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 2219

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

6th– 12th September 2026 – 23rd 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: Ez 33:7-9, Rom 13:8-10, Matt 18:15-20
Entrance Antiphon: You are just, O Lord, and your judgment is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.
Psalm: O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts.'
Intercession: Let us pray to the Lord…
Response: Lord, hear us!
Next Wk: Ecc 27:30-28:7, Rom 14:7-9, Matt 18:21-35

Ramblings

On returning from the summer break we face the new academic year with mixed feelings. There is excitement about new opportunities, concern about the challenges ahead, and perhaps a sense of urgency as we look at a world facing many uncertainties. Yet the Word of God encourages us not to face the future with fear.

God tells Ezekiel to be a watchman, someone who sees dangers ahead and lovingly warn others. As Christians, we are called to do the same, speaking the truth with kindness and courage. St Paul reminds us that the whole law is summed up in one command: "Love your neighbour as yourself." Love is not passive. It notices what matters, acts responsibly, and seeks the good of others.

Jesus tells us how to build strong and healthy communities, calling us to reconciliation, understanding and mutual care. Wherever people listen to one another, pray together and work together, Christ promises to be present among them.

This message feels especially important at a time when the National Emergency Film has prompted us to reflect on the challenges facing our society, especially the reality of climate change. Like Ezekiel's watchman, we cannot ignore the warning signs. Caring for creation is not merely an environmental concern; it is an act of love for our neighbours, for future generations, and for God's gift of the earth. Small actions, wise choices and a commitment to stewardship can help us avert greater harm and build a more hopeful future.

Whatever the difficulties, let us move forward with confidence. God is already at work in our families, in our schools and in our parish. Through prayer, kindness and faith-filled action, we can be people of joy, peace and hope.

Pope Leo XIV offers us these words of encouragement: "God loves us, God loves you all, and evil will not prevail." May that promise guide us wisely through the year ahead.

Diary Dates

Sun 6 September



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 7 September
9.30am Parent & Toddlers Hall
6pm Beavers & 7.15pm Cubs Scout Hall

Tue 8 September
10.30am Tuesday Chat Hall
2pm – 4pm Craft Club LCR
7pm Scouts Scout Hall

Weds 9 September
10:30 Praise Group LCR
6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall

Thurs 10 September
1pm Italian Club Hall

Fri 11 September
2pm-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall
2.30pm Scripture Study Fr Andrew, Christopher Hse

Sat 12 September
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

Baptism: We welcome Eloise Coleman, Florence Fyfe, Christina Chittilapilly & Malone Hedley into the parish community through the Sacrament of Baptism. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

Youth Group: We are hoping to start a Youth Group for those of secondary school age, meeting once a month on a Friday evening. If you are over 18yrs and able to help, please contact LJ asap. A DBS will be required for this role & it would be helpful if these can be completed at the in-house DBS day (see below).

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).

Sacramental Prep- Please contact LJ ljross@rcdow.org.uk or visit our website for further details:

RCIA: A new cycle 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.

The Funeral for **Margaret Curry** is on **10th September at 2pm at North Herts Memorial Park.**

The funeral for **Mary McDaid** is on the **10th September at 10am in Church followed by a burial at Hitchin Cemetary at 11:15am.**

Offertory income – July 2026

Offertory	July
Envelopes	£ 524.20
Standing Orders	£ 6852.09
Contactless	£ 436
Loose Plate	£ 4313
TOTAL	£ 12125.29



For new **Standing Orders** and everyone that committed to give following the Planned Giving Drive please can you check your bank accounts to see if the STO is going through. Please can you also check that the money is being sent to our account ending 4610 as our other Standing Order account may be shortly closing down. Many thanks for your continued support!

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*:* James Reginald Scott, Bridget Tomlinson, Rosaria Ciaravella, Virginia Ferraro, May Sweeney, Barbara Goodin, Joy McConnell, Ken Baker, Janet Gildea, Ann Faulkner, Salvatore Roberti, Giovanni Fadel and Adolfi Lanni. **If you have been bereaved and would like to talk with a member of our Bereavement visitors please ring 01462 459 126**

Assumption… Sunday 30th August was a day of rejoicing in our Assumptionist communities in Togo. Seven novices were admitted to pronounce their first vows. We remember them in our prayers as they now start their years of study. May they receive the gift of perseverance. (All members of religious orders complete at least three years of temporary vows before they are admitted to final profession.)

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 romaricablouka@rcdow.org.uk
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.