# 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 2222**

**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

## 27th September – 3rd October 2026 – 26th 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 18:25-28, Phil 2:1-11.27, Matt 21:28-32**
**Entrance Antiphon:** All that you have done to us, O Lord, you have done with true judgment, for we have sinned against you and not obeyed your commandments. But give glory to your name and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.
**Psalm:** Remember your compassion, O LORD.
**Intercession:** Let us pray to the Lord…
**Response:** Lord, hear us!
**Next Wk: Is 5:1-7, Phil 4:6-9,Matt 21:33-43**

## *Ramblings*

Each day, our choices reveal how we respond to God. Ezekiel urges us to turn away from wrongdoing and embrace justice, in order to find true life. Jesus brings this choice to life in the parable of the two sons: one initially says 'no' but later changes his mind and goes to work; the other says 'yes' but never acts. What really matters is not the promises we make, but the good we actually do.

A village once shared a well and the orchard around it. When the stream began to run low, one neighbour promised to save water, but just carried on as before. Another had said little, but began mending the channel, planting trees and inviting others to help. Soon the whole village joined in. Their small choices restored the orchard—and gave everyone hope.

Creation is our shared home, and it is being damaged little by little. We can believe that the problem is too large for us, or make choices to waste less, care for the land, protect living things, and ask our communities and leaders to act. Every choice that serves others helps the common good.

Paul urges us to follow Christ, who did not grasp at privilege but humbled himself and served. St Augustine writes, "The world is a book, and those who do not travel read only one page." Creation invites us to look beyond ourselves, to recognise the wonder of what we share, and to care for our neighbours near and far. Emmanuel d'Alzon called his followers to love "Our Lord, the Blessed Virgin and the Church." Let that love widen into care for our neighbours and all of creation entrusted to us.

We don't need to wait for perfect plans or grand gestures. Like the son who finally went to work, we can begin today. Choose what gives life. Encourage one another. Protect our common home. The future is shaped by the good we choose to do together now.

## *Diary Dates*

**Sun 27 September**



Proceeds from this Sunday's coffee morning will go to support **Garden House Hospice**. Cakes, preserves and books will be on sale. All are welcome especially new parishioners.

**Mon 28 September**
**9.30am Parent & Toddlers** Hall
**6pm Beavers & 7.15pm Cubs** Scout Hall

**Tue 29 September**
**10.30am Tuesday Chat** Hall
**2pm – 4pm Craft Club** LCR
**7pm Scouts** Scout Hall

**Weds 30 September**
**6pm Feed Up Warm Up** Scout Hall

**Thurs 1 October**
**10am-12:00pm Padre Pio Group** Hall
**1pm Italian Club** Hall

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

**Sat 3 October**
**10am-4pm Marriage Preparation Course,** Hall
**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*

There will be a **second collection** this week for the **Home Mission Appeal.**

**CAFOD Harvest Fast Day** will be on Friday 3rd October this year. There will be a collection after all weekend masses on 4th and 5th October. Giftaid envelopes will be available from the collectors.

Thanks to everyone who supported last Sunday's **One World Live Simply coffee morning**. £140.00 was raised for Embrace the Middle East.

**DBS checks on Saturday 26th September** This will take place from 8:30-10:30am. Please read the DBS 3C guidance if you plan to attend. If you are a new volunteer, please note you will need to bring details of two referees for your application.

**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

**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.

**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.

**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.

The **Funeral** of **Samuel Stark** will be on 1st October at 11:30am.

**Marian Procession Saturday 3rd October at 4pm:** Please join our fellow Christians at UK Prays in this local outdoor Act of Witness, as we follow the banner of Our Lady of Guadeloupe, praying and singing hymns, processing from St Hughs Church, Letchworth and around Kennedy Gardens. For more information please contact Bernadette on 07939634696.

**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:*** Philip Holmes, Carmel Angrave, Linda Budd, Harry Goodwin, Sheila Hugill, Sandra Faranda, Margaret Clarke, Kazimierz-Jaszewski, Anne Faulkner, Mary Pilow and Jerzy Woznicki. **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

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| **Parish Tel no: 01462 459126** | **Website**:https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin |

**Parish Safeguarding representative: Tomasz Pernak** via hitchinsg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

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| **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 |

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| **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.