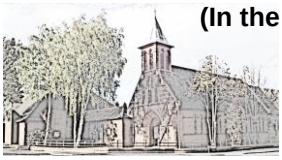
# CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

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



## Newsletter No 2229

**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

**14th November- 21st November 2026 – 33rd Sunday O/T YrA**

**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: Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6; Matthew 25:14-30**

**Entrance Antiphon** The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction. You will call upon me, and I will answer you,and I will lead back your captives from every place.

**Psalm response**
Blessed are all who fear the LORD.

***Ramblings ~*** *"You have been faithful over a little; I will entrust you with much more."* These words of Jesus speak to something we recognise in education. We learn our letters before we can read a sentence, and simple numbers before tackling complex calculations. Each small discovery prepares us for the next. A good teacher patiently nurtures these beginnings, helping a child grow in understanding and confidence. In the parable, the master entrusts his possessions to his servants and gives them the chance to make something of what they have received. Education carries a similar trust: to help children develop their talents and deepen their knowledge. A teacher once asked her Reception class why the servant buried his coin in the ground. One small boy answered, *"Because he didn't have a pocket."* Perhaps he had a point. The master wanted it used. Christian education gives this growth an even deeper purpose. We learn to see the world as God's creation and our talents as gifts to be shared in service. Listening carefully, admitting a mistake and helping a classmate are small, everyday actions through which knowledge grows into wisdom and faith shapes how we live. We are proud of our Catholic primary school, Our Lady School, and its exemplary Ofsted report, which praised the well-rounded education it provides. The school's spirit of trust, welcome and mutual support helps children and families feel that they belong. This caring community reflects the belief that every child is loved by God and has something precious to contribute. Children learn from the example around them as well as from lessons: a teacher's fairness, a parent's patience, or a staff member's willingness to listen can stay with a child for life. We may never know all that will grow from the talents entrusted to each child. But a small lesson, faithfully taught in a community where each person is welcomed and supported, can have a lasting impact. ***~Fr Tom***

***Diary Dates***

**Sun 15 November**



Proceeds from this Sunday's *One World Live Simply* coffee morning will go to support Bakhita House, a charity which provides help for trafficked, enslaved and exploited women. Cakes, preserves and books will be on sale. All are welcome, especially new parishioners.

**Mon 16 November**

**9.30am** Parent & Toddlers, Hall

**4pm One World Live Simply Group AGM**, LCR
Father Roger will talk to us about the Church in the Democratic Republic of Congo. All are welcome. Refreshments will be available.

**6pm Beavers**, Scout Hall

**Tues 17 November**

**10.30am Tuesday Chat,** Hall

**2pm-4pm Craft Club,** LCR

**7pm Scouts**, Scout Hall

**Weds 18 November**

**4.30-5.30pm FHC RE session for children who attend non-catholic schools**, Hall

**6pm Feed Up Warm Up**, Scout Hall

**Thurs 19 November**

**1pm Italian Club,** Hall

**7pm RCIA Session 5**, LCR

**6pm Brownies**, Scout Hall

**Fri 20 November**

**2pm-4pm Hitchin Pantry,** Scout Hall

**2.30pm Scripture Study with Fr Andrew,** Christopher House

**Sat 21 November**

**1-3pm Hitchin Pantry,** Scout Hall

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

## Prayer diary 🙏

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| *Tuesday* | **11.30am Meditation** Emmanuel Centre |
| *Wednesday* | **9.30am Rosary** Church |
| *Thursday* | **6.30pm Meditation** Emmanuel Centre |
| | **6.30pm Adoration & Rosary** Church |
| *Friday* | **9.30am Rosary** Church |
| *Saturday* | **10.30 Exposition & Reconciliation** |

The second collection this week will be for the sick and retired priests of our diocese. Please give generously to give back to those who have baptized us, welcomed us into the church & offered comfort & prayer at times of sorrow.

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**Parish Celebrations- Sat 21 Nov 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.

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**Parish Celebrations- Sun 22nd Nov 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 & **children** are invited to join the offertory procession by bringing a donation for the **Hitchin Pantry** (packets or tinned food, toiletries, etc). There will be a celebratory lunch in the hall immediately afterwards. Father Roger Kasereka will be oficially inducted as Parish Priest and celebrates the end of his Silver Jubilee year of priesthood. Please sign the card in the porch and sign up 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.

**Thank you** to our generous parishioners who supported the coffee morning on Sunday Oct 25th. The Flower Group raised £197.85.

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From the beginning of Advent, **Morning Prayer (Laudes)** will be said in the church at 9.30 am every Tuesday. We are all invited to join in.

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**Confirmation 2027-** we are still accepting applications for those in year 9 and above who would like to receive the sacrament of confirmation. Please see website for details.

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Our priests will have a day off for recollection (meditation and prayer) on **5th December**. There will be **no 10 am Mass**. The evening Mass will be at **7 pm instead of 6pm** that day.

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**Help needed:**

We need people to assist with **operating the sound system** please contact Mike Eltringham for further Information. 07831 550857

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We need help with **carpet fitting** so we can replace an ageing cable. Is there a some one in the parish with carpet fitting experience and tools who can help us. Please contact Mike Eltringham for details. 07831 550857.

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We need **fire marshalls** to support the church in case of the need for evacuations. Please let Fr Roger know if you are willing to take on this role. Training will be provided.

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The **Caritas Advent Calendar** is available for you to collect your goods during Advent which will be given to Hitchin Pantry.

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The Solemnity of Christ the King on 22nd Nov is also World Youth Sunday, celebrating young people in the church, & the 800th anniversary of the death of St Francis of Assisi. Please visit : https://youth.rcdow.org.uk/world-youth-Sunday-2026/ for a message from Archbishop Richard Moth. This year's World Youth Sunday theme is « *Take courage ! I have overcome the world* » (John 16 :33).

**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***: John Duke, Anna Milazzo, Peter Herbert, Agnes Mason, Antonino D'Amico, Helen Hemmings, Jane Brown, Edith Connelly, Ketherine Shell, Graham Dann, John Sample, Morris Buckley, Josephine McNally &David Bloomfield. **If you have been bereaved and would like to talk with a member of our Bereavement visitors please ring 01462 459 126**

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| **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 |
| **Parish Administrator** | *Position currently vacant* press 2 |