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 2205

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

24th – 30th May 2026 – Pentecost Sunday 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: 2:1-11, 1Cor 12:3-7.12-13, John 20:19-23
Entrance Antiphon: The Spirit of the Lord has filled the whole world and that which contains all things understands what is said, alleluia.
Psalm: Send forth your spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth. Alleluia.
Intercession: Lord hear us…
Response: Lord, graciously hear us!
Next Week: Ex 34:4-6.8-9, Cor 13:11-13, John 3:16-18

Ramblings

Jerusalem was filled with pilgrims from across the known world on Pentecost day— Parthians, Medes, Elamites, visitors from Egypt, Rome, Arabia, and beyond. Different languages, different faces, different stories. And yet, when the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles, something extraordinary happened. Each person heard the Good News proclaimed in their own tongue. Rather than erase their differences, the Spirit transfigured them into communion.

That same Spirit is alive and at work among us today.

The Spirit does not wait for us to be ready, or confident, or free from difficulty but meets us precisely in our uncertainty, our weariness, our fragility — and begins a quiet, powerful work of transformation. Like wind, the Spirit moves where he wills. Like fire, he purifies and illuminates everything he touches never leaving us as he finds us.

A young woman had drifted far from her faith. Life had been hard — loss, disappointment, the slow erosion of hope. One evening, she slipped into the back of a church almost without knowing why. She expected nothing. But during the service, something shifted — quietly, without drama, like a window opening in a room that had been shut too long. She described it simply afterwards: "I felt as though someone had breathed on a flame I thought had gone out."

That is Pentecost. Not always thunder and rushing wind, though sometimes that too. More often it is a gentle, persistent breath — warming what has grown cold, illuminating what has grown dark, restoring what life has worn away.

This is the breath that filled the apostles who were sent out with a joy they could not contain. The same breath is offered to us. The Spirit who raised Christ from the dead dwells within us — renewing, emboldening, calling us forward. We are not spectators of the Gospel. We are its carriers.

So go — transformed, and filled with the urgent, joyful conviction that the Good News is real, it is alive, and the world is waiting to hear it!!!

Diary Dates

Sun 24 May



Proceeds from this Sunday's coffee morning will go to support **Hitchin Pantry** which provides subsidised shopping for low-income families and individuals. Cakes, preserves and books will be on sale. All are welcome especially new parishioners.

Mon 25 May

No Parent & Toddlers

No Cubs

Tue 26 May

10.30am Tuesday Chat Hall

2pm – 4pm Craft Club LCR

No Scouts

Weds 27 May

6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall

Thurs 28 May

1pm Italian Club Hall

Fri 29 May

2pm-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

Sat 30 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 everyone who supported last Sunday's **One World Live Simply coffee morning**. £143.32 was raised for Tibbs Dementia Foundation.

The parish library and the children's library are now both in the Lower Committee Room. The children's books are on the bottom shelves at the right-hand side. Parishioners of all ages are encouraged to make regular use of this facility.

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 **Mofeyifoluwa Ayangade, Santiago Gaitán** and **Rosalie Menezes Lawton** into the parish community through the Sacrament of Baptism. Please keep them 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.

FHC Mass- help wanted: We are seeking additional volunteers to help set up and serve refreshments in the parish hall for the FHC children and their families. Donations are very welcome and can be left in the hall kitchen over the FHC weekend (please mark clearly 'FHC MASS'). We thank you for your kind generosity.

RCIA: Our RCIA programme 2025-2026 has now come to an end. A new cycle will begin in the Autumn Term and we will be hosting three taster sessions over the summer. If you are interested in joining the Catholic Church, or would like to deepen your faith, please contact LJ.

Please keep in your prayers **Gerard Aranha** who passed away on the 20th May.

Holy Communion Cards for Sale in the Hall after the 8:30am and 10am Masses on Sunday and after the 10:00am Mass on Tuesday.

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*:* Giovanni Tortorella, Ted Hollingdale, Maria Mareri, Michael Bell, Mario Salamone, Kajetan Migdal, Lorraine Bruce, Alfonso Comparetto, John O'Donel Watts, Keith Warren and Margaret Osborne. **If you have been bereaved and would like to talk with a member of our Bereavement visitors please ring 01462 459 126**

It is only twenty years since the first Assumptionist community was founded in the Philippines. Today there are three communities, one of which is a language school. Aware of the needs elsewhere ten of their number work in other provinces.



Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 483 *Pastoral Perspectives – Casting light on crises, worries and difficulties.- The challenge of crises."* In some cases, respect for one's own dignity and the good of the children requires not giving in to excessive demands, or preventing a grave injustice, violence or chronic ill treatment.

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 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.