

# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

16<sup>th</sup> February 2025

## SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

*“Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.  
Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied.  
Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh.” Luke 6,20-21*



**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](http://www.immaculateconception.church)  
**Email:** [office@immaculateconception.church](mailto: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](mailto:safeguarding@immaculateconception.church))  
**Parish Secretary:** Cecilia Kovacs (023 8055 5470)  
**Confessions:** After 10 am Mass on Saturdays  
**Hall Bookings:** contact the parish secretary

**PARISH OFFICE OPEN NEXT WEEK: Tuesday/Friday 10:00 5 pm, Wednesday/Thursday 1-5pm**

**ALL MASSES ADVERTISED BELOW ARE AVAILABLE TO JOIN LIVE, ONLINE AT  
[www.churchservices.tv/portswoodchur](http://www.churchservices.tv/portswoodchur)**

Date	Solemnities & Feast days	Times & Liturgies		Mass Intentions
Sun 16 February	<b>SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Rem Treacy RIP Ghislain Dagnon & Mother, Yvonne Dagnon
Mon 17 February	The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order		NO MASS	
Tue 18 February	Feria	9.00 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration Mass	
Wed 19 February	Feria	10.00 am 6pm	Mass Eucharistic Adoration	
Thu 20 February	Feria	10.00 am	Mass	
Fri 21 February	St Peter Damian, Religious, Bishop & Doctor of the Church	9.00 am 9.30 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic adoration Rosary Mass	
Sat 22 February	THE CHAIR OF ST PETER	10.00am	Mass	Hugh Slevin
Sun 23 February	<b>SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Helena Wolas RIP Florence Hill RIP

### READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY



**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Jeremiah 17:5-8  
**Psalm:** Ps 1:1-2. 3. 4, 6. R Psalm 40(39):5a  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** 1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20  
**Gospel:** Luke 6:17, 20-26

### SECOND COLLECTIONS:

No second collections this week and the next.

### NEXT WEEK IN THE PARISH

**Tues 18<sup>th</sup>** Tea & Coffee after 10 am service – parish hall  
**RCIA Course** – 7.30-9 pm in the parish hall  
**Wed 19<sup>th</sup>** Adoration for students and anyone else who would like to join us – 6-7 pm in the Lady Chapel  
**Thurs 20<sup>th</sup>** Caritas activity group– 10.30am  
**Sat 22<sup>nd</sup>** Convalidation ceremony – 11am Stefanos Marangos & Jing Hu  
**Baptism** - 1pm Peyton Agbor (9 yrs old)  
**Sun 23<sup>rd</sup>** Refreshments after mass –  
**Choir Practice** - 11.30 am in the church. All welcome to join.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

Please note that Cecilia, our parish secretary is taking annual leave between 26<sup>th</sup> February and 8<sup>th</sup> March. During this period the parish office will be closed. A bulk newsletter will be produced on the 25<sup>th</sup> February covering two weekends. Please submit any newsletter items by Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February. Thank you!

## BEATITUDES AND WOES

*“But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. Woe to you who are filled now, for you will be hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you will grieve and weep. Woe to you when all speak well of you, for their ancestors treated the false prophets in this way.” [Luke 6:24–26](#)*

Luke 6:20–49 offers us a shortened version of the Sermon on the Mount found in Matthew’s Gospel. Luke’s version of this sermon takes place on a plain, “a stretch of level ground.” The teachings in the two Gospels are very similar, despite their difference in length. Luke’s teaching on the Beatitudes adds the “woe to you’s” quoted above, which are not found in Matthew’s version.

The early Church Father Saint Bede comments that Saint Luke’s version of the “woes” are meant for those who are “uninstructed hearers” because they “must first be brought by terrors to good works.” He goes on to say that the first part of the Beatitudes, the “blessings,” are meant for the “perfect” because they “need but be invited by rewards” rather than fear of punishment. The fact that Saint Luke includes a teaching for both the sinner and the saint should lead us to the conclusion that we can benefit from both approaches in our spiritual lives.

When your spiritual life is strong and you are consistently avoiding serious sin, it might be more helpful to reflect regularly upon the blessings found in the Beatitudes. This will have the effect of drawing you into greater perfection as the desire for the reward of holiness becomes the object of your hope.

When your spiritual life is weaker and you are regularly struggling with more serious sin, it might be more helpful to reflect upon the woes of the Beatitudes. This will have the effect of deterring you from the cycle of sin you struggle with, on account of the fear of the consequences of those sins.

In the end, the Beatitudes and their subsequent woes are meant to point us interiorly to the desires of our hearts. We must become more and more aware of what occupies our thinking and desires. Ultimately, wealth or poverty, hunger or satisfaction, worldly praise or persecution do not matter. What matters is that our hearts are detached from the desires identified in this sermon so that we more fully desire only God and His holy will, regardless of the circumstances of life we find ourselves in.

Reflect, today, upon your own spiritual and moral life and first consider whether you are blessed to be living a life that more imitates the saints or whether you more often reflect the serious struggles of the sinner. From there, try to choose which form of teaching you need the most. Do you need to ponder the rewards of seeking even greater beatitude in life so as to grow deeper in holiness? Or do you need Jesus’ clear condemnations to help you break free from the cycle of sin with which you are struggling? Humbly identify that which is most helpful to you right now in your spiritual life and allow this full sermon of Jesus to help you on your journey to the Kingdom of Heaven.

