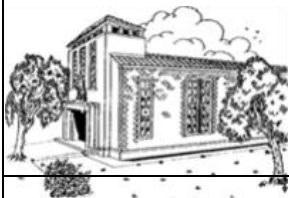


IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

23rd February 2025

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,
bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.” Luke 6,27-28



**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: Cecilia Kovacs (023 8055 5470)
Confessions: After 10 am Mass on Saturdays
Hall Bookings: contact the parish secretary

**THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FROM 26TH FEBRUARY AND REOPEN ON THE 11TH MARCH DUE TO ANNUAL LEAVE.
WITH URGENT QUERIES PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH PRIEST.**

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

Date	Solemnities & Feast days	Times & Liturgies		Mass Intentions
Sun 23 February	SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Helena Wolas RIP Florence Hill RIP
Mon 24 February	Feria		NO MASS	
Tue 25 February	Feria	9.00 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration Mass	Carol Cunio and all her family grieving the death of Ruth
Wed 26 February	Feria	10.00 am 6pm	Mass Eucharistic Adoration	
Thu 27 February	St Gregory of Narek, Religious, Doctor of the Church	10.00 am	Mass	
Fri 28 February	Feria	9.00 am 9.30 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic adoration Rosary Mass	Annabelle Dailly RIP
Sat 1 March	ST DAVID, Religious, Bishop	10.00am	Mass	Sebastian Kubaszewski RIP
Sun 2 March	EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Annabelle Dailly RIP Krystyna and Adam Madej RIP

READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY



1st Reading: 1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23
Psalm: Ps 103(102):1-2. 3-4. 8, 10. 12-13. R8a
2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:45-49
Gospel: Luke 6:27-38

SECOND COLLECTIONS:

26th February - No second collections
2nd March – Racial Justice

NEXT WEEK IN THE PARISH

Tues 25th Tea & Coffee after 10 am service – parish hall
RCIA Course – 7.30-9 pm in the parish hall
Wed 26th Adoration for students and anyone else who would like to join us – 6-7 pm in the Lady Chapel
Thurs 27th Caritas activity group– 10.30am
Sat 1st Easter story pageant – 11.30am First rehearsal in the church
FHC Session 11 –11am in the parish hall
Please bring with you the mauve folders for marking.
Sun 2nd Refreshments after mass –
Choir Practice - 11.30 am in the church. All welcome to join.

KINDNESS TOWARD ALL

“But rather, love your enemies and do good to them, and lend expecting nothing back; then your reward will be great and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.
Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.” Luke 6:35–36

It is certainly difficult to be “kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.” But doing so is exactly what our Lord commanded us to do. And His command is not a command in the sense of being a burden. On the contrary, it’s a command that frees us from the ingratitude and wickedness we encounter.

Oftentimes, when we encounter ingratitude from another, or any other form of wickedness, we tend to react in kind. Our fallen human nature lures us into cruelty when faced with cruelty. We criticize, condemn, attack and get angry. But Jesus is very clear that this is not how the “Most High” acts toward the wicked. And it is not how He acts toward us. In the end, the wicked who fail to repent will endure the consequences of their rejection of God’s mercy. But until that final judgment, hope of conversion must always be present. And for that reason, we must never give up on another, no matter how difficult. Kindness shown to everyone, in every circumstance, goes to the heart of the mission we have received as children of God.

Think about the person in your life who seems unworthy of your kindness and generosity. Why are they undeserving? Are they truly undeserving? The truth, according to our Lord’s teaching, is that these are not questions we should even ask ourselves. Instead, we must fully commit ourselves to loving everyone who appears to be our enemy, and do good to them and to everyone whom we encounter. Though this is difficult, it won’t be if we understand the goodness that God has shown to us.

God has shone us perfect goodness, not because He expected anything back, but simply because He has willed to love us. If we want to be children of God the Most High, then we must reciprocate the love given to us. That’s the nature of God’s love. It cannot be contained. It cannot be selfishly received without also allowing it to pour forth from our lives. When we understand this, we will understand the reason Jesus instructed us to be “kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.” It is simply because this is how God has treated us.

Reflect, today, upon the unlimited love God has for you. It is beyond what you could ever comprehend. Reflect, also, upon the great benefit there is in opening yourself to God’s perfect love, kindness, generosity and mercy. The benefit is that you are able to be filled with that which you receive. And as you receive this love of God, it necessarily overflows into the lives of everyone you encounter, the good and the wicked. Everyone must always be offered this love. Do not hesitate, for God does not hesitate with you.

A reflection for the Seventh Sunday In Ordinary Time (Year C)
www.mycatholic.life

PARISH NOTICES

VOLUNTEER NEEDED FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

The worship team is looking for a volunteer to run the slides at 10:00 on Ash Wednesday, March 5th. Please talk to Mary Gobbi if you can help.

