

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

12th MAY 2024

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

“Anyone who lives in love lives in God, and God lives in him”

1 John 4:16

**Our Parish vision is to bring people closer to Christ
by inviting, welcoming, nurturing and nourishing everyone**


Address: 346 Portswood Road, Southampton, SO17 3SB
Tel: (023) 8055 5470
Website: www.immaculateconception.church
Email: office@immaculateconception.church
Facebook: Immaculate Conception Church, Portswood
Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth, (Reg Charity No: 1199568)
Bank details: CDP, Immaculate Conception Church
 Sort Code: 30-93-04
 Account No: 00887995

Parish Priest: Fr Anthony Chiatu
Parish Deacon: Dcn Gerard Dailly
Hospital Chaplaincy: (023 8120 8517)
University Chaplain: Sr Emelliana Silva (07426 000213)
Safeguarding Officer: Laura Sparmann
 (safeguarding@immaculateconception.church)
Parish Secretary: Rachel Brady (023 8055 5470)
Confessions: After 10 am Mass on Saturdays
Hall Bookings: contact the parish secretary

PARISH OFFICE OPEN NEXT WEEK: Tuesday, Wednesday Thursday & Friday, 9.30 am – 2.30 pm

**ALL MASSES ADVERTISED BELOW ARE AVAILABLE TO JOIN LIVE, ONLINE AT
www.churchservices.tv/portswoodchur**

| Date | Solemnities & Feast days | Times & Liturgies | | Mass Intentions |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Sun 12 May | SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER | 8.30 am 10.30 am | Mass Mass | Irene Matthews RIP John Brady RIP |
| Mon 13 May | of the 7 th week of Easter | - | No Mass | |
| Tues 14 May | St Matthias | 9.00 am 10.00 am | Eucharistic adoration Mass | David Brooks RIP |
| Weds 15 May | of the 7 th week of Easter | 10.00 am 6.00 pm | Mass Eucharistic Adoration | KWL Perera RIP |
| Thurs 16 May | of the 7 th week of Easter | 10.00 am | Mass | - |
| Fri 17 May | of the 7 th week of Easter | 9.00 am 9.30 am 10.00 am | Eucharistic Adoration Rosary Mass | - |
| Sat 18 May | of the 7 th week of Easter | 10.00 am | Mass | - |
| Sun 19 May | PENTECOST SUNDAY | 8.30 am 10.30 am | Mass Mass | Jolanta Thelma Haberstock RIP |

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|  <p>READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY 1st Reading: Acts 1:15-17, 20-26 Psalm: 102:1-2,11-12,19-20 2nd Reading: 1 John 4:11-16 Gospel: John 17:11-19</p> | <p>NEXT WEEK IN THE PARISH:</p> <p>Tues 14th - Coffee morning after 10.00 am Mass - Confirmation Group follow up meeting, 6 pm in the parish hall.</p> <p>Weds 15th - Eucharistic Adoration 6 pm in the lady chapel</p> <p>Thurs 16th - Community Social/Activity group – Artwork 10.30 am, in the hall. All welcome - Choir Practice 7.30 pm in the church. Anyone welcome to join.</p> <p>Sun 19th - Refreshments after 10.30 am Mass</p> |
| <p>SECOND COLLECTIONS: SUNDAY 12TH MAY- Catholic Communications Network (Non Gift Aid) SUNDAY 19TH MAY – No second collection</p> | |

TODAY’S GOSPEL REFLECTION:

Consecrated in the Truth

“Consecrate them in the truth. Your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I sent them into the world. And I consecrate myself for them, so that they also may be consecrated in truth.” *John 17:17–19*

What does it mean to “consecrate” something or someone? Consecration is, of course, a very familiar term within our faith. We speak of the bread and wine being consecrated and becoming the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus our Lord. The consecration of the mere earthly substances of bread and wine transform them into God Himself. Thus, “consecration” is a powerful word.

Another familiar use of this word is in reference to those women who have been called by God to enter religious life so as to dedicate themselves to God as spouses of Christ. They become “Consecrated Religious” through their solemn lifelong vows. They are dedicated, taken out of the world and presented to Christ in a unique way. Among the laity, there are many who have consecrated themselves to our Blessed Mother, or to the Sacred Heart, or to our divine Lord through some other special form of devotion. In all of these cases, to “consecrate” is to dedicate, set aside and make holy. Another translation for the word “consecrate” above is “sanctify.”

To “Sanctify them in the truth” is to make them holy by the truth. This is Jesus’ prayer in the above-quoted passage. This line comes from Jesus’ beautiful High Priestly Prayer in which He prays to the Father for His disciples and for all who will eventually become His disciples—and that includes you! Jesus’ prayer is not only effective as a prayer, it is also effective as a lesson on holiness. How do we become holy? Simple. We allow the Word of the Father to consecrate us in truth. In other words, we allow God’s holy Word to engage us, challenge us, change us, call us from sin, point us to Heaven and transform every aspect of our lives. God’s Word is the Truth, and we will become holy if we are transformed by this Truth.

