



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

26th MAY 2024

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

“And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age”.

Matthew 28:20

**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 26 May	THE MOST HOLY TRINITY	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Una Collings RIP James & Megan
Mon 27 May	St Augustine of Canterbury	-	No Mass	-
Tues 28 May	Blessed Margaret Pole	9.00 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic adoration Mass	Bryan Flynn RIP
Weds 29 May	Feria	10.00 am 6.00 pm	Mass Eucharistic Adoration	Noelle Broderick RIP
Thurs 30 May	Feria	10.00 am	Mass	Bill James RIP
Fri 31 May	The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	9.00 am 9.30 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration Rosary Mass	Eileen Frances Kingwell RIP
Sat 01 June	St Justin	11.00 am	FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASS	
Sun 02 June	CORPUS CHRISTI The Body and Blood of Christ	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Jeanine Spencer -



READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY

1st Reading: Deuteronomy 4:32-34, 39-40

Psalm: 33:4-5,6,9,18-19,20,22

2nd Reading: Romans 8:14-17

Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

SECOND COLLECTIONS:

SUNDAY 26TH MAY- No Second Collection

SUNDAY 02ND JUNE – No second collection

NEXT WEEK IN THE PARISH:

Tues 28th - Coffee morning after 10.00 am Mass

Weds 29th - Eucharistic Adoration 6 pm in the lady chapel

Thurs 30th - Community Social/Activity group – Calligraphy
10.30 am, in the hall. All welcome

- Choir Practice 7.30 pm in the church. Anyone welcome to join.

Sat 1st - First Holy Communion Mass, 11.00 am

Sun 26th - FHC Certificate presentations after 10.30 Mass

- Refreshments after 10.30 am Mass

TODAY'S GOSPEL REFLECTION:

The Essence of the Most Holy Trinity

“All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.” *Matthew 28:19-20*

Of all the great feasts we celebrate within the Church throughout the year, today's Solemnity presents us with a Mystery that is so deep and transcendent that our eternity will be spent in perpetual contemplation. The Trinity, the life of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, will never get old, never be fully understood, and will be the cause of our everlasting adoration and joy. Though the Church has used philosophical concepts to explain the Trinity, no human concept or description will ever fully explain Who God is. Though we can point to some general truths about God, we will never be able to fully depict the inner essence, depth, beauty and omnipotence of the Trinity.

As we consider that fact, it's important to understand that the Trinity is not *first* a theological mystery we try to define. Rather, the Trinity is *first* a communion of Persons we are invited to know. We do not primarily come to know God through intellectual deduction. We come to know God through prayerful union with Him. Though theology is exceptionally useful and important, the essence of God is beyond any and every philosophical concept we can define.

The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are Persons. And as Persons, they want to be known. And they want to be known primarily through a life of deep and intimate prayer. Praying to One Person, of course, is praying to all, since they are One God. But we are, nonetheless, called to a relationship of love with the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. And though our feeble minds may not be able to fully comprehend the essence of God, He will draw us deeper and deeper into a knowledge of Him if we let Him.

Prayer often begins by saying prayers, by meditating upon Scripture, and by listening. But true prayer is something much deeper. True prayer is contemplative prayer that ultimately leads to divine union. Only God can initiate this form of prayer in our lives, and only God, through this deep form of prayer, can communicate Himself to us as He is. Some of the greatest mystics of our Church, such as Saint John of the Cross and Saint Teresa of Ávila, explain in their mystical theology that the deepest knowledge of God does not come through concepts or images. In fact, if we wish to obtain a knowledge of God in His essence, we must allow Him to purge every concept of Who He is so that the pure light of His essence can be poured forth upon our minds. This knowledge, they say, is beyond knowing "about" God. It's the beginning of a knowledge "of" God.

Reflect, today, upon the Most Holy Trinity. As you do, say a prayer to God asking for a deeper and more intimate knowledge of Him. Ask Him to communicate to you His divine love and to open your mind and heart to a deeper understanding of Who He is. Try to humble yourself before the great Mystery of the inner life of God. Humility before the Mystery of God means that we know how little we know about Him and how little we know of Him. But that humble truth will help you move closer to the deeper relationship of love to which you are called.

