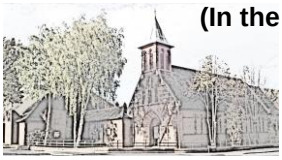
CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

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



Newsletter No 2227

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

1st November- 7th November 2026 – ALL SAINTS 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:
Apocalypse 7:2-4,9-14, 1 John 3:1-3, Matthew 5:1-12a

Entrance Antiphon: Let us all rejoice in the Lord, as we celebrate the feast day in honour of all the Saints, at whose festival the Angels rejoice and praise the Son of God

Psalm: Such are the people who seek your face, O Lord.

Ramblings ~ All Saints

"See what love the Father has bestowed on us, that we may be called children of God." (1 Jn 3:1) These words from Saint John invite us to stop, breathe, and gaze with wonder. Before we do anything for God, before we achieve holiness or overcome our weaknesses, we are already loved. We are already God's children.

All Saints' Day is a feast of seeing. Not merely looking, but seeing with the eyes of the heart. We honour a countless multitude of saints, many unknown to history but known intimately to God. Their lives remind us that holiness is not extraordinary perfection. It is allowing God's love to shine through ordinary days.

Saint Augustine wrote, "We are called children of God, and that is what we are." The saints believed this truth more deeply than they believed their failures.

Emmanuel d'Alzon urged his followers to become people in whom Christ's life could be seen by the world. The saints did exactly that.

There was once an elderly man who spent every morning collecting litter from the streets before anyone else woke up. He was gruff, rarely attended meetings, and never spoke about faith. When he died, neighbours discovered he had quietly visited the lonely, paid for children's school uniforms, and left notes of encouragement in letterboxes. No statues were raised in his honour. Yet for years he had been scattering the light of God like seeds in the wind. Perhaps sainthood often looks like that.

Each day offers glimpses of God's presence: a teacher's patience, a stranger's kindness, a child's laughter, a friend's listening ear. These are small windows into eternity.

As Sr Macrina Wiederkehr OSB would remind us, heaven is not only beyond us; it shimmers around us. The saints teach us to notice it. And in those moments of noticing, we discover that the path to holiness may begin with a simple and startling truth: God is here, and we are God's beloved children. Alleluia! ***~Fr Tom***

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

Diary Dates

Sun 1 November



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

Mon 2 November

9.30am Parent & Toddlers, Hall
6pm Beavers, Scout Hall

Tues 3 November

10.30am Tuesday Chat, Hall
2pm-4pm Craft Club, LCR
7pm-8.30pm FHC Session 2 (parents only), Hall
7pm Scouts, Scout Hall

Weds 4 November

10:30am Praise Group LCR
4.30pm-5.30pm FHC RE Class (for those who attend non-Catholic schools), Hall
6pm Feed Up Warm Up, Scout Hall

Thurs 5 November

1pm Italian Club, Hall
6pm Brownies, Scout Hall

Fri 6 November

2pm-4pm Hitchin Pantry, Scout Hall
2.30pm Scripture Study with Fr Andrew, Christopher House

Sat 7 November

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**
Adoration & Rosary every Thursday at 6.30pm

Many thanks to all those who supported the recent OWLS coffee morning. £140 was raised for UNHCR's work in Lebanon.

Intentions for our Deanery, Sun 1st November: His Grace, Archbishop Richard Moth, is praying for the Intentions of our Stevenage Deanery on this day

All Souls Day, Mon 2nd November: The Blessing of the graves after 10am Mass at St John's Cemetery - meet at The Assumptionist grave at the bottom of the left hand side of the Cemetery. The Priests will bless the graves of your family members

Magnifica Humanitas, Weds 4th November, 6.30pm: An invitation to join The Friends of Westminster Cathedral at **Westminster Cathedral Hall**, for a talk by Fr Hugh MacKenzie on *Magnifica Humanitas*. Exploring Pope Leo's reflections on the distinction between human and artificial intelligence, & what it means for our understanding of humanity, morality & faith. For further info & tickets: https://westminstercathedral.org.uk/news-events/

In Memoriam Service, Sun 8th November, 3pm: An opportunity to pray for your loved ones who have died. During the service the names of those parishioners who have died in the past year since our last service will be read & a flower display created with a flower for each of those named. There is also an opportunity for people to light candles during the service. Refreshments are available in the hall afterwards

Deceased Clergy Mass, Tues 10th November, 11am: A Mass for the deceased clergy of our Stevenage Deanery, at St Thomas More Chruch in Knebworth

Admissions Evening at Our Lady's School, Thurs 12th November, 6.30pm: For Reception children starting school in Sept 2027. Contact OLS website or admin@ourladys.hert.sch.uk for more details

Youth Group, Fri 13th November, **6pm-7.30pm:** A new Youth Group for those of secondary school age. Please contact LJ to complete a registration form. We are also seeking adult volunteers to help on an occasional basis (DBS provided)

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

Coffee morning for Phase, Sat 21 November, 10am-12.30pm: at Christchurch. Cakes, books, gifts, cards, Chapel Preserves and bacon butties! All welcome

Parish Celebrations, Sat 21st November 2026, 12:30pm: The unveiling of a Blue Plaque on the old church wall to commemorate the artist Theodore Kern, whose artwork is shown in our church. Please come along to support the event. Refreshments in the Hall afterwards

Parish Celebrations, Sun 22nd November 2026, 10.30am Mass: Celebrating the Centenary of the Augustinians of the Assumption in Hitchin (1926-2026). Bishop Paul & other clergy will be attending 10.30am Mass & 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.
Please sign the notice in the porch if you are planning to come to the reception after Mass on this day to give us an indication of numbers for catering purposes. Please, also indicate if you can help to set up, help during the lunch or help to clear up

Terracycle: Correction to last week's newsletter- Please note that the last collection date will be *Weds 25th November* for the biscuit and cake wrappers for recycling & not Christmas day as stated in last newsletter. Please place them in the dedicated GREEN recycling bin provided so that we can raise funds for PHASE-helping school children in Hitchin. Thank you. (http://www.phase-hitchin.org/)

Adoration & Rosary: At the end of the Marian month, we thank the Lord for all the graces & blessings we received through the intercession of Our Lady.

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: Jane Greenhalgh, Eileen O'Riordan, Walter Wood, Anne Marshall & Nora Comiskey. **If you have been bereaved and would like to talk with a member of our Bereavement visitors please ring 01462 459 126**

Assumption…
Assumptionist Young Priests from Europe, Asia, and Western Africa are meeting this week in Ars, France, for a training workshop and for prayers. Fr Romaric is one of them; he is praying for us all.

Parish Tel no: 01462 459126	**Website**: https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin		
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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
Parish Administrator	vacant		press 2