

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

21 April 2024

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

"I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep and mine know me."

John 10:14

**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 - 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 21 April	FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Irena Darlak RIP Elizabeth Nurser RIP
Mon 22 April	of the 4 th week of Easter	-	No Mass	-
Tues 23 April	St George	9.00 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic adoration Mass	John Gilsenan RIP
Weds 24 April	of the 4 th week of Easter	10.00 am 6.00 pm	Mass Eucharistic Adoration	Lucy Wheelan RIP
Thurs 25 April	St Mark	10.00 am	Mass	-
Fri 26 April	of the 4 th week of Easter	9.00 am 9.30 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic adoration Rosary Mass	-
Sat 27 April	of the 4 th week of Easter	10.00 am	Mass	-
Sun 28 April	FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Janine Spencer Jolanta



READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY

1st Reading: Acts 4:8-12

Psalm: 118:1,8-9,21-23,26,28,29

2nd Reading: 1 John 3:1-2

Gospel: John 10:11-18

SECOND COLLECTIONS:

SUNDAY 21ST APRIL - Clergy Training

SUNDAY 28TH APRIL - No Second Collection

NEXT WEEK IN THE PARISH:

Tues 23rd - Coffee morning after 10.00 am Mass

Weds 24th - Eucharistic Adoration 6 pm in the lady chapel

Thurs 25th - Community Social/Activity group – Calligraphy writing 11.00 am, in the hall. All welcome

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

Sat 27th - First Holy Communion session 11 am in the church

Sun 28th - Confirmation Celebration – after 10.30 am Mass

TODAY'S GOSPEL REFLECTION:

Instruments of the Good Shepherd

Jesus said: "I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. A hired man, who is not a shepherd and whose sheep are not his own, sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf catches and scatters them. This is because he works for pay and has no concern for the sheep." [John 10:11-13](#)

Today, on the Fourth Sunday of Easter, we celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday. It is a day when we reflect upon the tender image of Jesus as the Shepherd of us all. It is also a day set aside to pray for more shepherds within our Church who will shepherd God's flock with the Heart of Christ.

Our Gospel passage comes from John 10 which, in part, is a commentary on the previous chapter that includes the long and detailed story of the healing of the blind man. Recall that Jesus healed this man who was blind from birth. He did this healing "so that the works of God might be made visible through him." As a result of this man's healing, the

Pharisees cast the blind man out of the synagogue, not believing that Jesus' healing was from God. After the man was cast out of the synagogue, Jesus spoke with him again and he professed his deep faith in Jesus, the true Shepherd. The healed blind man said, "I do believe, Lord." Then he worshiped Jesus. Thus, the greater healing of this man was that he became a member of God's flock, accepting Jesus as his true Shepherd.

Our Gospel today is Jesus' commentary upon the actions of the Pharisees in contrast to His own. The Pharisees, as religious leaders, were not shepherds. They were "thieves and robbers" who came to "steal and slaughter and destroy." Jesus, however, came so that those who listened to His voice "might have life and have it more abundantly."

The Gospel passage quoted above explains why the Pharisees were not true shepherds. It was because they "work for pay" and have "no concern for the sheep." Think about that statement as it applies to the Pharisees and their treatment of this man who was blind from birth. First of all, the "pay" that these Pharisees worked for was their own self importance—a fleeting and worldly reward. They saw themselves as the true teachers and interpreters of the Law and saw anyone who did not follow them as a threat. The Pharisees clearly perceived Jesus as such a threat to them. For that reason, they took their envy out on this humble and simple blind man. They were not shepherds to him. They did not encourage him, support him, point him to God or act in any way as an instrument of God's grace. Instead, they condemned this innocent and holy man out of their pride.

Though God shepherds us today through His sacred pastors, we are all called to participate in this shepherding of the Good Shepherd in our own unique way. We are called to lead those within our families, at work, at school, within our neighborhoods, social circles and in every other societal context. But too often we imitate these Pharisees by allowing our own selfishness and desire for self importance to interfere with our ability to put others first and love them with the Shepherd's heart.

Reflect, today, upon the calling you have received to lay down your life for others in imitation of the Good Shepherd. In order to imitate this love in the Heart of Christ, we must love without seeking love in return. Laying our lives down is an act of sacrificial love that enables us to look only at the needs of those around us. Pride and selfishness must disappear, and the good of the other must become our only goal. Reflect upon how well you do this, and pray that the Good Shepherd will use you to shepherd those in your life who need it the most.