A reflection for the Solemnity of The Most Holy Trinity, Yr B
www.mycatholic.life

PARISH NOTICES

TEA & COFFEE AFTER SUNDAY 10.30 AM MASS

Please join us in the hall for the usual refreshments after Mass today.

WELCOME TO FR GASTON AFAH, Parish Priest at English Martyrs, Reading, who will be saying 10.30 am Mass this Sunday whilst Fr Anthony is not here.

CONFIRMATION GROUP MEETING

A reminder that there is a follow up meeting for all young people who were confirmed in April, this **Tuesday 28th May, in the parish hall, starting at the earlier time of 4 pm.**

PARISH HALL SURVEY FEEDBACK

Do take a copy of the feedback received from the survey about the future developments of our parish hall. More to come on this over the next few weeks.

RECENTLY DIED

Kevin O'Shea RIP – Kevin has had a long term connection with the parish and more recently was a very regular and friendly face at our Tuesday tea and coffee sessions after Mass. He died peacefully at home with some of his family around him on Thursday morning last week. Please remember Kevin and his family in your prayers. The date for his funeral has not been finally confirmed but it is likely to be sooner rather than later, so a note will be put in the church porch as soon as it is known.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASS

Saturday 1st June at 11.00 am. Congratulations to 22 children in our parish making their First Holy Communion next Saturday. We wish them and their families every blessing at this particular point in their faith journey and their spiritual development.

Note that there will be **NO 10.00 AM MASS next Saturday.** There will however, be some space for parishioners to attend the First Holy Communion Mass instead.

The following day, Sunday 1st June, is the feast of Corpus Christi where we will invite all these children to come to the Sunday 1030 am Mass to process in/out of the church and be presented with their Certificates.

Our thanks also goes to the First Holy Communion team who have committed so much time over many months, to the planning and running of the sessions, plus all the other work involved behind the scenes which we never see!

WEDDING

Congratulations to Jakub & Agnieszka who will be married here next Saturday 1st June at a small wedding in the Lady Chapel.

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.



PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE E NEWS & JOB VACANCIES

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

<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue446?e=34c55ac6cee>



STELLA MARIS SOUTHAMPTON VOLUNTEERS

An exciting development in the form of a new Seafarers Club, is opening up in Southampton, managed by the local Stella Maris team. This will be based in the Stella Maris Pastoral Centre next to St Joseph's Church in Bugle Street.

They are currently looking for volunteers to staff the new Seafarers Club, As part of a team, you would provide a friendly welcome to visiting seafarers and offer practical advice on the city's attractions and would be backed by experienced Stella Maris staff who are there to help anyone with further support needs. For more information, please pick up a leaflet at the back of the church or visit the Stella Maris webpage at:

www.stellamaris.org.uk/seafarerscentre/southampton

DIOCESAN 10 YEAR MISSION PLAN DEVELOPMENT IN THE SOUTHAMPTON PARISHES

*An update & an invitation from Canon Michael Dennehy,
Dean of Southampton West Parishes*

I hope that everyone is aware of the 10-Year Plan for our Diocese of Portsmouth, You Will Be My Witnesses. The Plan prioritises improving liturgy, formation, and evangelisation, leading missionary communities serving all, particularly the young and the poor. It reminds us that we are to be prudent stewards of Christ's Church where structures will need to be reshaped with prudent stewardship of resources and investment in the future. The 87 parishes of the Diocese will become 24 larger parishes working together, sharing resources, and working to an agreed plan for the mission entrusted to us of introducing more people to faith in Jesus Christ.

The implementation of the Plan is underway in Southampton. Clergy and laity have begun work on a Mission Plan and a first draft has been submitted to the Bishop. We have been working on a common approach to First Holy Communion preparation and we have formed a transitional Finance Committee that will in time help with the administration of finance and property. The clergy continue to meet monthly providing an opportunity for mutual support and collaborative working.

On **Saturday, June 22nd at Immaculate Conception Parish Hall** there will be a day for the clergy and people of our Pastoral Area to receive feedback on the work that has been taking place and to hear about the process of implementation of the Plan in the coming months. We hope to see a good number of parishioners across the parishes in attendance. **The day will be from 12:30pm until 4:00pm beginning with a bring and share lunch.**

Fr. Michael

All are welcome to this event and it would be great to see some of our parishioners there. If you have any queries, please do email the parish office or speak to Fr Anthony or Deacon Gerard.

