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 2214

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

1st – 7th August 2026 – 18th 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 55:1-3, Rom 8:35.37-39, Matt 14:13-21
Entrance Antiphon: O God, come to my assistance; O Lord, make haste to help me! You are my rescuer, my help; O Lord, do not delay.
Psalm: You open your hand and fulfil us, O Lord.
Intercession: Lord hear us…
Response: Lord, graciously hear us!
Next Wk: Kgs 19:9.11-13, Rom 9:1-5, Matt 14:22-33

Ramblings

There was once a small town that had forgotten how to laugh. Doors shut early, curtains twitched, and neighbours passed each other like ships in a fog, each convinced the other had no time to stop. Then, one blustery Sunday, old Mrs Pargeter did the most revolutionary thing imaginable: she put a pot of soup on the table and flung open her front door, crying, as if she'd read it somewhere, "Ho, everyone who thirsts, come — and you who have no money, come and eat!"

At first nobody came. Then one came, then three, then a dozen, and soon the little kitchen was bursting with people who, an hour before, had barely known each other's names. There was Tom the postman, who hadn't smiled since March, and old Colonel Fitch, who hadn't spoken to his neighbour since a quarrel about a hedge in 1994. Somewhere between the bread and the second bowl of soup, the hedge was forgotten, and the Colonel was joyfully heard laughing.

This is the glorious secret the world keeps forgetting and rediscovering: that a table is a kind of miracle. On a hillside long ago, the disciples wanted to send the hungry crowd away; but the Lord, merrier and wiser, drew the chairs closer instead — five loaves, two fishes, and no one left wanting.

So it was in that small town. Word spread, as good things stubbornly do. The soup pot grew into a long table, and the long table into something nobody could quite name — except that resentments melted like butter on warm bread, and strangers gloriously became friends.

For nothing, it turns out — not hardship, not distance, not even a forgotten hedge — can separate us from a love that keeps setting places at the table. Heaven is not empty-handed. It is a door flung open, and someone calling: come, eat, there is bread enough, and much more besides.

Diary Dates

Sun 2 August



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

Mon 3 August

No Parent & Toddlers

No Beavers & Cubs

Tue 4 August

10.30am Tuesday Chat Hall

2pm – 4pm Craft Club LCR

No Scouts

Weds 5 August

6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall

Thurs 6 August

10:30am-12pm Padre Pio Group Hall

1pm Italian Club Hall

Fri 7 August

No Hitchin Pantry this weekend

2.30pm Scripture Study Fr Andrew, Christopher Hse

Sat 8 August

No Hitchin Pantry this weekend

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 parish is currently undergoing a 'volunteer census'. Whilst this is taking place, all parish activities which require a DBS will **temporarily be suspended** to ensure that all records are up to date. All parish volunteers involved in Children's Liturgy, Eucharistic Ministry, Readers, Masters of Ceremony (MC), Altar servers or in any other Parish activities that involve children and/or adults at risk, are asked to send their details to the administrator: hitchin@rcdow.org.uk - including their name, contact information (email and telephone number), and the service in which they are involved. Please do so, even if you are a long standing volunteer. **This is a diocesan request.**
The Safeguarding DBS service will run an in-house DBS day where they will verify ID and submit DBS applications on **Saturday 19th September** – time tbc.

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 second 'Come and See' session is on **Sunday 9th August, 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.

The **repository stall** will be closed during August and will reopen in September. Thank you for your support. We were able to give £50 to the Hitchin Pantry.

Please note that the **Hitchin Pantry** will be shut the weekend of 7th & 8th August.

You will have seen on the news that a **Hosepipe ban** has been introduced. This is following several weeks of hot, dry weather, water demand across the region has reached exceptionally high levels and continues to rise. Water companies are asking customers to take immediate action to help reduce pressure on the water network by using water wisely and prioritising essential use wherever possible. Small changes, when made by lots of people, can make a real difference. Affinity Water and Anglian Water are asking communities to reduce non-essential use wherever possible.
If we all do a little, we can make a big difference and here are some quick wins:

* Water gardens early morning or late evening
* Reuse bath water for plants
* Avoid filling paddling pools
* Avoid washing the car

Every drop really does count right now.
More water-saving tips here: www.Anglianwater.co.uk/savewater

Need for prayer? Contact *Mary* on *07759195487* with your request



Prayers for our intercession: *We pray for people suffering from illness especially:* Norman New, Steph Diaz, Carmela Lanni, 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: Michael Cafferkey, Barbara Chico, John McDonald, Ann Hill, Calogero Comparetto, Sarah Okill, Phyllis Daly, Mary Dowling and Roy Daly. **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 It is with great joy that we welcome Father Roger Kasereka Syayipuma to our Hitchin Assumptionist community. Father Roger,who is from the DRC was ordained in 2000 and has pastoral experience. May he be very happy among us.

Parish Safeguarding representative: Tomasz Pernak via hitchinsg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Parish Priest	Fr Roger Kasereka	**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.