A reflection for 4th Sunday of Easter, Yr B
www.mycatholic.life

PARISH NOTICES

TEA & COFFEE AFTER 10.30 AM MASS

Please join us. All welcome.

CONFIRMATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE PARISH

Next Sunday, 28th April, during the 10.30 am Mass, we will be presenting **Confirmation Certificates** to the 22 young people from the parish who are being Confirmed today at the Cathedral, followed by cake with refreshments in the hall after Mass. All are welcome to come along to celebrate with them. The Confirmation Mass today can be joined at 3 pm on line at:

<https://www.portsmouthcatholiccathedral.org.uk/livemass/>

PARISH BBQ – Sunday 12th May

Please join us for a BBQ lunch after 10.30 am Mass on Sunday 12th May. All the usual BBQ food plus refreshments and cakes – **we need bakers to donate cakes!** All proceeds raised will support the parish and Emergency Relief Fund. If you would like to help in any way, please speak to Anastasia after 10.30 am Mass.

SUNDAY LUNCHES FOR POOR & HOMELESS

Please can you help our team in preparing and serving a hot cooked dinner for approx 60 people at St Deny's Church Hall, 10 am – 2 pm?

Its only one Sunday in every 7 weeks!

Please contact Steve on: 07540229973 or jmjsteve@yahoo.com

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE MORNING

Saturday 4th May, 10.30 am - Meet in the hall

Could you help us with carrying out checks around our buildings and grounds to enable us to maintain our property and meet legal requirements. There are also minor maintenance tasks which we need some help with, a list of which will be available on the day.

This is a vital task for as many parishioners in our community to help with. Without this our parish home will fall into a state of neglect causing danger to those using the buildings and grounds, together with huge repair bills, of which we would have to pay for from parish funds collected from you as parishioners, which we cannot afford. Please do come and help with this task. The more who help, the smaller the load for each of us.

Date for the diary!

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.

BECOMING THE CHURCH BEYOND WALLS

The Church Beyond Walls Workshop is an interactive session to help your parish start exploring the needs in your local community and deciding how to respond to them. Following the See-Choose-Act pathway it is an opportunity to focus on getting to know your neighbourhood and the specific opportunities it offers for engagement and outreach using the gifts and resources of people in your parish.

Based on the goals of the 10 year mission plan You Will Be My Witnesses, the workshop includes

- The opportunity to answer the question ‘what does poverty look like in this parish/pastoral area?’ examining what poverty is, and what is its impact
- A mapping exercise to identify examples of social outreach already present
- Identifying the most pressing needs, and ways to respond in line with Catholic Social Teaching.

This workshop is suitable for small parish groups or wider pastoral areas so if you would like to find out more, please contact us at

caritas@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

INFANT BAPTISM PREPARATION

If you would like your baby/young child to be baptised, you will need to attend a baptism preparation session for parents. Next session:

Tuesday 7th May, 7.30 pm – 9.00 pm in the hall

Please contact the parish office to register your child for baptism and to attend the course.

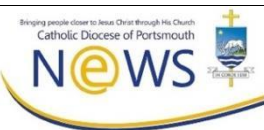
LOST PROPERTY

Two Caps- Black & Navy Blue – please contact the parish office if they are yours.

RECENTLY DIED

Eileen Kelleher RIP, died Tuesday 9th April. Eileen was an active member of the parish, attending with her family including 8 children, from early sixties until seven years ago, when she moved to Christchurch.

Her funeral mass will be at St Joseph’s Catholic Church, Christchurch on 26th April at 9.30 am with the committal at South Stoneham cemetery afterwards.



PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE E NEWS & JOB VACANCIES

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

<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue441?e=34c55ac6ce>

VACANCIES – SPRINGHILL CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

We have two part time vacancies:

- Midday supervisory assistant
- Afterschool club playworker

Full details can be found on the school website at www.springhillcatholic.co.uk or for further information please contact the school office on 02380 333954

Special Event!!

PILGRIMAGE TO AYLESFORD PRIORY AND CANTERBURY Saturday 6 July 2024:



The parish of St Boniface is organising a pilgrimage to Aylesford Priory. After visiting the shrine and lunch we will travel to Canterbury where those who wish can visit the Cathedral (Entrance fee is not included in the pilgrimage fee).

This is being organised as a pilgrimage to Our Lady of Mount Carmel. We will pray two mysteries of the Holy Rosary on the outward journey, the main Holy Rosary at the shrine 20 minutes before celebrating Holy Mass at 11:30 and we will pray the fourth mystery on the way back.

