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 2216

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

16th – 22nd August 2026 – Feast of The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary 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: Acts 1:1-11, Eph 4:1-13, Mark 16:15-20
Entrance Antiphon: Glorious things are spoken of you, O Mary, who today were exalted above the choirs of Angels into eternal triumph with Christ.
Psalm: On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir.
Intercession: Lord hear us…
Response: Lord, graciously hear us!
Next Wk: Is 22:19-23, Rom 11:33-36, Matt 16:13-20

Ramblings

The Feast of the Assumption is never just another solemnity. It is one of the great joys of the year, a day filled with gratitude, wonder, exultation, and holy joy. We rejoice that Mary, the Mother of the Lord, is our Patroness. We rejoice that she who walked so faithfully with Christ has been welcomed, body and soul, into his glory. Above all, we rejoice because in Mary we see the destiny God desires for all his children.

There's something profoundly beautiful about visiting those we love or welcoming them into our homes. Presence is one of love's most precious gifts. A visit can lighten burdens, strengthen friendships, and make the heart sing again. In today's Gospel we encounter one of the most joyful scenes in Scripture. Having received the astounding news that she would bear the Son of God, Mary does not turn inward. Filled with grace, she hastens to Elizabeth, carrying Christ within her. At the sound of her greeting, John leaps in the womb, Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit, and joy overflows.

The Assumption is the glorious fulfilment of that journey. The young woman who travelled through Judea carrying Jesus now enters the heavenly Jerusalem to dwell forever with her risen Son. Her whole life was a loving and courageous "yes" to God. She trusted when she could not understand, remained faithful even at Calvary, and never ceased believing in God's promises….

In her Assumption those promises shine in all their splendour.

St Augustine called us: "….an Easter people, and Alleluia is our song." Today that song rises from our hearts with particular joy. Emmanuel d'Alzon said: "Let us hasten towards God with all the energy of our souls." Mary has reached that goal and lovingly beckons us onward.

Rejoice! Love Mary more deeply, thank her more fervently, and entrust yourselves to her care. Where Mary has gone, we hope to follow. Alleluia indeed!!

Diary Dates

Sun 16 August



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

Mon 17 August

No Parent & Toddlers

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No Beavers & Cubs

Tue 18 August

10.30am Tuesday Chat Hall

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2pm – 4pm Craft Club LCR

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No Scouts

Weds 19 August

6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall

Thurs 20 August

1pm Italian Club Hall

Fri 21 August

2pm-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

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2.30pm Scripture Study Fr Andrew, Christopher Hse

Sat 22 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

Thanks to all those who supported the recent coffee mornings for **Hitchin Pantry**. **£287.30** was raised to purchase supplies for subsidised shopping .

As you are aware the parish is currently undergoing a 'volunteer census'. All parish volunteers 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.** Thank you to those of you who have already forwarded you details!

Whilst this is taking place, all parish activities which require a DBS will be **temporarily suspended** to ensure that all records are up to date. These activites include all those involved in Children's Liturgy, Eucharistic Ministry, Masters of Ceremony (MC), Altar servers or in any other parish activities that involve children and/or adults at risk.

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.

RCIA: Our third 'Come and See' session is on **Sunday 23rd 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.

Sunday September 13th is Fr Andrew's 90th birthday and we will be celebrating it with our usual fun bring and share lunch after the 10.30 Mass in the parish hall. Please sign up on the poster in the porch indicating your name, how many are attending and what you can bring and if you can help set up or clear after. There will be a card to sign in the porch very soon so please watch out for it and add your birthday greetings for our dear Fr Andrew.

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.**
The Funeral for **David Ansell** is **25th August at 10:00am.**

We keep in our Prayers **Gereminio 'Jimmy' Diiorio** who died this week.

Afternoon tea for Breast Cancer Now
This will take place at Walsworth Road Baptist Church on Saturday 22nd August, 2.00-4.00pm. All welcome - suggested donations £5 per person, £10 per family. To sign up, or for more information, go to faith@wrbchitchin.org.uk

Prayer course
Walsworth Road Baptist Church invites friends from all churches to join them on an eight week journey through the Lord's Prayer beginning on Thursday 3rd September, 7.00 to 8.30 pm. Each session will include video teaching, group discussion and guided prayer. To enquire or sign up, go to faith@wrbchitchin.org.uk

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: Caroline Hogan, Richard Dawson, Helena Jones, John O'Connor, Joseph Hutchinson and Nicholas Augustus. **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 As we celebrate the Assumption of Our Lady this weekend we ask for prayers for our Assumption family; the Sisters, the Oblates and Little Sisters, our contemplative Orantes as well as the Fathers and Brothers throughout the world. We ask God's blessing on all those who work with us for the coming of the Kingdom.

Parish Tel no: 01462 459126	**Website**:https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin
Parish Safeguarding representative: Tomasz Pernak via hitchinsg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk	
Parish Priest	Fr Roger Kasereka rogerkaserekasyayipuma@rcdow.org.uk
Assistant Priest	Fr Romaric Ablouka
Retired Priest	Fr Tom O'Brien 07547 171570
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.