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 2212

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

19th – 24th July 2026 – 16th 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: Wis 12:13.16-19, Rom 8:26-27, Matt 13:24-43
Entrance Antiphon: See, I have God for my help. The Lord sustains my soul. I will sacrifice to you with willing heart, and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.
Psalm: O Lord, you are good and forgiving.
Intercession: Lord hear us…
Response: Lord, graciously hear us!
Next Wk: Kings 3:5.7-12, Rom 8:28-30, Matt 13:44-52

Ramblings

There is something deeply human about wanting to be better. We long to love more generously, forgive more readily, and become the person God created us to be. That desire for perfection is not a weakness — it is God's gift, drawing us towards eternity.

Yet we often become discouraged by our failures. We see our faults more clearly than our growth. But Scripture often speaks of a God whose greatness is shown not by condemnation but by compassion. As Wisdom tells us, God's strength is revealed in mercy. He is patient because He loves.

Jesus' parable of the wheat and the weeds reminds us that God is never in a hurry with us. While we want to pull out every imperfection immediately, the Master says, "Let them grow together." Why? Because God sees the wheat growing even when we can only see the weeds. St Paul offers another comfort: "The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness." God doesn't wait until we are strong before he comes close. God meets us precisely where we struggle.

A sculptor was once asked how he had created such a beautiful statue from a rough block of marble. He smiled and said, "I simply uncovered what was already inside." That is exactly what God is doing with us. Every act of kindness, every prayer, every fresh start reveals a little more of the saint hidden within.

Perfection is not our task today. Faithfulness is. Growth is. Love is. Complete perfection belongs to heaven; this life is where God patiently shapes us. If the infinitely patient God has not given up on us, perhaps we can stop giving up on ourselves—and on one another.

So, ponder this: If God already sees the person I am becoming, how would my life change if I learned to see myself—and others—with God's patient and loving eyes?

Diary Dates

Sun 19 July



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

3-5pm Baptism Preparation Course, Hall

Mon 20 July

No Parent & Toddlers

No Beavers & 7.15pm Cubs

Tue 21 July

10.30am Tuesday Chat Hall

2pm – 4pm Craft Club LCR

No Scouts

Weds 22 July

6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall

Thurs 23 July

1pm Italian Club Hall

Fri 24 July

2pm-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

2.30pm Scripture Study Fr Andrew, Christopher Hse

Sat 26 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

Thanks to all those who supported the recent coffee morning. £168 40 was raised for **Diapalante's education centre** in Senegal.

Venezuela earthquake appeal
Many parishioners have asked about ways to make donations to the appeal. There will be a Cafod collection after all weekend masses on the 25/26th July. All proceeds from this collection will go to the earthquake appeal. Giftaid envelopes will be available from the collectors

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

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

RCIA: Our first 'Come and See' session is on **Sunday 29th July, 6-7pm**. This informal & friendly session is a perfect opportunity to learn what the RCIA process is all about, to ask questions and meet the team, before our new cycle begins in the Autumn Term. 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. Please spread the word with anyone who may be interested & contact ljross@rcdow.org.uk to register.

Confirmation: Congratulations to our 19 candidates who were Confirmed in our parish last week by Bishop Paul McAleenan. We pray that the Holy Spirit guides them on their path and strengthens their faith. Applications for next year's programme open in November.

The Warburtons Bakery Free Recycling Programme is closing. The last collection date at the parish will be **Sunday 2nd August**. Between now and Sunday 2nd August we encourage all parishioners to bring what they have for recycling:

- Any brand of bakery plastic packagine and closure tabs (e.g. plastic trays, zipper bags, plasticpacks, etc.
- Warburtons only wax wrap packaging.

This scheme raises funds for PHASE – helping school children in Hitchin. See their website for more information http://www.phase-hitchin.org. The schemes that remain open are the McVities biscuits and cakes packaging, the Marigold gloves and other household use disposable gloves.

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: Kevin McKenna, Rita Pashby, Tony Sweeney, Giovanni Mastrantonio, Mary Hannigan, Lena Devaney, Jean Kennedy, Brian Mason and Virgilia Caruso. **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 At Christmas 1845 Fr d'Alzon founded his first community. He wanted it to be modern, yet rooted in the tradition of the Church. He wished it to be inspired by the teaching of St Augustine so that it would aquire experience of God, of fraternal life, of love of the Church and of service in truth, unity and charity. That is why he gave us the name Augustinians of the Assumption.

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.