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 2209

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

27th June – 3rd July 2026 – Feast of St Peter and Paul - 13th 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: Kings4:8-11.14.16, Rom 6:3-4.8-11, Mat 10:37-42
Entrance Antiphon: All peoples, clap your hands. Cry to God with shouts of joy!
Psalm: I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.
Intercession: Lord hear us…
Response: Lord, graciously hear us!
Next Wk: Zech 9:9-10, Rom 8:9.11-13,Matt 11:25-30

Ramblings

St Peter and St Paul stand as two models of the same calling: leaders who serve and leaders who spark. Peter's strength was his presence — he stood among people, owned his mistakes, and rose again with humility that drew others close. Paul's strength was his vision — he crossed cultures, adapted boldly, and spoke with a clarity that turned strangers into followers. Together they teach that true leadership is a way of being: rooted in service, fired by conviction, and carried by charisma.

This kind of Charisma is the steady force of someone who believes so fully in a cause that others want to follow. Good leaders are courageous in truth, compassionate in action, resilient in hardship and clear in communication. They listen more than they speak, mentor more than they command, and match words with deeds. They act from love and translate belief into service.

A coastal village was once cut off by a sudden storm. Two leaders arose. Mara stayed with frightened families, organised shelter and kept people calm; Michael mapped routes, negotiated supplies and rallied help from neighbouring villages. Mara's steady presence soothed fear; Michael's restless energy found solutions. Alone each could help; together they saved the village. Their partnership showed that leadership is most effective when compassion and strategy work in concert — when heart and mind move as one.

St Augustine of Hippo said: "Understanding is the reward of faith. Therefore seek not to understand that you may believe, but believe that you may understand." Emmanuel d'Alzon goes further: "To be a Christian is to be a person of action: let faith move your feet, steady your hands and open your heart; belief that does not serve is belief that has not yet lived."

Let those words be your compass. Lead from love, act with purpose, and carry a vision that includes everyone. Like Peter, stand with people in their need; like Paul, carry a message that crosses borders.

Diary Dates

Sun 28 June



Proceeds from this Sunday's coffee morning will go to **Pro-Life Movement**. Cakes will be on sale. All are welcome especially visitors.

5:45-7:30pm Confirmation Session Hall

Mon 29 June

9.30am Parent & Toddlers Hall

6pm Beavers & 7.15pm Cubs Scout Hall

Tue 30 June

10.30am Tuesday Chat Hall

2pm – 4pm Craft Club LCR

7pm Scouts Scout Hall

Weds 1 July

6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall

Thurs 2 July

1pm Italian Club Hall

Fri 3 July

2pm-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

2.30pm Scripture Study Fr Andrew, Christopher Hse

Sat 4 July

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 funeral Mass for Mary Theresa Reynolds is **Wednesday 8th July at 11.30am** in our church. It will be followed by a reception and lunch in the parish hall where we will come together to celebrate Mary's life and share memories. If you would like to contribute to our memory board, please bring along a photograph of Mary to display at the reception. We know these photographs are treasured keepsakes, so please feel free to take yours home with you before you leave. At 2.40pm, the family will leave for the burial at Alleyfield Cemetery, Ickleford where all are welcome to join us. Following the burial, we will gather for drinks under the gazebo at The Plume of Feathers, Ickleford, which is located opposite the cemetery. Please note, wear whatever is comfortable, there is no formal dress code.

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

FHC 2027: Applications for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion programme, for those in Year 3 or above, will open 1st September. Details will be posted on our website & parish newsletters throughout August.

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.

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.

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*:* Sheila Rigley, Brian Webber, Daniel O'Sullivan, Sandra Pemberton, Sheila Silverstone, Barbara Hobbs, Carmela De Rosa, Patrick Sweeney, Angela Knight and Dominico Lanni. **If you have been bereaved and would like to talk with a member of our Bereavement visitors please ring 01462 459 126**

Brazil was one of the first Assumptionist missions. Two Assumptionist priests have been bishops there, A great deal of the apostolate has been in education. Today there are five communities in Brazil and one mission in Angola.

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.