*A reflection for the Sixth Sunday In Ordinary Time (Year C)*  
[www.mycatholic.life](http://www.mycatholic.life)

## PARISH NOTICES

### DISABLED PARKING OUTSIDE OF CHURCH



Those who use this bay please be considerate of others who would also like to use this space. There should be sufficient room for three cars, but more often there are often only two cars because of the extra space left between the cars.

### LIVE SIMPLY AND GO GREEN

The Red Bin in the Church entrance collects bottle tops, stamps, medicine blister packs and printer cartridges.

If you have any of these items lying at home, please recycle them instead of sending it to landfill.



### PENCIL CASE AMNESTY



Can we please ask the Parents and Guardians of the children who make use of the Pencil Cases at Church on a Sunday to make sure they are returned to the box in the Porch?

At the same time, if anyone has taken one or more of these home, we really would appreciate it if you could bring them back.

Safety note: we would also appreciate that pencils are not sharpened in the pews and certainly not placed in the pencil cases! Pencil sharpeners should only be used by adults in the church porch using the waste bins please. Volunteers to help do this on a regular basis are welcomed.

## THE EASTER STORY – PAGEANT

30<sup>th</sup> March 2025



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

### Rehearsal and Performance dates:

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March 11.30am – 12.15** Performers – hall and possibly church

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March 11.30am – 12.15** Performers – hall and church

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March 11.00am – 12.30** Performers, Management, Narrators, Lighting & Sound – church

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March arrive by 10.00am for 10.30am Mass and Performance**

**Please know 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:** We will use the younger people [I need at least 25 please] for the scenes being shown. Hopefully many of the First Communion group as well as other young people from the parish will want to take part. No words need to be learnt but you will need to learn where to move and be and when to do this.

**Reporters/narrators:** We will need adult narrators [I need 5 please] to take on the roles of the newscaster and the reports. They will need to be very familiar with their script but can carry journalists note pads to refer to and read from if necessary. They will be using microphones but must be able to speak clearly so that all can hear and understand. We will need to find times to rehearse – we could meet/rehearse briefly after Sunday Mass???

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

Fr Anthony

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

## A TASTE OF IRELAND

16<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Members of the Irish community in the parish are organising a St Patrick's Day meal and quiz on 16<sup>th</sup> 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, there will be a £5.00 charge to cover costs. Free entry for babies under 12 months.

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



## NEWS FROM THE BOOKSHOP

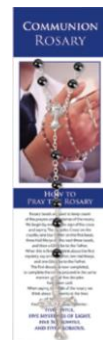
Lots of new stock are arriving in the bookshop in the next few days and weeks, including special presents for first holy communion. (The rosary will be available in light blue, black and white colours.)

Please note that from 23<sup>rd</sup> February until Easter the bookshop will be run by limited number of volunteers. If you find that you need an item urgently and have not been able to order it, please contact the parish office.

### My Mass Book



with The Order of Mass



Dee would be happy to recruit a few more volunteers to help out in the bookshop, please let her the office know if you are interested.

## LOST AND FOUND

The following small items can be collected from the office

- Two hair bands
- A pair of sunglasses
- A notebook
- A silver looking bracelet
- An ear clip with a stone



There are also lost and found items in the church porch, please check the trays.



## PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE E NEWS & JOB VACANCIES

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

<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue478?e=34c55ac6ce>



## IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH LITURGY GROUP

### New Members Wanted

The Parish Liturgy Group is made up of a mixture of teams/subgroups working together to ensure that we meet our Parish Vision; to bring people closer to Christ by inviting, welcoming, nurturing and nourishing everyone.

#### 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

We are seeking new members to join any of the above subgroups to lessen the burden of our currently limited membership. We are keen to attract diverse age groups (particularly under 30s and students from our parish community.

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

### CARITAS GROUP

Programme for the upcoming next few weeks:  
**20/2; Board Game + Mahjong Competition**  
**27/2; Calligraphy**

### Vocations Prayer Newsletter February 2025

<https://portsmouthvocations.org/so/04PlxgwX9?languageTag=en&cid=8eeb309f-dcf5-4938-a4a3-1108ca4991af>

### VOLUNTEER WITH SOUTHAMPTON STREET PASTORS

Applications are open now for the next training programme this Spring, taking place on the weekends of 14-16 March, 28-30 March and 11-13 April.



Call **02380333387** or visit [www.southamptonstreetpastors.org](http://www.southamptonstreetpastors.org)

### CHURCH BEYOND WALLS PROJECT

What does Poverty Look like in Southampton?  
If you have information on relevant local knowledge about the needs of our communities in Southampton please see this form <https://forms.office.com/e/ajF6AGysR8>  
Answers will be used to support our planning for future missionary outreach.'

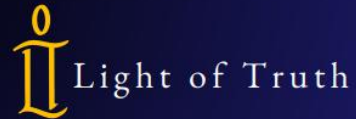


### JUMBULANCE VOLUNTEERS – LOURDES PILGRIMAGE

8 – 17 May 2025

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



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>

### NEW HOME FOR MILLIE AND HER FAMILY

Our lovely cleaner, Halyna has left before Christmas. The new cleaner, Millie goes to St Edmunds church, she and her husband are raising two children, one of them with special needs. Her family urgently needs to find a two bedroom rented flat, ideally downstairs, or a house. Please contact the office if you can help.