- Leaving St Boniface Church, Shirley High Street, SO15 3JD at 8:00 am
- Arriving back at St Boniface at approx. 7.00 pm
- Please bring a pack lunch
- Cost £33/person. Deposit £20 by the 30th April.
- Final payment by the 31st May 2024.
- All payments to be made via the parish secretary.

To register or for any other inquiries please contact Diana Agacy via email at: fhc@st-boniface.org.uk.



ALUMNI REUNION

ST GEORGE CATHOLIC COLLEGE

****NEXT SUNDAY, 28TH APRIL 2024- 3-5 PM****

Did you attend or work at St George Catholic College in the 1960s, 70s or 80s? To celebrate the school's recent outstanding Ofsted report, we are inviting past pupils and staff in the 60s, 70s or 80s to join us for a reunion afternoon tea and cakes and a tour of the school. Please spread the word and save the date! Email Jeanine Bonavia at jbonavia@stgcc.co.uk or call 023 8067 0104 to book a place by Friday, 26th April, so we know the numbers attending. All welcome.

FRENCH INTERN STUDENT SEEKING ACCOMMODATION FOR 2 MONTHS – MAY & JUNE

Age 18, Catholic French student. Seeking affordable temporary accommodation from 4th May – 30th June, ideally in a committed practicing Catholic home in the Portswood area. If you think you could help, please contact the parish office for contact details as soon as possible.

**BLESSING OF THE WATERS, ROGATION DAY,
Onboard the steamship Shieldhall, Southampton Docks
Sunday 5th May, 2.30 pm**

This is one of Valerie Laurent's final events as the Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor of Southampton and Admiral of the Port, and also Fr Anthony's final public event as the Lord Mayor's Chaplain, where he will be involved in leading this short service.

Live music, tea and refreshments will be provided, plus an opportunity to visit the engine room. All are invited to join this event.

All funds will go to the Lord Mayor's three chosen charities: Saints Foundation, the Southampton Sea Cadets, and Southampton City Farm and the SS Shieldhall.

Tickets £5. Available from **Eventbrite**:

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/blessing-of-the-waters-tickets-658568214257?aff=ebdssbdestsearch&keep_tld=1



**Saying Goodbye
Remembrance Service
West Sussex**

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL

11 MAY, 2024 AT 11AM

A SERVICE FOR ANYONE WHO HAS LOST A BABY IN PREGNANCY, AT BIRTH OR IN EARLY YEARS, WHETHER THE LOSS WAS YESTERDAY OR 80 YEARS AGO. THIS EVENT IS ALSO FOR THOSE GRIEVING THAT THEY HAVE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO CONCEIVE.

SAYINGGOODBYE.ORG

DIOCESAN EVENTS:

A Day for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:
Saturday 4th May 2024, 9:30am – 2:30pm

A Day for Readers:
Saturday 19th October 2024, 9:30am – 2:30pm

All Eucharistic Ministers and Readers around the diocese are encouraged to attend these events which will be held at St Bede's Church, Basingstoke, RG24 9DX. Hosted by the Diocesan Liturgy Formation Team Please RSVP to liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

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

Retreat – Our Father in Heaven

St Peters Church Pastoral Centre, Winchester

3 – 4 May 2024

Pope Francis has asked that this year is dedicated to a year of prayer focused on the Lord's prayer, in preparation for the Jubilee Year 2025. Starts on Friday evening and continues through the day on Saturday.

Please register by Monday 29th April at:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/year-of-prayer-our-father-in-heaven-retreat-days-fri-3-pm-and-sat-4-may-tickets-877957062207?aff=oddtcreato>

Once you have registered, you will receive further details nearer to the date of the event.

Fabulous 40's Garden Party

**BIG
BAND**

Sunday 30th June

Concorde - Stoneham Lane
12 noon - 5.30pm

PERFORMANCES BY:

Swing Unlimited Big Band

The Ffinellas

The Lindy Club Dancers



The Ffinellas



Lindy Club Dancers

Tickets Available

www.theconcordeclub.com: 02380 613989

Or your local Rotarian.

Any questions? Call 01489 795694

The Swing Unlimited Big Band



We can reserve tables of 10 tickets or more

Earlybird price

Tickets **£17.50**

£20 after June 20th

Event in aid of Wessex Heartbeat and local charities

For further information please speak to Norman or Mary Fairchild.