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 2208

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

20th – 26th June 2026 – 12th 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: Jer 20:10-13, Rom 5:12-1, Matt 10:26-33
Entrance Antiphon: The Lord is the strength of his people, a saving refuge for the one he has anointed. Save your people, Lord, and bless your heritage, and govern them for ever.
Psalm: In your great mercy, answer me, O Lord.
Intercession: Lord hear us…
Response: Lord, graciously hear us!
Next Wk: 2 Kgs 4:8-11, 14-16a, Rom 6:3-4, 8-11, Matt 10:37-42

Ramblings

In every human life, people draw quiet boundaries between what is public and what is private. Some things we share easily, others we guard more closely. This week Jesus chooses to unsettle these boundaries: "What I tell you in the dark, say in the light." he says. The Good News is not meant to remain hidden in the private rooms of the heart. Faith is given to be lived, spoken and shared – gently, but courageously.

Timothy Radcliffe OP often reflects that faith grows precisely when it is named aloud. He recalls a simple moment from his time as Master of the Dominicans when a young friar, timid and unsure, confessed that he felt his faith was weak because he rarely spoke about it. Radcliffe encouraged him not to wait until his faith felt strong, but to risk sharing it as it was. In speaking of Christ to others, the friar discovered that his faith did not shrink, but deepened. What we give away in love, God multiplies.

This echoes Jeremiah's struggle. He was fearful, even mocked, yet he was unable to remain silent. And St Paul reminds us that grace overflows far beyond our weakness. Faith is not our achievement; it is God's gift, poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit. We are not asked to be perfect witnesses, only faithful ones.

St Augustine puts it simply: "If you believe what you like in the Gospel, and reject what you don't like, it is not the Gospel you believe, but yourself!" True faith calls us out of comfort and into witness. So let us ask the Holy Spirit for courage: to guide our words, steady our hearts, and open doors in ordinary moments. We need not be loud or forceful, but we must not hide. Even the quiet sharing of faith can become light for another – and in that sharing, we too are renewed.

Diary Dates

Sun 21 June



There will be no coffee morning this Sunday due to unexpectated circumstances.

Mon 22 June
9.30am Parent & Toddlers Hall
6pm Beavers & 7.15pm Cubs Scout Hall

Tue 23 June
10.30am Tuesday Chat Hall
2pm – 4pm Craft Club LCR
7pm Scouts Scout Hall

Weds 24 June
6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall

Thurs 25 June
1pm Italian Club Hall

Fri 26 June
2pm-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall
2.30pm Scripture Study Fr Andrew, Christopher Hse

Sat 27 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

The Flower Group would like to thank our very generous parishioners who helped us raise £201.50p for the church flowers at our coffee morning on **Sunday June 7th.**

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.

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

Baptism Preparation Course: Our next preparation course for parents is on **Sunday 19th July**, from 3pm-5pm. To register, please contact LJ

RCIA: We will be starting a new cycle in the Autumn Term and we'd love for you to join us! RCIA is perfect for: non-Catholics interested in baptism or conversion, non-Catholic parents seeking baptism for their children, Catholics who may not have attended Mass in a while or practising Catholics who would like to deepen their understanding of their faith.
We'll be hosting three 'Come and See' sessions over the summer- there's no need to attend all of them, just pick the date that works for you:

- **Sunday 26th July, 6-7pm**
- **Sunday 9th August, 6-7pm**
- **Sunday 23rd August, 6-7pm**

Come along, ask questions and discover what the Catholic faith can offer! To register your interest, please contact LJ.

Confirmation: Our Confirmation Mass with Bishop Paul McAleenan will be on **Sunday 12th July at 5pm**. Please keep our Candidates in your prayers as they prepare for the next step on their Sacramental journey.

The Funeral Service for Giuseppe Geraldi will take place at **11:30am on the 25th June**.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.

Please keep in your prayers **Mary Reynolds** who passed away recently.

We regret to inform you that the **The Pringles® Tube Free Collection Programme is closing**, due to Pringles ending the funding for this recycling scheme. The last collection date at the Parish will be **Sunday 13th July.** Between now and Sunday 13th July, may we encourage all parishioners and supporters of our recycling efforts to bring them for recycling any size Pringles tubes with metal bottoms, so that we can send the most possible to raise funds for PHASE - it provides support and counselling to school children in Hitchin schools. (http://www.phase-hitchin.org/)
Thank you for your understanding and support.

Notice from the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children Join the Fightback Day 2026. It is now legal for a woman to abort her own baby, up to birth, for any reason, in England and Wales. Please take the time to read the literature in the porch to find information on how to take part in the campaign. If you want to sign one of the postcards but don't have a stamp, please return it to the Parish Administrator who is able to send them back with a freepost envelope.

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

Prayers for our intercession: *We pray for people suffering from illness especially:* Harriet Parry 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*:* Catherine Hill, Aida Monteiro, Maureen Binks, Frank McGennity, Patrick McDaid, John Blakesley, Antoniella Persichillo, William Clarke, Anne Powell, Patrick Joseph Walshe, Victor Kirk, Christine Hine, Peter Appleyard, Peggy Brookman, Tony Brennan, Pauline Taylor, Maria Urso, May Cockerton and Ricardo Sanchez. **If you have been bereaved and would like to talk with a member of our Bereavement visitors please ring 01462 459 126**

Assumption in South America cont. There are two houses in Argentina. A priest and two students were taken during the military regime. There are formation houses in Ecuador and Columbia.

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.