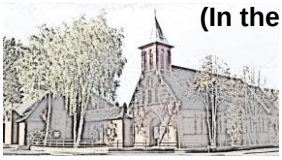
CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

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



Newsletter No 2230

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

21st - 28th November 2026 – Christ the Universal King Yr 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: Ez 34:11-12, 15-17, 1 Cor 15:20-26,28, Matt 25:31-46

Entrance Antiphon: How worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and divinity, and wisdom and strength and honour. To him belong glory and power for ever and ever.

Psalm: The LORD is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Ramblings ~ for the feast of Christ the King year A

Christus vincit! Christus regnat! Christus imperat!

The Liturgical Year reaches its final page. As this parish gives thanks for 100 years of Assumptionist presence, the Church lifts our eyes, not to a golden throne, but to a Cross. Here is our King: crowned with thorns, enthroned on wood, reigning by love alone. *"My kingdom is not of this world,"* Jesus tells Pilate, and yet it is the only kingdom that will never fade.

Where does it lie? It is a place: the kitchen table where forgiveness is spoken, the parish door held open to the stranger. For a century, Assumptionists have sought its coming here. It is a moment: a hungry child fed, a lonely heart visited, a wrong quietly made right. It was born in Nazareth, it blossoms hidden within us now, and it waits, shining, at the end of all our journeying. Its signs are *love, justice and peace.*

Augustine knew its secret. Two loves, he says, built two cities: the earthly one by love of self; the heavenly one by love of God. Each morning we lay another stone in one or the other. And Augustine knew the ache that draws us homeward: *"You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you."* Late, he cried, had he loved that Beauty ever ancient, ever new.

Emmanuel d'Alzon gave his sons and daughters a prayer for a banner, and it has echoed through this parish for 100 years: *Adveniat regnum tuum*, *"Thy Kingdom come."* Not in the future but here and now: in the classroom's hush, the playground's clamour, the smallest kindness offered in the dark. Let children's laughter be our psalm, and the ordinary day our altar. Let every heart become a small Bethlehem, a manger made ready for the King. Let us crown him not with words alone, but with mercy, freely poured.

Christ conquers. Christ reigns. Christ commands, and his command is this: *love!* ***~Fr Tom***

Prayer Diary 🙏
Tuesday **11.30am Meditation** Emmanuel Centre
Wednesday **9.30am Rosary** Church
Thursday **6.30pm Meditation** Emmanuel Centre
6.30pm Adoration & Rosary Church

Diary Dates

Sun 22 November



Please note there is no tea & coffee after 8.30am Mass, all are welcome to join us for celebrations in the hall following the 10.30am celebration Mass.

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10.30 Mass Centenary Celebrations for the Augustinians of the Assumption in the UK. We welcome all the brethren from Bethnall Green to this Mass. The celebration will continue in the parish hall after Mass.

Mon 23 November

9.30am Parent & Toddlers, Hall

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6pm Beavers, Scout Hall

Tues 24 November

10.30am Tuesday Chat, Hall

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2pm-4pm Craft Club, LCR

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7pm Scouts, Scout Hall

Weds 25 November

6pm Feed Up Warm Up, Scout Hall

Thurs 26 November

1pm Italian Club, Hall

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6.30pm Adoration & Rosary Church

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7pm RCIA Session 5, LCR

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6pm Brownies, Scout Hall

Fri 27 November

2pm-4pm Hitchin Pantry, Scout Hall

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2.30pm Scripture Study with Fr Andrew, Christopher House

Sat 28 November

1-3pm Hitchin Pantry, Scout Hall

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

Congratulations to Fr Roger, celebrating his 25th year of priesthood and is being officially welcomed as our parish priest during the 10.30am Mass.

The Solemnity of Christ the King is also **World Youth Sunday**, celebrating young people in the church. It is also 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). Westminster Youth Ministry has a vital role in accompaning young people in our Catholic schools and parishes. In 2025, it welcomed over 5,000 young people to SPEC Retreat Centre in Pinner and supported 44 diocesan youth groups through Youth Ministry Outreach

Baptism- We welcome Soraia into the family of the church through the Sacrament of Baptism. Please keep her and her family in your prayers.

Thank you to all those who supported the recent OWLS coffee morning. **£142** was raised for Bakhita House which helps women who have been trafficked, enslaved and exploited.

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

Fri 27th Nov, 10-11.30am Christmas Community Morning at The John Henry Newman School, an invitation for the senior members of our community to attend a morning of light refreshments and festive songs & carols from their students. Please RSVP to events@jhn.herts.sch.uk or the school office 01438 314643.

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

Sat 28th Nov, 2.30pm-6pm Herts Youth Summit at Trinity Hall, Our Lady Queen of Apostles, WGC. An afternoon of games, activities, adoration & prayer for our Confirmation candidates. **We are still accepting applications for those in year 9 and above who would like to receive the sacrament of Confirmation**. Please contact LJ or visit the website for more details

Friday 4th December Our priests will have a day off for recollection (meditation and prayer). There will be **no 10am Mass**. There will be an evening Mass that day at 7pm instead. Note change of date.

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

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.

Thank you for supporting the recent collection for the **Sick & Retired Priests Fund**, ensuring our sick & elderly priests are financially supported having given us a lifetime of dedicated service. Donations can be made at: https://rcdow.org.uk/donate/sick-and-retired-priests-fund/

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

Prayers for our intercession: *We pray for people suffering from illness especially:* 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, and the Sheldon family.



We pray for those whose anniversary is about now*:* Daniel Bradley, Roy Pugh, Michelle Roszak, Betty Smith, Brian Pegram, Violetta Jackson, John Barry Thomas, Sandra Hugil, Liboria Maurello, Eileen O'Mahony Aniello Moscatiello, Margaret Garment, Patricia Wells, Clive Knight, Philomena Kennedy. We pray for Ena Chapman who died last week. **If you have been bereaved and would like to talk with a member of our Bereavement visitors please ring 01462 459 126**

Assumptionists…

Fr Emmanuel d'Alzon, our Founder, was born in Nîmes, Southern France in 1810. Sensitive by nature and by grace to the upheavals of his country and of the world in the aftermath of the French Revolution, he suffered whenever he saw God threatened in human beings and human beings threatened as image of God. He felt compeled to share with men and women his own passion for the coming of the Kingdom of God, his passion for Jesus Christ and for everything that Jesus Christ loved. This passion should be highlighted in Education, Mass Media, Pilgrimage, Ecumenism, Community Centres, and Parishes. He founded the Augustinians of the Assumption in 1845, and the Oblate sisters of the Assumption in 1865. He died in Nîmes on 21st November, 1880.

Parish Tel no: 01462 459126	**Website**: https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin
Parish Safeguarding Rep:	Tomasz Pernak hitchinsg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk
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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 01462 459126 press 3
Parish Administrator	*Position currently vacant* 01462 459126 press 2