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 2213

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

25th – 31st July 2026 – 17th 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: Kings 3:5.7-12, Rom 8:28-30, Matt 13:44-52
Entrance Antiphon: God is in his holy place, God who unites those who dwell in his house; he himself gives might and strength to his people.
Psalm: O LORD, how I love your law!
Intercession: Lord hear us…
Response: Lord, graciously hear us!
Next Wk: Is 55:1-3, Rom 8:35.37-39, Matt 14:13-21

Ramblings

Imagine someone selling everything they own for a muddy field. You might think they had completely lost the plot. Then, a week later, you discover they had found a treasure chest worth millions. Suddenly, the fool turns out to be the wisest person in town. That's the upside-down world of Sunday's Gospel. Jesus reminds us that people who seem to have found the least may actually have discovered the most. The greatest treasure is often hidden in places the world hardly notices. This is how God often works. God hides his greatest gifts in ordinary lives, ordinary people and ordinary moments. The Kingdom of God is found by hearts open enough to notice it.

When God offered him anything he wanted, Solomon did not ask for money, fame or power. He asked for wisdom. He knew that with God he had the greatest treasure of all.

Chesterton loved turning the world upside down to show it the right way up. He believed people spent their lives chasing glitter, when the real gold was quietly waiting in the heart. The greatest adventure is not becoming rich. It is becoming holy.

The merchant in Sunday's Gospel sells everything with joy because he's found something worth far more. Following Jesus is not about losing life; it is about discovering it. The saints are not gloomy people who missed out but people who found the secret everyone else overlooked.

St Paul believed God can take every part of our lives—even our failures, fears and disappointments—and weave them into something beautiful. That is divine wisdom at work.

The world says, "Get more." Jesus says, "Love more." The world asks, "What do you own?" Jesus asks, "Who are you becoming?"

So, ask for a wise heart. The greatest treasure is not buried in a field, it is Jesus Christ, and finding him is the greatest adventure of all.

Diary Dates

Sun 26 July



Proceeds from this Sunday's coffee morning will go to support **Hitchin Pantry** which provides subsidised shopping for low-income families and individuals. Cakes, preserves and books will be on sale. All are welcome especially new parishioners.

6-7pm, RCIA 'Come & See' Taster, E.C.

Mon 27 July

No Parent & Toddlers

No Beavers & 7.15pm Cubs

Tue 28 July

10.30am Tuesday Chat Hall

2pm – 4pm Craft Club LCR

No Scouts

Weds 29 July

6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall

Thurs 30 July

1pm Italian Club Hall

Fri 31 July

2pm-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

2.30pm Scripture Study Fr Andrew, Christopher Hse

Sat 1 August

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

This Sunday's coffee morning is in aid of the **Hitchin Pantry**. They have made a request for food donations, specifically for own brand pasta, beans, tuna and small rice. Please donate if you are able.

Baptism: We welcome **Brody McDonagh** 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 26th July, 6-7pm**. This informal & friendly taster 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. All are welcome.

Cafod's appeal for help for Venezuela in the wake of the recent earthquakes. Giftaid envelopes will be available from the porch.

Many thanks to all those who supported the recent **OWLS coffee morning**. £212.49 was raised for Wateraid.

All parish volunteers involved in **Children Liturgy, Eucharistic ministry, Readers, Masters of Ceremony (MC), Altar servers or in any other Parish activities like in Parish Groups**, are asked to send their details to the Administrator, including their name, contact information (email and telephone number), and the service in which they are involved. This diocesan request is intended to ensure the parish has the necessary guidance and up-to-date information for running parish activities.

We warmly welcome Fr Roger Kasereka from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) into our parish community. He will be succeeding Fr Adams as our new Parish Priest. We extend to Fr Roger a heartfelt and warm welcome, and we wish him every blessing in his new ministry among us.

We also take this opportunity to thank Fr Adams for his dedicated service to our parish and wish him courage, blessings, and success in his new mission.

Offertory income – May 2026

Offertory	April
Envelopes	£ 900.60
Standing Orders	£ 7104.09
Contactless	£ 410
Loose Plate	£ 1537.41
TOTAL	£ 9952.10



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*:* Maria Colella, Jody Troy, George Troy, Corrado Lorenzetto, Derrick Gray, Dorris Harris, Maureen Starr, Frank Bryder, Doreen Reidy, Gary Jones, Margaret Connolly, Christine Withers, Linda Hughes, Anna Miceli, Rosalia Dazzo, James Lawlor and Josephine Tilley. **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 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.