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 2207

Mass Times
Saturday **6pm**
Sunday **8.30am, 10.30am, 5pm**
Monday – Saturday **10am**
There will be **no Saturday Confessions or Exposition** due to a Baptism. All Masses are livestreamed Livestream Mass

13th – 19th June 2026 – 11th Sunday of the 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 Ex19:2-6, Rom 5:6-11, Matt 9:36 – 10:8
Entrance Antiphon: O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you; be my help. Do not abandon or forsake me, O God, my Saviour!
Psalm: We are his people, the sheep of his flock.
Intercession: Lord hear us…
Response: Lord, graciously hear us!
Next Week: Jer 20:10-13, Rom 5:12-1, Matt 10:26-33

Ramblings

Again and again, Jesus reaches for images of newness — new wine, new wineskins, new cloth, a new covenant. Something fresh and life-giving had entered the world, something that could not be contained within old habits or rigid structures. The Kingdom was coming. Hearts had to open. Eyes had to see differently.

Yet Jesus did not come to sweep everything away. "I have come not to abolish the Law and the Prophets, but to fulfil them." He honoured what had come before — not to preserve it behind glass, but to bring it at last to its full flowering. Like a seed lying patient in the dark earth, the beauty was always there. It simply needed the right conditions to break open and bloom.

There was once a sculptor who was asked how he managed to carve such a lifelike figure of a lion from a raw block of stone. He smiled and said simply: "I just removed everything that wasn't the lion." The lion, he believed, was already there — waiting, hidden within the stone, present from the very beginning.

Something of that mystery lives in every human heart. God has already placed something remarkable within each one of us — a beauty, a dignity, a quiet inner richness that we may barely glimpse in ourselves, and too easily overlook in others. It does not need to be invented or imported from somewhere else. It needs only to be uncovered, released and set free.

This is the work of the Holy Spirit — gentle, persistent, endlessly patient — moving within us as a sculptor moves around stone, drawing out what God has always seen in us, even when we cannot see it in ourselves.

The Kingdom of God does not arrive from outside and impose itself on us. It rises from within — from the hidden depths where God has been quietly at work all along, waiting for the moment to reveal what love has always known was there.

Diary Dates

Sun 14 June



Proceeds from this Sunday's **One World Live Simply** coffee morning will go to support Compass Children's Homes. Cakes, preserves and books will be on sale. All are welcome especially new parishioners.

5.45pm Confirmation Session 9 Hall

Mon 15 June

9.30am Parent & Toddlers Hall

6pm Beavers & 7.15pm Cubs Scout Hall

Tue 16 June

10.30am Tuesday Chat Hall

2pm – 4pm Craft Club LCR

7pm Scouts Scout Hall

Weds 17 June

6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall

Thurs 18 June

1pm Italian Club Hall

Fri 19 June

2pm-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

2.30pm Scripture Study Fr Andrew, Christopher Hse

Sat 20 June

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

Many thanks to all of those
or the coffee morning on behalf of **Cancer Research UK** which raised £157.75

Baptism: We welcome **Benjamin Fernando** into the parish community through the Sacrament of Baptism. Please keep him, and his family, in your prayers.

*Please note that there will be **no Saturday Confessions or Exposition** due to the Baptism.*

The Funeral Service for Alberto Marcantonio will take place at 10:00am.This will be followed by entombment at North Hertfordshire Memorial Park and Crematorium. May he rest in peace and rise in glory and may the Lord comfort his family.

First Holy Communion: Congratulations to all the children who made their FHC on Sunday 7th June. Thank you to all who were involved in this very special Mass.

Healing Sunday on 13th/14th June: Parishioners have the opportunity for prayers and anointing at all four masses during the Mass. All welcome.

RCIA- *Continuing the journey*: If you have been baptised or received into the Church within the past 5 years and would like to continue developing your faith, meet other new Catholics and discover useful resources- these events are for you! The first event is on **Saturday 20th June.** New Catholics are invited to a gathering and talk on 'Stepping Out as a Catholic' at 4pm at Vaughan House in Westminster, followed by Mass at 6pm with Archbishop Richard in Westminster Cathedral.

Our Lady's Bereavement Support Team are holding a special Prayer Service for bereaved parishioners and friends on **Wednesday 24th June at 7:30pm**. There will be an opportunity to place names in a basket of Remembrance which will be placed on the altar. Light refreshments will be served in the hall after the service.

The Life of Christ - 16-20 June: 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/lifeof-christ/ Please note that 16th & 17th June are schools only days.

Called to Serve Day *for parish catechists, Caritas Volunteers and Youth Leaders*: A day of workshops jointly led by the Agency for Evangelisation, Caritas Westminster and the Youth Ministry Team, with contributions from Fr Patrick van der Vorst (founder of *Christian Art*). **Saturday 27th June**, 10am-4pm at Focolare Centre, WGC. Refreshments are provided, please bring a packed lunch. If you are interested in attending, please contact L J to register.

