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 2220

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

13th– 19th September 2026 – 24th 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: Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.
Psalm: The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and rich in mercy.
Intercession: Let us pray to the Lord…
Response: Lord, hear us!
Next Wk: Is 55:6-9, Phil 1:20-24.27,Matt20:1-16

Ramblings

Forgiveness is not a soft option — it is the very engine of new life. Sirach warns that harboured anger poisons the one who holds it, urging us to forgive our neighbour's wrong before asking pardon for our own. Paul reminds us that our lives, and our deaths, were never meant to be lived alone. We belong to one another in Christ — a bond no division can break. And when Peter asks how often he must forgive, Jesus answers not seven times, but seventy-seven. This is forgiveness without a ledger, without a limit.

A father and son were estranged for a decade after a bitter row over an inheritance. Neither would make the first move, until the father fell ill. The son came, not to settle accounts, but simply to sit by the bed. No apology was spoken aloud; none was needed. A hand was held. A decade's silence dissolved in a single afternoon. That is the shape forgiveness takes: not grand gestures, but small, brave surrenders of pride. St Augustine saw this reluctance in us all: "They are not ashamed to sin, but they are ashamed to ask pardon." Pride, not conscience, is forgiveness's real enemy. Emmanuel d'Alzon, founder of the Assumptionists, lived with a restless, outward-facing love: "I must love the world. I must evangelise it." Forgiveness is how that love becomes visible — healing families, rebuilding communities, mending nations worn down by grudge and grievance.

And there is one more relationship crying out for our reconciliation: creation itself. Decades of carelessness — forests felled, rivers fouled, skies choked — all leave a debt only humility can begin to repay. We must ask forgiveness of the earth as we would of a wounded friend, and then tend it accordingly.

Forgiveness costs us pride and gains us peace. Let us forgive as we long to be forgiven — and watch the common good come alive filled with hope.

Diary Dates

Sun 13 September



There will be no coffee morning this Sunday. Instead there will be a bring and share lunch after the 10:30am Mass to celebrate **Father Andrew's 90th birthday**.

Mon 14 September

9.30am Parent & Toddlers Hall

6pm Beavers & 7.15pm Cubs Scout Hall

Tue 15 September

10.30am Tuesday Chat Hall

2pm – 4pm Craft Club LCR

7pm Scouts Scout Hall

Weds 16 September

6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall

Thurs 17 September

1pm Italian Club Hall

Fri 18 September

2pm-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

2.30pm Scripture Study Fr Andrew, Christopher Hse

Sat 19 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

Father Andrew
It will be Father Andrew's 90th birthday on Sunday 13th September. You are all invited to a bring and share lunch after the 10 30am Mass to celebrate with him. If you wish to contribute towards a gift please put the amount in an envelope marked 'Father Andrew' and leave in the office.

DBS checks: Please note the Safeguarding Service in-house DBS day *has been moved* to **Saturday 26th September** (time tbc).

Fr Roger invites the volunteers of the following groups (*MCs, Eucharistic Ministers, Readers, Choir and Children's Liturgy)* to a meeting with him on **16th September at 7pm** in the Hall.

Congratulations: We warmly congratulate Lewis & Sinead Hedley on the celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony that took place in our parish on 12th September. We pray that their marriage be blessed with love, faith and peace.

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.

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 upcoming in-house DBS day (details to follow).

First Holy Communion 2027: Applications for the Reconciliation and First Holy Communion programme (for those in Year 3 and above) are open **1st Sept - 30th Sept**. Application forms & dates are available on our website. Please send completed forms to ljross@rcdow.org.uk

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, contact LJ for more info.

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, please contact LJ to register.

There will be a **Second Collection** this weekend for the **Catholic Education Service**.

The **Saint John Henry Newman School** warmly invites parents of Year 6 pupils to an Open Evening on **Thursday 24th September, from 5.30 – 8.00 pm.** Prospectuses and Application Forms will be available on the evening.
The last tour will be at 7:00pm. and the school will close to visitors once the final Headteacher's address starts at 7:30pm.
There will be opportunities for parents to view the school the following week.

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



Prayers for our intercession: *We pray for people suffering from illness especially:* Harriet Parry, Rogan Hodgeson, Pauline Lanaway, the Fennell families, Stella Paterson, Antoinette Fernandes, Vincent Turner, Paul O'Reilly, Pauline Phillips, Steph Dias, Glennice Burlison, Evie Roberts, Ken Buck, Elizabeth Donnelly, Jim Brookes and the Sheldon family.

We pray for those whose anniversary is about now: Rosina Denton, Sheila Malone, Elliot Moyes, Bob Gettings, Gertrude Abbott, Nigel James Harcourt, Esme Chico and Marcello Patane. **If you have been bereaved and would like to talk with a member of our Bereavement visitors please ring 01462 459 126**

Assumption… September 1st is the official date in our Assumptionist province for the start of new appointments. These are made according to the different needs of all the apostolates in which we are involved and the different talents and gifts of those undertaking a change of apostolate. Please remember to pray for all facing new challenges and that we are all faithful to our motto 'Thy Kingdom come'

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 07337 451930
Assistant Priest	Fr Romaric Ablouka romaricablouka@rcdow.org.uk 07337 087192
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.