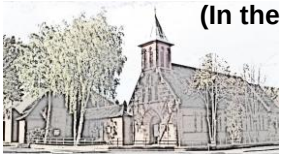
CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

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



Newsletter No 2226

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

25th October 2026- 31st October 2026 – 30th Sunday O/T 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:
Exodus 22:21-27, 1 Thess 1:5c-10, Matt 22:34-40

Entrance Antiphon: Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice; turn to the Lord and his strength; contsntly seek his face.

Psalm: I love you, LORD, my strength

Ramblings

Let's go beyond the Rule Book! Jesus faced 613 commandments, while very few of us could name the majority of laws in our country. For Jesus, however, all the laws were summarised by one single word: ***love!***

There is a story about a bell-ringer named Tobias who lived in a small village. For thirty years, at six o'clock sharp, he climbed the church tower and rang the bell. Tobias loved God, and that bell was his way of saying so. One bitter January morning, he noticed that old Mrs Parker's chimney had no smoke. Tobias hesitated. The bell was waiting. But so was a cold, silent house.
He fetched logs from his own shed, knocked on her door, and lit her fire himself. They sat together with a cup of tea while the room slowly warmed. And for the first time in thirty years, the bell did not ring.
The villagers peered out, puzzled. Then they saw Tobias leaving Mrs Parker's cottage, ash on his sleeves and a smile on his face. That morning, the silence of the bell preached the finest sermon the village had ever heard. By the next day, half the street had left logs at Mrs Parker's door.

This is what Jesus is telling us. We cannot give God our whole heart while keeping a door closed to our neighbour. Loving God and loving others are not two roads. They are one.

St Augustine put it succinctly: *"Love, and do what you will."* This is not a loophole, but a promise. When love is the root, what grows from it will be good.
And remember those two little words: *"as yourself"*. You, too, are worthy of care.

So look around you today. Who needs your patience? Who needs a log for their fire? It might be a kind word, a smile, or a few minutes of your time.
Laws keep us safe. ***Love makes us good!*** ***~Fr Tom***

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

Diary Dates

Sun 25 October



All are welcome to join us in the hall for tea & coffee after 8.30am and 10.30am Mass, especially new parishioners.
Proceeds for this week's Tea and Coffee is for the parish flower group.

Mon 26 October

No Parent & Toddlers due to half term

No Beavers due to half term

Tue 27 October

10.30am Tuesday Chat Hall

2pm-4pm Craft Club LCR

No Scouts due to half term

Weds 28 October

10:30 Praise Group LCR

6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall

Thurs 29 October

1pm Italian Club, Hall

No Brownies due to half term

Fri 30 October

2pm-4pm Hitchin Pantry, Scout Hall

2.30pm Scripture Study with Fr Andrew, Christopher House

Sat 31 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

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

All Souls Day, 2nd November: The Blessing of the Graves will take place after the 10am Mass

Rememberence Service, Sunday 8th November, 3pm

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

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

Coffee morning for Phase, Saturday 21 November, 10.00am-12.30pm: at Christchurch. Cakes, books, gifts, cards, Chapel Preserves and bacon butties! All welcome

Food support & the cost of living: Herts County Council are inviting people who use food banks, food pantries, community supermarkets & food support services to complete a short survey on how the cost of living is affecting households.
https://surveys.hertfordshire.gov.uk/s/COLFoodSupport/

Terracycle: *The Pladis Biscuits & Snacks Recycling Programme* is closing, due to Pladis ending the funding for this recycling scheme. **The last collection date in our parish will be 25th November.** Until then, we encourage parishioners & supporters of our recycling efforts to bring all brands of biscuit, cakes, snacks, plastic wrappers & place them in the dedicated GREEN recycling bin provided so that we can raise funds for PHASE - helping school children in Hitchin. (http://www.phase-hitchin.org/) The rubber Marigold gloves recycling remains- please continue to support us. Thank you for your understanding & support as these changes are out of our control. Deolinda and Michael Eltringham

Projector Screen: Our portable projector screen has gone missing. If you have borrowed it, we politely ask that it is returned to its orginal place for others to use

Volunteers urgently needed for the following:

- **Set the parish heating each week**
- **Operate the sound system in Dec (training provided)**
- **Youth Group helpers over 18 yrs- occasional monthly commitment, DBS will be provided**
- **Confirmation helpers- occasional monthly commitment, DBS will be provided**

Baptism: We welcome Joshua & Eliana Olujinmi into the parish community. Please keep them and their family in your prayers

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*:* Sandra Fernanda, Maria Alfano, James Marshall, Peter Cheketts, Donald O'Brien, Joan Gentle, Ron Jennings, Lucia pilla, Patricia Brusher, Stephen Monaghan, Phyllis Brennan, Anna Lanni & Catherine O'Carroll**. 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
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Retired Priest	Fr Tom O'Brien 07547 171570
Sacramental Co-ordinator	L J Ross ljross@rcdow.org.uk press 3
Administrator	vacant press 2