CAFOD LEGACY MEETING

You are invited to join CAFOD's Director, Christine Allen, to explore the power of leaving a gift in your Will to make a lasting impact in the world, at Our Lady of Sorrows & St Philip Benizi in Fordingbridge SP6 1EG on Tue 18 June, 10.45am to 12:25pm. To find out more and to book your place please go to cafod.org.uk/legacyevent.



The largest **youth gathering of Catholics**, Flame is once more taking place at the OVO Arena, Wembley on **Saturday 15th March 2025**, with the theme Unstoppable.

This is an opportunity to join with other young Catholics at Flame, to enjoy modern inspirational faith filled music, to hear motivational speakers, to share the faith and to spend time in prayer. There will be loud music, together with bright lights and moments of stillness.

The event is aimed at anyone from aged 14 (year 9) to about 35! A coach will run from Portsmouth Cathedral directly to the OVO Arena. Flame 2025 early bird tickets are available now at £29 per person until the 30th September, after which the full price of a ticket is £35.

If you would like to book a ticket and a space on the coach or have any questions, please contact youth@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or phone 07780 221686

The Kadosh Marian Ministries invite you to a **RESIDENTIAL HEALING RETREAT**

St Joseph's House of Prayer, Ashurst
21 – 23 June 2024

Further details available on a poster in the church porch,
or by emailing june24@kadoshmarian.com
or phoning 07459724349
Bookings can be made at

<https://kadoshmarian.com/book-june2024>
(Services will be in both English and Malayalam)

**JOB VACANCY, CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PORTSMOUTH
PROJECT DEVELOPMENT OFFICER - CARITAS**

Fixed term contract until end of June 2025.

Salary: £25,000-26,000 depending on experience.

Caritas Portsmouth, is looking for a self-motivated, compassionate individual to join their team as a Project Development Officer. Based in the Southampton and Havant region of the Diocese, this role is central to the development of predominantly parish-based social and environmental projects that support those in need in our local communities in line with the Charity's mission.

In this role you will:

- Develop and nurture relationships with a variety of stakeholders.
- Support set up, delivery and evaluation of social or environmental action projects within a parish setting in accordance with the Charity's policy and procedures.
- Recruit and manage volunteers.
- Research, organise or support fundraising activities.

For the full Job description, person specification and how to apply, please contact recruitment@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

This is an exciting opportunity to support parish life and really make a difference in the lives of people in our communities. We look forward to hearing from you!

COUPLES FOR CHRIST (CFC), St Boniface Parish

As part of the Catholic movement intended for the renewal and strengthening of Christian family life, you are invited to join our Christian Life Program. This is a Christian family life renewal program aimed at strengthening our personal relationship with God, building up a community of committed Christian families, and revitalising Christian community life in the parishes. Open to all: married couples, singles, widows, and widowers are all welcome.

- St Boniface Church hall
- Sunday May 26, 2024, 1-5pm

It is helpful if you are able to arrive in good time and stay for the whole duration.

For more information and/or to register interest please email h.britanico@gmail.com. To find out more about CFC, visit their website:

<https://couplesforchristuk.org/areas/south>

'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
FOOD · MUSIC · DANCE
AND LOTS OF FUN
Free Salsa lesson & Argentine Tango demo
Saturday 1st June, 2024
1-5 pm
POLISH CLUB
507 Portswood Rd, SO17 2TH
VENEZUELA · EL SALVADOR · MEXICO
BRAZIL, AND MORE

Early bird offer £2
Children under 12 FREE!
Tickets at the door: £3 subject to availability

BOOK TICKETS NOW! 

Argie's Cakes, SAVOR LATINO, Santa X Marmita, Las Comadres, BRASILEIRO, PURE ACATEA

Southampton City Centre Catholic Parish, Latin American Association of LABO, 95 F20

SEWING MACHINE AVAILABLE!

Donated some time ago and looking for a new home: 1950s, Japanese electric machine, very solid and straight forward to use. Completely refurbished, in good working order. Contact Eleanor on 02380 274988.

