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 2221

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

20th– 26th September 2026 – 25th 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: Is 55:6-9, Phil 1:20-24.27, Matt 20:1-16
Entrance Antiphon: I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.
Psalm: The LORD is close to all who call him.
Intercession: Let us pray to the Lord…
Response: Lord, hear us!
Next Wk: Ez 18:25-28, Phil 2:1-11.27, Matt 21:28-32

Ramblings

Jesus was a master storyteller. He did not offer neat answers; he opened windows, disturbed certainties, and invited people to see the world afresh. The story of the vineyard workers does exactly that.

Our first response should be joy: what generosity! Those workers who arrived late, perhaps anxious, perhaps ashamed, perhaps fearing they would return home empty-handed, receive enough for their families to live. What good news!

And yet—we recognise the complaint of those who worked all day. “Surely this is not fair.” We know that voice. It speaks in every culture, every workplace, every family: “I have done more therefore I deserve more.”

But Jesus turns our calculations upside down. The Kingdom of God is not a ledger. It is not a competition in merit. God does not love us by the hour, the achievement, the passport, the language we speak, or the place we hold in the queue. God’s generosity is wider than our measurements and more surprising than our fairness.

The question is not, “Why were they given so much?” The question is, “Why should I be troubled by another person’s blessing?”

God asks, “Do you begrudge my generosity?” And we say, “No, Lord.” But then our lives must answer with us. For generosity is not always dramatic. It could be a glass of water, a patient listening ear, an invitation across a divide, a word that restores someone’s courage. Small gifts can become great mercies.

Let us receive God’s generosity with gratitude—and then let it travel through us. Let it become forgiveness in our conflicts, patience in our homes, welcome for the stranger, and kindness for the weary. For God’s gifts are never meant to stop with us. They are meant to flow through us, until the whole world tastes something of the joy of the Kingdom.

Diary Dates

Sun 20 September



Proceeds from this Sunday's **One World Live Simply** coffee morning will go to support 'Embrace the Middle East' a charity which works to help impoverished and marginalised people in the middle east. Cakes, preserves and books will be on sale. All are welcome especially new parishioners.

Mon 21 September
9.30am Parent & Toddlers Hall
6pm Beavers & 7.15pm Cubs Scout Hall

Tue 22 September
10.30am Tuesday Chat Hall
2pm – 4pm Craft Club LCR
7pm Scouts Scout Hall

Weds 23 September
10am-12:30pm Padre Pio Group Hall
6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall

Thurs 24 September
1pm Italian Club Hall

Fri 25 September
2pm-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall
2.30pm Scripture Study Fr Andrew, Christopher Hse

Sat 26 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

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

Baptism: We welcome Ellis and Tommy Waller into the Church community through the Sacrament of Baptism. Please keep their family 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 upcoming in-house DBS day.

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

RCIA: A new cycle begins on **Thurs 8th October**. 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 **Sat 3rd October,** 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 **Sun 18th October,** 3-5pm, please contact LJ to register.

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. Anyone interested is welcome to attend the planned screening of the film People's Emergency Briefing followed by a community discussions. The film is fronted by wildlife presenter Chris Packham, and was put together with contributions from leading scientists in their field. As the late Pope Francis said we must care for our common home! Tickets are free but reservations are essential. Seats can be reserved here: https://www.tickettailor.com/events/ourladyschurchhitchin

Christians against Poverty (CAP) Job Club - Wednesday 7th October, 9:30am-12pm

A new CAP Job Club course will be starting on Wednesday at Zeo Church, Hitchin. The course is for eight weeks. The course and materials are free and we also provide a light lunch, again, free of charge. We work with clients to help them:
1. set goals;
2. write and improve CVs and application forms;
3. understand what employers are looking for in a potential employee;
4. improve interview skills and techniques.

We understand that some people are comfortable attending the course on their own, but for others, it can be quite daunting. If you would like to attend the course with a friend or family member, just let us know.
For further information and to register for a place, please contact Joanne Chico by email joannechico@capjobclubs.org or telephone 07498 100017.

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



Prayers for our intercession: *We pray for people suffering from illness especially:* Phil Drury, Rachel Drury, 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*:* Patricia May Shelley, Richard Creagh, Juliet Ann Robbins, David Dudley, Vera Bhamra, Carl Tomlin, Esther Kennedy and Angela Drummond-Brady. **If you have been bereaved and would like to talk with a member of our Bereavement visitors please ring 01462 459 126**

Assumption… A very big thank you to all for making my birthday such a wonderful event. For me it was a sign of what is great in our parish. If I try to thank by name many will be missed. Thankyou everyone for all your good wishes and above all for the many promises of prayer. May God bless and keep you all in his love. Andrew

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
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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.