In what ways do you need the Truth, spoken by the Father in Heaven, to engage you? What are the truths of our faith that you especially need to know, accept, profess and believe? One of the best ways to answer this question is to commit yourself to an in-depth, prayerful reading of the Word of God. By prayerfully reading the Scriptures, you will open yourself to all that God wants to reveal to you. And as the voice of God speaks to you through His Word, you will be invited to change. His Word will combat the confusion and lies of the world and the evil one and set you upon the path to holiness, to true sanctity and interior consecration.

Reflect, today, upon the transforming power of the Word of God. Reflect upon how fully you have allowed His Word to speak to you, call you out of the world, set you apart for holiness and direct you toward Himself. Engaging the Word of God must become your daily spiritual food, and it must paint for you the picture of your glorious life to which you are called.

A reflection for 7th Sunday of Easter, Yr B

www.mycatholic.life

PARISH NOTICES

*****TODAY*****

PARISH BBQ after 10.30 am Mass

All are welcome to come along to the Parish Barbeque after Mass today - All proceeds raised will support the parish and Emergency Relief Fund.

CELEBRATING OUR CULTURAL DIVERSITY

Sunday 19th May, 10.30 am Mass

As part of our celebration, parishioners from India are being invited to take the lead in parts of this Mass. It will also be followed by a ‘Bring and Share’ Lunch in the hall. If you are from India and would like to participate in the Mass or in helping to organise the lunch, please contact Anastasia or Nisha Dutta.

PARISH SUMMER FAIR

Saturday 13th July

We are once again collecting donations for a raffle, tombola, plants, cakes etc. If you have any donations you would like to offer, please bring them to the hall after Masses. If anyone would like to organise a stall or help in any way, please talk to Anastasia after 10.30 am Mass.

CALLING ALL DANCERS GYMNASTS AND PERFORMERS AGED 2 TO 12 APPROXIMATELY!

The parish dance club which is no longer running, is offering costumes leotards, dance shoes etc for sale, via small donations in the hall after mass next Sunday.

Come for a bargain.

Great for children who like to dress up!

CONFIRMATION GROUP FOLLOW UP MEETING

This Tuesday 14th May @ 6 pm

DIOCESAN EVENTS:

Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

22 – 26 July 2024

If you would like to participate in this year’s pilgrimage, please contact sfield@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

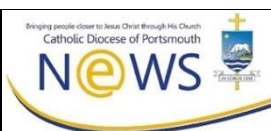
A Day for Readers:

Saturday 19th October 2024, 9:30am – 2:30pm

St Bede’s Church, Basingstoke, RG24 9DX.

Hosted by the Diocesan Liturgy Formation Team

Please RSVP to liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk



PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE E NEWS & JOB VACANCIES

Activities, events, news and job vacancies from around the Diocese.

<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue444?e=34c55ac6ce>

DEMENTIA FRIENDS INFORMATION SESSION

Tuesday 21st May at 7pm for anyone interested in supporting people with Dementia in their parishes, community or family. Everyone welcome. Please register at <https://tinyurl.com/4ysur27w>

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE DAILY FAMILY who

celebrated the marriage of their daughter, Abigail to Robert, last Saturday in Winchester. A few photos here – with a certain Scottish style to them!



SPECIAL PRAYERS & BLESSINGS FOR ALL THOSE STARTING EXAMS OVER THE COMING WEEKS

We have many young people in our parish who are at school, 6th form, and university. So as the exam season begins, we pray that God will protect them, give them courage, guide them and hold them. May they know His peace in their hearts, His vision for their lives and His strength as they work. Amen

ESTATE MAINTENANCE

Thank you to those who came along to the maintenance morning last weekend. A small number of people gave up their time and worked very hard in supporting the parish in this important way. There are others who have also taken on a few tasks around the site to continue this good work. However, more help would be very much appreciated. Carpentry skills and gardening are very much needed!

SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE – OUR PARISH HALL

Please add your ideas to our quick survey about the future of our parish hall.

- What events/groups/activities would you like to see taking place?
- What changes/improvements, should we make to the main hall – eg layout, rooms, facilities etc – to make the best use of it for the parish and local community?

Bring back your form, given to you last weekend, or pick one up after Masses today. Responses will be collated and reported back on by the end of May so that we can start to put ideas into action over the coming months.

SS SHEILDHALL

Rogation Sunday Service

A few pictures from the final event last Sunday for Val Laurent as the The Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor and Admiral of the Port of Southampton and for Fr Anthony as the Lord Mayor’s Chaplain.



Joined by a few parishioners, Fr Anthony led the service on SS Shieldhall for this traditional service which takes place every year with the Mayor to bless the waters which bring us so much life in so many different ways.

'HEAVENLY VOICES'

Romsey Abbey, Saturday 8th June at 7.30pm.

Step into the majestic Abbey and experience an evening of heavenly music showcasing some of the most beautiful choral works of the past three centuries, performed by Southampton Philharmonic and the SU Philharmonic choirs. Tickets may be purchased online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/musicinromsey or from Romsey Visitor Information Centre, 13 Church St. Romsey SO51 8BT (tel: 01794 512987)

Latin Summer Festival

Date: Saturday June 1, 2024, from 1pm onwards.

Venue: Southampton Polish Club

507 Portswood Rd, Southampton SO17 2TH

Organised by the City Centre Catholic parish Cultural Diversity Group, please join us for an afternoon of Latin flavors and rhythms!

More details to follow next week....