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 2211

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

11th – 17th July 2026 – 15th 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: Is 55:10-11, Rom 8:18-23, Matt 13:1-23
Entrance Antiphon: As for me, in justice I shall behold your face; I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.
Psalm: Some seed fell into good soil and yielded its fruit.
Intercession: Lord hear us…
Response: Lord, graciously hear us!
Next Wk: Wis 12:13.16-19, Rom 8:26-27, Matt 13:24-43

Ramblings

There are moments when the Gospel arrives like a small seed waiting to be planted. The Parable of the Sower is one such moment. It doesn't rush. It simply waits to be breathed in and listened to until our hearts become soft and welcoming enough to receive it. So, picture the Sower walking through the fields of your life with a kind of holy extravagance. He scatters seed everywhere — on the path, over the stones, among the thorns and into the good soil. He doesn't just choose the tidy places, he trusts that grace can find a way even to places we least expect.

Pope Leo XIV reminds us that God's word is always an act of hope, always an invitation to grow. Even in an age of noise and distraction, the seed still falls, still calls, still believes in the hidden goodness of the human heart. "Let the Word find a home in you," he writes, "and it will awaken what you thought long lost."

Sr Macrina Wiederkehr osb would smile at this. She knew how the soul blooms slowly. She knew that every heart carries its own mixture of path and stone and thorn and fertile ground. And she would gently say: Be kind to your soil. God is already present.

So we are invited to stand in gratitude. Gratitude for the seeds of which we are aware and the ones we have missed. Gratitude for the patient Sower who never stops believing in our faith and love of him. Gratitude for the quiet joy that arises whenever one small seed takes root.

Let us learn to welcome the Word with a freer heart. May we become good soil, slowly, tenderly, and joyfully. O Sower scatter your grace across our hearts. Soften what is hard, lift what is buried, and let your Word take root in us. May gratitude be our sunlight and love our harvest.

Diary Dates

Sun 12 July



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

5pm Confirmation Mass

Mon 13 July
9.30am Parent & Toddlers Hall
6pm Beavers & 7.15pm Cubs Scout Hall

Tue 14 July
10.30am Tuesday Chat Hall
2pm – 4pm Craft Club LCR
7pm Scouts Scout Hall

Weds 15 July
10:30 Praise Group LCR
6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall

Thurs 16 July
1pm Italian Club Hall

Fri 17 July
2pm-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall
2.30pm Scripture Study Fr Andrew, Christopher Hse

Sat 18 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 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: The **Confirmation** Rehearsal is on **Saturday 11 July** at 2pm. 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.

Bannneux ND GB Pilgrimages 2026
Bannneux ND GB Pilgrimages invite you to join our pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Banneux, Belgium, a major Catholic Marian pilgrimage site. It marks the spot where the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared eight times between January 15 and March 2, 1933, to an 11-year-old girl, Mariette Beco, calling herself the "Virgin of the Poor".
During the visions, Mary indicated a stream, stating, "This spring is reserved for all nations to relieve the sick". The shrine was officially approved by the Roman Catholic Church in 1949 and was famously visited by Pope John Paul II in 1985.
We will be travelling by luxury coach on the 12 August and returning on the 18 August. A full program of daily Holy Mass, Rosary, Talks, Divine Mercy devotions is available and a day trip to Beauraing, another Marian apparition site is included in the price. Hotel and full board included. Pls call millie on WhatsApp 07957594646 for more information.

No to Military Conscription - Pax Christi England and Wales calls on the UK government:

- **To rule out any future introduction of conscription - mandatory national service or registration - in the UK.**
- **To assert and uphold the rights of conscientious objectors, ensuring protection for those who refuse to participate in the armed forces.**

https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/no-to-military-conscription-1

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: Robert Leaver, Tom Woods, Stephen Cox, Michael Balfe, John Sampson, Salvatore Lombari, Michael Duffy and Phil Higgs. **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. (continued). Fr d'Alzon felt compelled to share with his brothers his own passion for the coming of the Kingdom of God, his passion for Jesus Christ and for everything that Jesus Christ loved. At Christmas 1845 at the College of the Assumption at Nimes, he founded his first Assumptionist community.

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.