Maniscalo and Renante Gannon.

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

Hope is based on the grace which Jesus Christ merits for me. Without grace I am powerless but with grace all things are possible (Fr d'Alzon reflections on Hope.)



Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 481 *Pastoral Perspectives – Casting light on crises, worries and difficulties.- The challenge of crises."* Physical changes naturally occur in everyone. These and so many other things rather than threatening love, are occasions for reviving and renewing it.

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.