All are invited to hear about a local Catholic school's implementation of teaching the secondary curriculum through Catholic Social Teaching: CST: From Pope Leo XII to Nicholas Breakspear Catholic School, to be given by Miss Marta Gallego, Head of Biology and Deputy Head of Science at NBS. **2.30 - 3.30 pm Thursday 9th July** Meeting Room St Alban and Stephen Parish Centre, 14 Beaconsfield Road, St Albans, AL1 3RB. Hosted by the Herts Circle of the Newman Association.

You are invited to attend a local screening of the *People's Emergency Briefing* film on the threats to British life from ongoing damage to nature and to our climate. This will be at **Hitchin Boys School - main hall on Thursday 2nd July at 7 for 7.30pm. Please book your free place here:**
Https://tinyurl.com/pebhbs
The film features footage from last November's National Emergency Briefing, bringing together leading UK experts in climate science, food security, health, economics, national security and nature.
Following the 50-minute film, they will host a structured discussion about what this means for our community. Your presence is greatly valued.
If you are unable to attend, there is a screening at the Broadway Cinema Letchworth on 9th July which you'd be very welcome to attend (tickets are £4 via https://www.broadway-letchworth.com/cinema/whats-on/the-peoples-emergency-briefing-live-panel-qa/)

WEBELIEVE | Festival of Catholic Life
Friday 24–Monday 27 July 2026 | St Mary's College, Oscott, Birmingham
WeBelieve Festival brings the Church together in England and Wales. It is an unmissable opportunity to discover the traditions and charisms that flow through the Church, to experience the joy of community, and to encounter personally the Lord Jesus, our salvation. Join us from 24–27 July 2026 at the historic and beautiful setting of St Mary's College, Oscott, for a feast of the True, the Good and the Beautiful.
Book your tickets at webelievefestival.com

Free Parish Memories Listings for Your Parish Community We are pleased to confirm that **families can now list the memories of their loved ones at no cost**. This service has been created to support parishes and provide a simple, dignified way for people to remember those who have passed away.

Families can submit a Memory in just a few minutes and listed in the Parish page of Parish Memories using

this link:
https://www.parishmemories.org/memorial-post
You are very welcome to share this link with your parish community by:

- Email
- Text message
- WhatsApp
- Parish bulletin
- Website
- Facebook page

FINANCIAL RESULTS to 31st DECEMBER 2025
The Parish results are as follows:
INCOME
General Parish funds £288,529
Restricted Funds Hitchin Pantry £49,682
TOTAL INCOME £338,211
EXPENDITURE
General Parish funds £197.790
Restricted Funds Hitchin Pantry £29,617
TOTAL EXPENDITURE £227,407
SURPLUS
General Parish Funds £90,739
Restricted Funds Hitchin Pantry £20,065
TOTAL SURPLUS £110,804
The Hitchin Parish general funds benefited from very generous Legacies from deceased parishioners totalling £87,608. Without this Income the Parish would have produced a small annual surplus of £3,131. This is an improvement since for most of the year the Parish was running a deficit. The Hitchin Pantry surplus was the result of a £20,000 Grant being received at the end of the year.

Worldwide Marian Procession
You are invited to join in unity across the world to pray for world peace on Sat.13th June (anniversary of Fatima apparition) at 4pm, starting at St. Hugh of Lincoln, Letchworth Garden City and finishing with refreshments in St. Hilda Room, adjacent to the church. Parking is available at church and Fortescue Hall. For more details phone Bernardette 07939 634696 or visit:
www.worldwidemarianpro session.com

Christchurch Hitchin Youth and Children's Team
are recruiting for Schools & Youth Worker, a shared role between Phase Hitchin and Christchurch Hitchin supporting young people across school, church and community in Hitchin, Hertfordshire.
This is a unique opportunity to build on Christchurch's established youth work and Phase's experience of working in schools, to build community and connection in schools and support young people on their faith journey.
Schools & Youth Worker:

- Full time (37.5 hours), fixed term 3 years
- Salary £29,000
- Flexible working including evenings and Sundays
- Deadline: 3 July

More information and the job pack can be found at: https://phase-hitchin.org/blog/work-with-us

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 and the Sheldon family.

We pray for those whose anniversary is about now*:* Michael Augustus, Teresa Barnard, Beryl Duggan, Kathleen Morgan, Innocenzia Salvaggio, Mary Pearson, Michael Shortall, Giuseppe Comparetto, Julian Montano, Noel Hughes, Mary Bell, Linda Austin, Honor Evans, Philip Smith, Cardinal Hume, Tracy Scargill, Eric Gill, Tony Burns, Elizabeth Sturnham, Rocco Picone, Francesca Policarpo and Bernadette Swinscoe. **If you have been bereaved and would like to talk with a member of our Bereavement visitors please ring 01462 459 126**

Are there Assumptionist houses in South America ? Yes, At Santiago in Chile there is a shrine and church dedicated to Our Lady of Lourdes. In fact that area of the city is known as Lourdes. At Valparaiso and at Lota there are parishes in the care of the Assumptionists.



Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 485 *Pastoral Perspectives – Casting light on crises, worries and difficulties.- The challenge of crises."* Accompaniment after breakdown and divorce.
Separation must be considered as a last resort, after all other reasonable attempts at reconciliation have proved vain. John Paul II, Apostolic Exhortation Familiaris Consortio (22 November 1981), 83:AAS74(1982)184.

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.