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 2218

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

30th August – 5th September 2026 – 22nd Sunday of 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: Jer 20:7-9, Rom 12:1-2, Matt 16:21-27
Entrance Antiphon: Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.
Psalm: For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord, my God.
Intercession: Lord hear us…
Response: Lord, graciously hear us!
Next Wk: Ez 33:7-9, Rom 13:8-10, Matt 18:15-20

Ramblings

Looking back now, after the Lord's resurrection I, Peter, can still feel the sting of Jesus' words: "Get behind me, Satan!" At the time, I was shocked and deeply hurt. I loved Jesus and could not bear to hear him speak of suffering, rejection and death. When he told us that he must go to Jerusalem, suffer greatly, be killed and rise on the third day, I protested at once. I thought I was protecting him. I thought I was being a loyal friend.

Only later did I understand.

Jesus knew the path the Father had laid before him. He saw clearly what I could not see. In trying to spare him from suffering, I was urging him away from the very mission for which he had come into the world. My intentions were good, but my thinking was still too human, too limited, and not yet shaped by the wisdom of God.

When Jesus called me 'Satan', he was not saying that I was evil. He was warning me that, in that moment, I had become an obstacle to the Father's plan. I was speaking as an adversary, not as a disciple. Jesus would not allow anything, however well-meaning, to turn him aside from his calling.

Now I see that his victory over evil did not begin on Calvary alone. It was won each day through his unwavering obedience. Again and again, he chose the Father's will over comfort, sacrifice over self-preservation, and love over every temptation to take an easier path.

The risen Lord has taught me that true discipleship means following God's will whatever the cost. In Jesus I have seen perfect faithfulness, perfect courage and perfect love. Blessed and praised be Jesus Christ, who remained obedient to the Father unto death and, through his holy Cross and glorious resurrection, won the salvation of the world.

Diary Dates

Sun 30 August



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

Mon 31 August

No Parent & Toddlers

No Beavers & Cubs

Tue 1 September

10.30am Tuesday Chat Hall

2pm – 4pm Craft Club LCR

No Scouts

Weds 2 September

6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall

Thurs 3 September

1pm Italian Club Hall

Fri 4 September

2pm-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

2.30pm Scripture Study Fr Andrew, Christopher Hse

Sat 5 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

A morning for Parish Readers: *'Proclaiming God's Word- Exploring the Ministry of Reading'.* Parish Readers are invited to a workshop on **Saturday 12th Sept**, 10am-1pm, at The Niland Conference Centre, Rosary Priory, Bushey.
Visit https://rcdow.org.uk/event/proclaiming-gods-word-exploring-the-ministry-of-reading/ for more information.

Catechist Day, *'Called to Serve'*: Parish catechists who are involved with children and young people are invited to a *Catechist Day* at Westminster Youth Ministry Retreat Centre in Pinner, London, on **Saturday 3rd Oct**, 10am-4pm. Please register with LJ before Fri 18th Sept.

DBS checks: All parish activities which require a DBS are temporarily suspended to ensure that all records are up to date. These activities include: Children's Liturgy, Eucharistic Ministry, Masters of Ceremony (MC), Altar servers or any other parish activities that involve children and/or adults at risk. The Safeguarding Service will run an in-house DBS day where they will verify ID and submit DBS applications on **Saturday 19th September** (time tbc).

RCIA: A new cycle of the RCIA begins on **Thursday 8th Oct**. RCIA is perfect for: non-Catholics interested in baptism or conversion, non-Catholic parents seeking baptism for their children, Catholics who would like to complete their sacraments, or practising Catholics who would like to deepen their understanding of their faith. All are welcome.

First Holy Communion 2027: Applications for the preparation of the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion (for those in Year 3 and above) are open **1st Sept - 30th Sept**. Application forms & dates are available on our website.

Marriage: Our next Marriage Preparation Course is **Saturday 3rd Oct,** 10am-4pm. We hold our courses twice a year, please register with LJ asap if you are hoping to get married in (any) Catholic Church within the next year.

Baptism: A Baptism Preparation Course is a requirement for parents seeking baptism for their child. Our next course is **Sunday 18th Oct,** 3-5pm.

The Funeral for **Gereminio 'Jimmy' Diiorio** is **4th September at 11:30am.**

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 is a card to sign in the porch so please add your birthday greetings for our dear Fr Andrew.

People's Emergency Briefing (PEB) - Friday 25th September - open 7pm for a 7:30pm start in Our Lady's church hall
As the Climate Emergency is unfolding all around us and globally, this parish is happy to welcome the North and East Herts NEB group organising opportunities for church parishioners and local residents to avail themselves of the facts. Parishioners, friends, and anyone interested are welcome to attend the planned screening of the film People's Emergency Briefing followed by a community discussions. Seats can be reserved here: https://www.tickettailor.com/events/ourladyschurchhitchin (up to venue capacity) Please don't just turn up.

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, Ken Buck, Elizabeth Donnelly, Jim Brookes and the Sheldon family.

We pray for those whose anniversary is about now: Rosario Bufalo, Mary Doherty, Lucia Leo, John O'Connor, Angelina Farace, Rafaele Polcaro, Bridget Deegan, Christine Webster, Kevin McCalman, Hermann Sander and Maria Krishman. **If you have been bereaved and would like to talk with a member of our Bereavement visitors please ring 01462 459 126**

Assumption… We have received the sad news of the death on August 20th of our Assumptionist bishop in Turkey. Father Louis Armel Pelatre aa spent most of his apostolic life among the catholics in Turkey. In 1992 he was appointed Vicar Apostolic to Turkey and fulfilled that post until he retired in 2016. During his visit to Turkey Pope Leo made a point of meeting Bishop Pelatre and thanked him for his devotion and commitment to the Church in Turkey. May he rest in peace.

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.