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 2210

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

4th – 10th July 2026 – 14th 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: Zech 9:9-10, Rom 8:9.11-13,Matt 11:25-30
Entrance Antiphon: Your merciful love, O God, we have received in the midst of your temple. Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the ends of the earth; your right hand is filled with saving justice.
Psalm: I will bless your name for ever, my God and king. Alleluia.
Intercession: Lord hear us…
Response: Lord, graciously hear us!
Next Wk: Is 55:10-11, Rom 8:18-23, Matt 13:1-23

Ramblings

"Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." says Jesus. The most startling truths and deepest gifts offered to us are not gained through triumph or self-assertion but through humility and welcome. Friendship is one of those gifts. It is not a consolation prize, but a sacred and necessary way of being human.

Friendship lightens the load because it is a shared yoke. To carry life alone is to strain every muscle; to walk with a friend is to discover that burdens change shape and weight when upheld together. True friendship asks nothing transactional; it is the recognition of another as a gift. It is the quiet courage to be known and to know, the daily miracle that says: you are not alone.

A woman named Mara kept a somewhat battered notebook of small failures and private fears. One winter, after a long day, she missed her bus and sat shivering on a bench. An old friend, Tom, happened to pass by. He sat down without questions, produced a thermos, and listened to her story as the sky darkened. Weeks later, Mara found the notebook on her kitchen table with a single line written inside: "You carried me once; let me carry you now." That line did not erase her troubles, but it changed their meaning. The weight became bearable because it was shared.

Friendship, then, is not an optional ornament. It is a form of grace that teaches us about the easy yoke Christ promises: gentleness, rest, mutual bearing. In a culture that often reduces love to possession or performance, friendship resists and redeems. It asks us to be humble enough to receive and brave enough to give.

Let us honour friendship as a divine necessity. Let us cultivate it with care, celebrate it without suspicion, and recognise in every faithful companion a glimpse of the rest Christ offers to the weary.

Diary Dates

Sun 5 July



Proceeds from this Sunday's coffee morning will go to support **Diapalante's** education centre in Senegal. Cakes, preserves and books will be on sale. All are welcome especially new parishioners.

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

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

Weds 8 July
10:30 Praise Group LCR
6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall

Thurs 9 July
1pm Italian Club Hall

Fri 10 July
2pm-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall
2.30pm Scripture Study Fr Andrew, Christopher Hse

Sat 11 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**.
The Funeral Mass for Pasquale Colella is **23rd July at 11:30am.**

Baptism: For all baptism enquiries, please contact our Sacramental Coordinator, LJ, in the first instance. Our next **Baptism Preparation Course** is on **19th July, 3pm-5pm**. Please contact LJ to register.

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.

Luminescence at Westminster Cathedral July 1 at 9:00 pm to September 12 at 9:50 pm Luminescence is a ground-breaking take on the concept of son et lumière; a 360-degree video projection experience, using 24 laser projectors, which will bring the Cathedral to life in breath-taking ways with colour and imagery, culminating in a vision of what the Cathedral may one day look like fully covered in mosaics. The experience is accompanied by carefully selected music accompanied by a recorded poetic narration by Hugh Bonneville, specially scripted for the Cathedral by Tim Whitnall. https://westminstercathedral.org.uk/news-event/luminiscence/



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: Rob Pugh, Josephine Maxwell, Cataldo Costantini, Thomas Watson, Margaret Cwirko, John Joseph Maher, Mark Tarran, Stephen O'Sullivan, David Cotter, Sabino Venezia and Michael Morgan. **If you have been bereaved and would like to talk with a member of our Bereavement visitors please ring 01462 459 126**

Introduction to the Assumptionist Rule of Life. When God sees his people in need, He sends out a call to men. He gives them the grace to feel, to love as He does. And the strength to act. He calls them and He sends them. In the Church of the 19th century Emmanuel d'Alzon was one such man. Sensitive by nature and by grace to the upheavals of his country and of the world in the aftermath of the French Revolution, he suffered whenever he saw God threatened in man and man threatened in the image of God. (to be continued)

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
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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.