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 2223

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

4th– 10th October 2026 – 27th 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 5:1-7, Phil 4:6-9,Matt 21:33-43
Entrance Antiphon: Within your will, O Lord, all things are established, and there is none that can resist your will. For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth, and all that is held within the circle of heaven; you are the Lord of all.
Psalm: The vineyard of the LORD is the house of Israel.
Intercession: Let us pray to the Lord…
Response: Lord, hear us!
Next Wk: Is 25:6-10, Phil 4:12-14.19-20,Matt 22:1-14

Ramblings

As the Month of Prayer for Creation comes to a close, Isaiah asks a searching question: What fruit have we returned to the God who has given us so much? God has filled our world with beauty and abundance: forests and oceans, fertile fields and flowing rivers, sunlight and birdsong, all signs of his generous love. Yet too often we have answered that generosity with exploitation. We have wounded the earth for profit and convenience, while the poorest suffer most from droughts, floods, and a changing climate. The vineyard has yielded sour grapes.

Saint Francis of Assisi saw creation as a gift, not a possession. He praised God "through all God's creatures" and called the sun his brother and the moon his sister. He understood that we belong to creation as much as creation belongs to us. St Augustine suggested we "Question the beauty of the earth, question the beauty of the sea, question the beauty of the air... question these realities." All respond: "See, we are beautiful.' Their beauty is their confession. An old man was asked why he planted a tree whose shade he would never enjoy. He replied, "I sit beneath trees planted by others." That simple wisdom challenges our generation. We have inherited a beautiful world. What will we leave behind?

Francis says, "Start by doing what is necessary; then do what is possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible." The healing of creation begins with small, faithful choices: living more simply, wasting less, protecting nature, and standing with those most affected by environmental destruction. The good news is that God has not abandoned his vineyard. He still trusts us. He still believes that good fruit can grow. As this month ends, hear again the call of Saint Francis and become instruments of renewal, so that creation may recover, the poor may find hope, and our common home may once more sing the praises of its Creator.

Diary Dates

Sun 4 October



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

Mon 5 October
9.30am Parent & Toddlers Hall
4pm-6pm FHC Family Chats E.C.
6pm Beavers & 7.15pm Cubs Scout Hall

Tue 6 October
10.30am Tuesday Chat Hall
2pm – 4pm Craft Club LCR
7pm Scouts Scout Hall

Weds 7 October
FHC Family Chats, 4pm-6pm, E.C.
6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall

Thurs 8 October
1pm Italian Club Hall
RCIA: Session 1, 7pm-8.30pm, LCR

Fri 9 October
2pm-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall
2.30pm Scripture Study Fr Andrew, Christopher Hse
FHC Family Chats, 4pm-6pm, E.C.

Sat 10 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

CAFOD Harvest Fast Day is 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.

Mass to be held on Monday 5th October at 7pm for the feast of **St. Faustina Patron Saint of The Divine Mercy.**

Every **Thursday in October at 6:30pm** there will be **Adoration and the Rosary** for the Month of Mary.

There will be a meeting for all **Eucharistic Ministers** on **Friday 9th October at 7:30pm** please can you attend if you serve in church or visit people's homes.

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.

RCIA: A new cycle begins on **Thursday 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 **Sunday 18th October,** 3-5pm, please contact LJ to register.

We are looking for more Altar Servers. If you or your child are interested in becoming an Altar Server, please email Fr Romaric directly and he will get in touch with more information.

Families Invited to Discover OLS at Saturday Adventure Day

Our Lady School is opening its doors to local families for a special OLS Adventure Day on Saturday 17th October, from 10am to 12pm.

The event is a chance for current OLS families, families looking for a Reception place for September 2027, and families considering a move to OLS to come along, explore the school and discover what makes OLS such a special place to learn, grow and belong. Children and their families will be able to explore Robin Woods, visit the Reception classroom, discover the school's outdoor classroom and try out the exciting new climbing equipment. There will also be opportunities to meet Head Teacher Mrs Snowball and members of the OLS team and find out more about life at the school.

To make the morning even more exciting, children will be given their very own OLS Adventure Day Passport. As they explore different areas of the school and complete activities, they can collect stamps along the way.

Families can also take a break and enjoy a drink and treat provided by the OLS PTA while chatting with staff and other families.

OLS Saturday Adventure Day

Saturday 17th October

10am–12pm

Old Hale Way, Hitchin, SG5 1XT

Everyone is welcome!

Whether your child is already part of the OLS family, you're beginning to think about their Reception journey for September 2027, or you're looking for a new school for your child, the OLS team would love to welcome you. **Come along, explore, play, meet the team and discover OLS for yourself!**

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*:* David Barr, Peter Brown, Vincenzo Albanese, Mary Freestone, Tessa Burns, Ann Campbell, Hetty Appleyard, Audrey Cotton, Francesco Ciaravella, Peter Bonaventure Augustus, Maria Spelling, Walter Wood, Walter Dec and Catherine Wood. **If you have been bereaved and would like to talk with a member of our Bereavement visitors please ring 01462 459 126**

Assumption… A short prayer for October inspired by Emmanuel d'Alzon: Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, Mother of the Church and our Mother, guide us always to your Son. May the mysteries we contemplate shape our hearts, strengthen our faith, and fill us with hope. Help us to seek above all the Kingdom of Jesus, now and always. Amen.

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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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.