MASS INTENTIONS

We have many slots available for weekday mass intentions for the next 2-3 weeks. Please make sure to submit your request by no later than 10am on 25th February.

LENT LUNCHESES -2025

Our weekly Friday soup lunches will take place again this year. A selection of delicious soups will be provided by our volunteers. Please come and support this effort which is not only a social opportunity to meet but raises money for worthy causes. The first three dates are as follows:

- 7th March – Christian Aid
- 14th March – SVP (Work in Sudan)
- 21st March - MacMillan



RIP RUTH CUNIO

It is with heavy heart that we announce the passing of Ruth Cunio, who died earlier this month aged 57 years. Ruth was well known to many parishioners as a fellow student, a teacher, and as an education chaplain at St George School. She will be sorely missed.

Her funeral will be held at St Joseph's church on Wednesday 12 March at 11 am.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH LITURGY GROUP

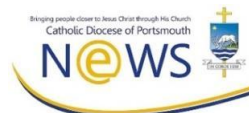
New Members Wanted

The Parish Liturgy Group is still looking for volunteers to join any of the subgroups below to lessen the burden of their currently limited membership.

The subgroups include:

- Children's Liturgy
- Bidding Prayer Writing
- Liturgy Reading
- Sacristans and Altar servers
- Music and Choir
- Welcome and Hospitality - porch welcome, ushers, refreshments after Mass, etc,
- Organisation and Planning - including liturgical calendar for the year, training and guidance for EMs, Readers, Bidding Prayer writing, OHP slide contents and editing, regular Special Events - Cultural Diversity Sunday, etc

If you are interested in joining any of our dynamic and friendly subgroups, please contact the Parish Office office@immaculateconception.church Tel: -023 80555470 or Chris (mor204@yahoo.co.uk). Tel: 07780 117 811, or **use the sign-up sheets in the church porch.**



PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE E NEWS & JOB VACANCIES

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

<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue479?e=34c55ac6ce>

THE EASTER STORY – PAGEANT

30th March 2025



WE STILL NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS, DON'T BE SHY!

This re-imagined version of the Easter story using reporters, crowd scenes and important moments from the story shown in frozen images will take approximately 20 minutes to perform at the start of Mass on the 30th March 10.30am.

Rehearsal and Performance dates:

Sat 1st March 11.30am – 12.15 - Performers – hall/church

Sat 15th March 11.30am – 12.15 - Performers – hall/church

Sat 29th March 11.00am – 12.30 Performers, Management, Narrators, Lighting & Sound – church

Sun 30th March arrive by 10.00am for 10.30am Mass and Performance

Please note that you will need to be on time and at all your rehearsals to be in this pageant. If you cannot attend on time and at all the rehearsals or miss a rehearsal you will not be able to take part – time is too short.

Performers: Younger people, (min 25) for the scenes being shown. No words need to be learnt but you will need to learn where to move and be and when to do this.

Reporters/narrators: 5 adult narrators to take on the roles of the newscaster and the reports. You need to be very familiar with the script but can carry journalists note pads to refer to and read from if necessary. You will be using microphones but must be able to speak clearly so that all can hear and understand.

In addition, we need;

- I. **Lighting:** several adults to take charge of collecting and running some stage lighting
- II. **Sound:** someone to take charge and make sure that we have mics etc. for sound
- III. **Stage Management:** several adults to help me during the rehearsals

To become involved please let us know as soon as possible by speaking to either David or Maria Maddocks, Mary Gobbi, Deacon Gerard or Fr Anthony

To further information please speak to any of the above and they will explain more



PENCIL CASES



'Thank you' to all who made a big effort to retrieve the pencils, their cases and the 10:30 team who sharpened the pencils last week. Special thanks Rita and Anne Slevin for their generous donation of new pencilcases.

Going forward, please could everyone return the pencils (6 to a case and one case per family) to the porch box at the end of mass? **Please remember that only adults can sharpen the pencils in the porch or hall.** Thank you.

A TASTE OF IRELAND - AMENDMENT

16th March 2025

Members of the Irish community in the parish are organising a St Patrick's Day meal and quiz on 16th March 2025 after mass in the parish hall from 1pm.



There will be traditional Irish dishes to try and a fun quiz about everything Irish, with great prizes to win.

This event is open to anyone, you don't have to be Irish to attend, in fact, we would like to showcase our culture to everyone in our parish.

The event will be ticketed due to the limited space, tickets are free and will be available on a first come first served basis. We will welcome donations towards the cost (recommended donation of £5.00).



Please use this simple form to indicate if you are interested: <https://forms.office.com/e/bYoeJRhJpg> (scan the QR code)

KITCHEN UPDATE



We have refreshed the Kitchen with the new equipment during the past week, with a few smaller items still to be delivered.

