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 2215

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

9th – 15th August 2026 – 19th 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: Kgs 19:9.11-13, Rom 9:1-5, Matt 14:22-33
Entrance Antiphon: Look to your covenant, O Lord, and forget not the life of your poor ones for ever. Arise, O God, and defend your cause, and forget not the cries of those who seek you.
Psalm: Show us, O LORD, your mercy, and grant us your salvation.
Intercession: Lord hear us…
Response: Lord, graciously hear us!
Next Wk: Is 56:1.6-7, Rom 11:13-15.29-32, Matt 15:21-28

Ramblings Most of us want a secure and solid faith. But faith is more than an anchor. It is a sail. It roots us in Christ, then pushes us into adventures we would never choose for ourselves.
A sailor spent years searching for the perfect boat. Finally, he found it: strong, gleaming, and safe. Every morning he polished it, checked the ropes, admired the paintwork and thanked God for such a beautiful boat.
One day a stranger asked, "Do you ever sail it?"
"Sail it? What about storms, waves, and scratches? This boat must be protected!"
The stranger chuckled. "My friend, a boat is safest in the harbour. But harbours are not why boats were made." The next morning, tucked beneath a rope, the sailor found a note. Come. The same note appeared the next day. Come. And the next. Come.
At last, with a trembling and racing heart, he untied the ropes and headed out. The sea tossed him about. He made mistakes, lost his hat and nearly lost his breakfast. But he also found hidden islands, dazzling stars, and horizons so breathtaking they stole his breath away.
Years later, someone asked, "What was the greatest danger you ever faced?" The old sailor smiled.
"The greatest danger? Spending my life polishing a boat that was built to sail."
That is the challenge of faith. Peter discovered it when he stepped out of the boat toward Jesus. The miracle was not that he briefly walked on water. The miracle was that he dared to leave the boat at all. Christ does not call us to spend our lives clinging to the harbour. He calls us to trust him enough to launch into deeper waters.

Diary Dates

Sun 9 August



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 10 August

No Parent & Toddlers

No Beavers & Cubs

Tue 11 August

10.30am Tuesday Chat Hall

2pm – 4pm Craft Club LCR

No Scouts

Weds 12 August

6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall

Thurs 13 August

1pm Italian Club Hall

Fri 14 August

2pm-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

2.30pm Scripture Study Fr Andrew, Christopher Hse

Sat 15 August

1-3pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

For whenever we dare to leave the safety of our little boats, we discover that Jesus is already there, smiling, holding out his hand, and saying: "Come."

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. £112.15 was raised for **Our Lady's Special Support Group**.

Thanks for recent contributions for **Cafod's Venezuelan earthquake appeal** £360.79 was raised.

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.

Derek Shipman will be 90 on the Tuesday 11th August, please come and celebrate with him at 10 Freewaters Close, Ickleford, SG53TQ, between 2 - 6 pm. No presents just your presence please.

The Funeral for Barbara Felton is **21st August at 1pm at North Herts Crem.**

The Funeral for Carmela Lanni is **24th August at 11:30am.**

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.

Offertory income – June 2026

Offertory	April
Envelopes	£ 435.25
Standing Orders	£ 7574.09
Contactless	£ 577
Loose Plate	£ 928.96
TOTAL	£ 9515.30



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, 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*:* Gerard Walker, David Partridge, Philip McConnell, Eddie West, Tom McNicholas, Mick Smith, Maria Maniscalco, Mary Deuchar, Marjorie Simpson, Mary McNeilly, Bridgid Hailey, Luigina Passon and Viola Suma. **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 Romaric Ablouka was recently ordained in Togo and has been appointed to join our Hitchin Assumptionist community. It is with great joy that we welcome him to Hitchin and wish him well in his first pastoral appointment. Father studied in Nairobi and therefore speaks English. He is due to arrive from Africa on Tuesday.

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

Parish Priest	Fr Roger Kasereka rogerkaserekasyayipuma@rcdow.org.uk	**E-mail:** hitchin@rcdow.org.uk **Website**:https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin
Retired Priest	Fr Tom O'Brien 07547 171570	

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.