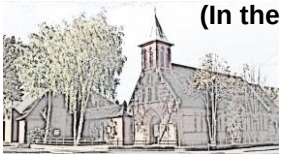
CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

16 Nightingale Road, HITCHIN, SG5 1QS
(In the care of the Augustinians of the Assumption)



Newsletter No 2225

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

18th-24th October 2026 – 29th 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: Isaiah 45:1, 4-6, 1 Thess 1:1-5, Mat 22:15-21

Entrance Antiphon: To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God; turn your ear to me; hear my words. Guard me as the apple of your eye; in the shadow of your wings protect me.
Psalm: Ascribe to the LORD glory and power

Ramblings (Based on 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b)

Another parable: *"The Kingdom of Heaven is like a village on a winding road. Along that road come many travellers: some weary, some lonely, some burdened with grief, and some carrying sickness in their bodies and sorrow in their hearts. In the village lived a people whose doors were seldom closed. They were not rich in treasure, but they were rich in welcome. When the hungry came, they found a place at the table. When the homeless arrived, they found companions for the journey. When the sick could no longer walk to the church, these villagers carried Communion and friendship to their homes. Some drove long miles so that an elderly neighbour could pray with the community. Others sat quietly beside hospital beds where fear lingered in the shadows. Many gave generously from what they had, supporting distant missions and nearby charities, never counting the cost too carefully. Strangers passing through would ask, 'What makes these people so constant? Why do they continue year after year, even when the work is demanding and few notice their efforts?'* The answer: *Beneath the village stood a hidden spring. No one could see it, but all drank from it. It was the love of God poured into their hearts. Their faith drew water from it. Their service flowed from it. Their perseverance was sustained by it. The years passed. Some grew older and their steps became slower. Yet the spring continued to rise within them. Their hope did not fade, because it rested not in their own strength but in the faithfulness of the Lord. The Master of the village looked upon them with delight and said, 'Blessed are you, who have made my mercy visible. Through your steadfast faith, your labour of love, and your endurance in hope, many have glimpsed the Kingdom growing among you.' This is precisely how the people of this parish joyfully reveal the gentle splendour of Christ." Alleluia!*

All are welcome for private prayer at any time in the church which is open 8.30am - 8pm

Diary Dates

Sun 18 October



All are welcome to join us for Tea and Coffee in the hall after 8.30am and 10.30am Mass, especially new parishioners. Proceeds go towards a different charity each week. Please ask the team for details!

3pm-5pm Baptism Preparation Course, Hall

Mon 19 October

9.30am Parent & Toddlers, Hall

6pm Beavers & 7.15pm Cubs Scout Hall

Tue 20 October

10.30am Tuesday Chat Hall

2pm-4pm Craft Club LCR

7pm Scouts Scout Hall

Weds 21 October

10:30 Praise Group LCR

6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall

7pm-8.30pm RCIA: Session 3, LCR
(NB change of day for this week only!)

Thurs 22 October

1pm Italian Club, Hall

Fri 23 October

2pm-4pm Hitchin Pantry, Scout Hall

2.30pm Scripture Study Fr Andrew, Christopher Hse

Sat 24 October

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**

Thursdays in October at 6:30pm: There will be **Adoration and the Rosary** for the Month of Mary.

Youth Group: Great news! We are starting a Youth Group for those of secondary school age- our first meet up is **Friday 13th November**, 6pm-7.30pm in the hall. Please contact LJ to complete a registration form. We're also looking for additional volunteers to help on an occasional (or regular!) basis. If you are over 18yrs and able to help, please contact LJ.

Confirmation 2027: Young people in Year 9 or above, who would like to prepare for the *Sacrament of Confirmation*, are invited to download an Application Form from our website. Please send all completed forms to LJ by 10th November, as our programme begins on **15th November** this year.

Confirmation Helpers needed: If you are confirmed, able to commit to approx. one Sunday evening a month, and are comfortable talking about your faith with Year 9 students, please consider joining the team! Volunteering is on a rota basis, so you are not needed at every session. Contact LJ for more info.
(We are especially interested in more 18-30 yr olds!)

Reconciliation & First Holy Communion Enrolment Mass, Sun 25th Oct, 10.30am: The children are invited to sit together in the reserved pews. Please keep the children and their families in your prayers as they begin this next step on their Sacramental journey.

RCIA: If you are considering becoming a Catholic, are interested in deepening your understanding of the Catholic faith or would like to complete your Sacraments as an adult- RCIA is for you! We meet on **Thursday evenings** 7pm-8.30pm- all are welcome!

Our Lady's School: Please visit the school website for Admissions & upcoming Open Days.

Parish celebrations:
Saturday 21st November 2026, 12:30pm-
A blue plaque will be unveiled outside on the wall of the old Church wall to commemorate the artist Theodore Kern, who was a Parishioner here in Hitchin. We are privileged to have pieces of his art work in our Church, including the illuminated frames Stained Glass Windows displayed in the Church. The Historical Society, along with our Priest and local dignitaries, will be at the unveiling. It is hoped that our Parishioners will come along to support the event. Refreshments in the Hall afterwards.
Sunday 22nd November 2026, 10.30am Mass-
The Parish will be celebrating the Centenary of the Augustinians of the Assumption in Hitchin (1926-2026). Mass will be celebrated at 10:30am with Bishop Paul in attendance and other invited Clergy. There will be a celebratory lunch in the hall immediately afterwards.
On the same day Father Roger Kasereka will be oficially inducted as Parish Priest and will celebrate the end of his Silver Jubilee year of priesthood.

Collection: There will be a second collection next weekend, Sun 25th Oct, for Prisoner Sunday.

Farewell and Thank You: We wish our previous Parish Administrator**,** Siobhan, the best of luck as she moves onto another parish. She will be missed and we thank her for her hard work and support during her time here in Hitchin. Please bear with us until a new administrator has been appointed.

Newsletter team: If anyone is happy to help put together the weekly newsletter during the absence of a parish administrator, please

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



Prayers for our intercession: *We pray for people suffering from illness especially:* Ena Chapman, 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*: :*Charles Anthony Smythe, David Leaver, Eileen Buckley, Mimi Godi, Mercy Sole, Remigijus Dalbokas, Betty Wick, Jerome Paluka Masiki, Mary Harrington, Brian Harrington-Spier, Sandra Fernanda, Maria Alfano**. If you have been bereaved and would like to talk with a member of our Bereavement visitors please ring 01462 459 126**

Sunday 8th November: There will be a Rememberence Service at 3pm on this day, all welcome

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 Rep:	Tomasz Pernak 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	vacant		press 2

contact Fr Roger or LJ. Thank you for your patience and continued support during this time.