Can we please ask that users are mindful of the labels identifying where things should be placed (stored), everything has been stored carefully in accordance with where we believe things should be located. It is essential that if anyone brings anything extra that they take away with them. Your assistance and cooperation in keeping the kitchen neat and tidy would be very much appreciated. If there are any items left which do not belong, please note that these will also be removed.

In replacing items in the Kitchen, we have currently stored most of the items and propose to have these available for anyone who may wish to take for their personal use at home. If not, we will look to find suitable homes ideally via the Charity Shops.

COMING SOON - LENTEN REFLECTION PROGRAMME

Monday evenings 6:30pm to 7:45pm starting on 10th March

Please join us this Lent for weekly reflections and discussions, using material from The Living Faith series led by Fr Columba Jordan, CFR. Fr Columba is a Franciscan Friar of the Renewal. The teaching is simple yet rich and challenging, the activities individual and communal.

- Video duration 13 – 15min long and can either be paused in the middle to look at some of the Qs or watched in one go then the Qs.
- Discussion guide will be made available

- **Session 1** Interior Life
- **Session 2** Mass and Confession
- **Session 3** Ongoing Formation
- **Session 4** Catholic Community
- **Session 5** Personal Apostolate



FORMATION DAY FOR RCIA CATECHISTS

24th May 2025, 10am-4pm

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH,
SOUTHAMPTON, SO17 3SB

Led by the Dominican Sisters of St Joseph:
www.lightoftruth.uk

To find out more and to book your place, email:
OFFICE@SOUTHAMPTONCITYCENTRECATHOLICS.ORG

JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES



Fr Anthony is keen to organise a parish group to join the pilgrimage to Lourdes organised by the diocese and led by Bishop Philip Egan.

The dates are 7-11 July, 4 nights.

£879 Full price /£825 Special youth price which includes:

- Accommodation at Hotel La Solitude
- Direct return flights between Heathrow Airport and Toulouse, including all airport charges, government levy and Lourdes city tax, 1x20 kg check-in bag and 1x small cabin bag.
- Private coach transfer between the airport and hotel.
- Breakfast, lunch, and dinner served each day.
- Full religious programme facilitated by Joe Walsh Tours in conjunction with the Spiritual Director, Canon PJ Smith.


Please let Fr Anthony or the office know if you are interested.

POITIER PROJECT

Please don't forget Poitier – the project delivers food every week to those in need all over Southampton. We have a bin at the back of the church for foodstuffs, please leave your donations there. Also, congratulations to Brian Arthur who has been involved with this project since its inception and who celebrates his 90th birthday this week.

NEW HOME FOR MILLIE AND HER FAMILY

Our new cleaner, Millie is still looking for their next home. The family urgently needs to find a two bedroom rented flat, ideally downstairs, or a house. Please contact the office if you can help.

 Light of Truth



CERTIFICATE IN CATECHESIS

This two-year course is for catechists and for those who wish to transmit the Catholic faith to others. The Light of Truth Certificate in Catechesis prepares you for these essential roles:

- Catechetical work in your parish, school, or diocese
- Understanding and communicating the Catholic Faith to adults, youth, and children in face of cultural challenges
- Teaching, witnessing to, and accompanying others in their journey of faith

It is designed for new or experienced catechists who wish to gain a greater understanding of their mission in the Church and of the mysteries of faith which they transmit to others in a changing cultural context. It equips them to share their faith with confidence, passion, and in faithfulness to the Catholic tradition, using the sources of catechesis. For more details and to apply please visit:

<https://www.lightoftruth.uk/certificate>

JOIN CAFOD'S BIG LENT WALK IN THE JUBILEE YEAR

You are invited to join CAFOD's Big Lent Walk and journey together with Catholics in England, Wales and Scotland as Pilgrims of Hope in this Jubilee Year - walking 200km over 40 days during Lent. Journey to one of the churches or shrines designated as places of pilgrimage in our diocese as part of your Big Lent Walk.

Every £1 you raise will support communities like Lokho's in Kenya, experiencing the worst impact of the climate crisis, to rebuild their lives in hope. Sign up here:

<https://walk.cafod.org.uk/>

JUMBULANCE VOLUNTEERS – LOURDES PILGRIMAGE

8 – 17 May 2025

There is an opportunity to join a Jumbulance leaving Winchester on 8th May returning on 17th May.

If you might be interested in helping as a volunteer, please contact the Parish Office and we will put in you contact with the group arranging the Pilgrimage.

CLEANER VACANCY

Springhill Catholic Primary School is looking for a part-time cleaner. For more details please visit:

<https://www.springhillcatholic.co.uk/page/?title=Staff+Vacancies&pid=52>