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 2204

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

17th – 23rd May 2026 – 7th 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 1:12-14, 1 Peter 4:13-16, John 17:1-11
Entrance Antiphon: O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you; of you my heart has spoken: seek his face; hide not your face from me, alleluia.
Psalm: I believe I shall see the LORD'S goodness in the land of the living. Alleluia!
Intercession: Lord hear us…
Response: Lord, graciously hear us!
Next Week: Acts: 2:1-11, 1Cor 12:3-7.12-13, John 20:19-23

Ramblings

In a primary school very much like ours, a teacher wanted her pupils to learn the Apostles' Creed by heart. She explained its ancient roots — how it traced back to the Old Roman Creed, a baptismal confession from the 2nd century, built upon twelve great statements, one for each apostle. To make it memorable, she chose twelve children, each responsible for one line, recited aloud every morning.

One day, things were going beautifully. Child after child stepped forward with confidence. He ascended into heaven. And is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead. Then — silence. The teacher looked up, puzzled. And a small voice offered quietly: "Oh… Eric forgot his line about the Holy Spirit." Something we are all inclined to do!!

In the Creed, the Holy Spirit receives just five words: I believe in the Holy Spirit. And yet those words proclaim a Divine Person. We are days away from Pentecost, that blazing, world-changing feast when the Spirit descended upon the apostles and the Virgin Mary like tongues of living fire, and the Church was born, trembling and radiant.

The Holy Spirit has long been called the forgotten Person of the Blessed Trinity. We pray easily to the Father — our Creator, our origin. We turn naturally to Christ — our Saviour, our brother, our Lord. But the Spirit? The Spirit is harder to hold. Mysterious. Elusive. Like wind, we cannot see Him, only feel Him. Like flame, He does not ask permission before He burns. Perhaps that is precisely why the Church calls us in these golden days before Pentecost to stop and pay attention. To open our hearts.

The Holy Spirit is not an afterthought. He is the Love of the Father and the Son made gift — poured upon us, breathing divine life into the Church, and into every human heart that dares to welcome Him.

Diary Dates

Sun 17 May



Proceeds from this Sunday's **One World Live Simply** coffee morning will go to support **Tibbs Dementia Foundation**, a local charity which provides activities for dementia sufferers and their carers. Cakes, preserves and books will be on sale. All are welcome especially new parishioners.

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5:45pm Confirmation Session, Hall

Mon 18 May

9.30am Parent & Toddlers Hall

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6pm Beavers & 7.15pm Cubs Scout Hall

Tue 19 May

10.30am Tuesday Chat Hall

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2pm – 4pm Craft Club LCR

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7pm Scouts Scout Hall

Weds 20 May

6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall

Thurs 21 May

1pm Italian Club Hall

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7pm RCIA, LCR

Fri 22 May

2pm-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

Sat 23 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

Thanks to all those who supported the recent coffee morning. £214 .00 was raised.

Christian Aid Week 10-16th May
Envelopes for your donation to Christian Aid are available in the porch. They include a Giftaid form. Envelopes should be put in the red postbox. Thank you.

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 **Dominic Koba-McAuley** into the parish community through the Sacrament of Baptism. Please keep him, and his family, 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 Jesus for the first time.

Funerals
Mrs **Frances Moxham** on **18th May at 12pm**. Please keep in your prayers **Sara Kay** who passed away on the 13th May.

The Order of the Augustinians of the Assumption is organising a **Youth Pilgrimage** for individuals aged 18 to 35. Those interested in participating are encouraged to consult the contact information displayed on the posters in the porch or to contact the Administrator directly.

The Life of Christ 16 - 20 June 2026 - **The Story of Jesus, Brought to Life**Discover the wonder of Jesus' life with an unforgettable event for all the family. The Life of Christ is a play like no other, placing you in the middle of an immersive theatre experience. Join over a hundred actors in the stunning grounds of Wintershall Estate as this magnificent story is movingly recreated with authentic detail in an epic open-air production. Watch the Wedding in Cana, the Feeding of the 5000 and the Last Supper unfold before your eyes. It's the perfect day out for families, faith groups, theatre lovers and schools. Tickets can be booked at https://www.wintershall.org.uk/event/life-of-christ/

Please note that 16th & 17th June are schools only days. There is limited availability on Thursday 18th & Friday 19th June. At present there is availability on Saturday 20th June but please book as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

7th Hitchin Brownies needs your help! The leadership team are stepping down at the end of this term and urgently need someone to take over the Brownie Unit to ensure that it does not need to close. If you are interested please email 7thhitchinbrownies@gmail.com asap for more information and to ensure there is time for a handover. The unit has been running for over 50 years and we would really love to find someone to keep this going.

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



Prayers for our intercession: *We pray for people suffering from illness especially:* Rogan Hodgeson, Rita Lambie, 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, the Sheldon family and Margaret Holford.

We pray for those whose anniversary is about now: Patrick Boyle, Eric Fielder, Irene Harding, Sonia McGuire, Ignazio D'Angelo, Denis Carolan and Maria Vaskova. **If you have been bereaved and would like to talk with a member of our Bereavement visitors please ring 01462 459 126**

Twenty years ago three new foundations were made, Togo. Philippines and Vietnam. They have all been blessed, in fact we have profited in England by the help we have received and are receiving from Vietnam. With ,them all we give thanks



Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 482 *Pastoral Perspectives – Casting light on crises, worries and difficulties.- The challenge of crises."* What is urgently needed today is a ministry to care for those whose marital relationship has broken down. *Relatio Finalis 2015, 78.*

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

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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 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.