



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

26th April 2026 – 4th SUNDAY OF EASTER

'I am the door of the sheep.'

-John 10:1-10

Our Parish vision is to bring people closer to Christ by inviting, welcoming, nurturing & 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:

safeguarding@immaculateconception.church

Parish Administrator: Cynthia Barretto(023 8055 5470)

Confessions: After 10 am Mass on Saturdays

Hall Bookings: Contact the Parish office

PARISH OFFICE TIMINGS : Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday 9:00-3 pm, Friday 9-4pm, Monday Closed

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

Solemnities, Feast days & Memorials	Times & Liturgies	Mass Intentions
Sun 26 April 4 th Sunday of Easter	8.30 am Mass 10.30 am Mass	Patrick Jordan and family RIP Daniel Ivuerah & Anna Ivuerah RIP
Mon 27 April of the 4 th Week of Easter	-NO MASS-	
Tue 28 April St Peter Chanel, Priest & Martyr	9.00 am Adoration 10.00 am Mass	Fergus Cathan Fallon RIP
Wed 29 April St Catherine of Siena, Virgin & Doctor of the Church, Patron of Europe	10.00 am Mass 6 pm Adoration	Emelda Che RIP
Thu 30 April St Pius V, Pope	10 am Mass	--
Fri 1 May St Joseph the Worker	9.30 am Rosary 10.00 am Mass 10:30 am First Friday Adoration To 6 pm	Kate Paler RIP
Sat 2 May St Athanasius, Bishop & Doctor of the Church	10 am Mass 6 pm Mass	10 th Anniversary of the death of Zbigniew Wolas (RIP)
Sun 3 May 5 th Sunday of Easter	8.30 am Mass 10.30 am Mass	-- Irena Darlak RIP

SUNDAY READINGS



1st Reading: Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Psalm: Ps 23(22):1-3a. 3b-4. 5. 6. R1

2nd Reading: 1 Peter 2:20b-25

Gospel: John 10:1-10

SECOND COLLECTION



Sun 26 April

Diocesan Clergy Training Fund

OTHER REGULAR WEEKLY ACTIVIES IN THE PARISH

All Welcome to join.....

- **Mon- Cooking with Confidence** – 10 am – 1 pm – Church hall kitchen
- **Tues- Tea & Coffee after 10 am Mass** – Church hall
RCIA - 7:15 pm – 8.45 pm in the Church hall
- **Weds- Alpha 7pm**, Church hall
- **Thurs- Maintaining the parish gardens** – from 10:30 am
Multicultural group – 10:30 am in the Church hall
- **Sun- Refreshments after 10.30 am Mass**- Church hall

TODAY'S GOSPEL REFLECTION

The Voice of a Stranger

“When he has driven out all his own, he walks ahead of them, and the sheep follow him, because they recognize his voice. But they will not follow a stranger; they will run away from him, because they do not recognize the voice of strangers.” [John 10:4-5](#)

Young children are often frightened by strangers. Infants, for example, form a strong bond with their mothers who feed them, hold them close, talk to them, and lavish love upon them. It often happens that when other family members, such as grandparents or even the father, attempt to hold the child, tears emerge until the child is placed once again in the familiar and safe arms of his or her mother.

An infant's reaction to strangers can teach us much about today's Gospel on Jesus, the Good Shepherd. Like an infant, sheep become familiar with the voice and presence of their shepherd. The shepherd lives with the sheep night and day. He calls to them, speaks to them, keeps them safe, and leads them to green pastures and water. If a stranger were to call them, they would not listen, similar to how an infant reacts to a stranger.

Jesus' teaching is in response to the criticism He received from the Pharisees after He healed a man born blind. After healing the man, Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see might see, and those who do see might become blind” ([John 9:39](#)). When the Pharisees heard Jesus say that, they inquired whether He was suggesting that they were blind, to which Jesus replied, “If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you are saying, ‘We see,’ so your sin remains” ([John 9:41](#)).

An infant's unfamiliarity with a stranger is instinctive and innocent, yet it teaches us about the deeper spiritual reality Jesus describes. Just as sheep recognize the voice of their shepherd and follow him because they trust in his care, so too does a soul attuned to God respond to His voice. In contrast, the Pharisees, who prided themselves on their religious knowledge, failed to recognize Jesus as the true Shepherd. This failure was not innocent ignorance; it was willful blindness rooted in their rejection of His divine mission. The healed blind man perceived Jesus' voice with the simplicity of faith, while the Pharisees, claiming to ‘see’ with their own wisdom, remained in sin because they refused to hear and follow the voice of the Good Shepherd.

The Pharisees saw Jesus as a stranger to their religious beliefs and practices. They labeled Him an imposter. Unlike the innocent reaction of an infant or the natural response of sheep, the Pharisees' unfamiliarity with Jesus was a sin stemming from pride. It was a blindness of their own making that closed their hearts to the comforting and supernaturally familiar voice of God. To recognize Jesus' voice is to respond to the call of grace, trust in His teachings, and follow into the fullness of life He offers. Only by humbly admitting our need for His guidance can we, like the sheep, allow Him to lead us to green pastures and salvation.



Reflect today on the fact that God calls out to you day and night. Do you recognize His voice? Or do you, like the Pharisees, turn away from Him? Following the Good Shepherd begins with an intimate familiarity with His divine presence in our lives. We must become as familiar with Him as an infant is with its mother or as sheep are with their faithful shepherd. Failure to recognize the Good Shepherd's voice leaves us lost and unable to care for ourselves. Jesus desires to lead us, care for us, and bring us to the abundant pastures of new life. Become familiar with Him and listen to His voice alone, and like the blind man, you will begin to see in ways you never have before, through the eyes of faith.

A reflection for the Forth Sunday of Easter (Year A)

www.mycatholic.life

PARISH NOTICES

Taste of the British Isles Happening Today Sunday 26th April !!

Everyone is welcome, please join us in the hall after Mass, tea and coffee as usual, lunch from 1pm.



The afternoon then starts : a demonstration of Irish dancing and an invitation to join in afterwards but only if you want to!!, a fun quiz, just a couple of rounds and finally a raffle including a brand new AREBOS breadmaker, vouchers from local businesses and several other prizes.

Donations and proceeds will be shared with this year's charities, The Sunday Lunch Project, and the Street Pastors. See you all there!

🏆 Raffle Prizes – Taste of the British Isles 🏆

We are very grateful to the following local businesses for generously donating raffle prizes for the *Taste of the British Isles* event this **Sunday, 26 April**:

- **David Lloyd** – 2-week guest pass
- **Farmfoods** – voucher
- **Kohinoor** – meal voucher
- **Places Leisure** – voucher
- **Red Lodge** – family swim voucher
- **SeaCity Museum** – family entry

In addition to these, there will be **several other prizes available on the day**. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to making this event possible.



Parish Youth Activities – Spring & Summer

We are pleased to begin building our parish youth community with several upcoming events for young people.

- **Junior Youth Group (Ages 7–10)** : The Junior Youth Group will meet **6:00–8:00pm** on the following Fridays: **24 April, 5 June, and 3 July**. Leaders: Sue, Steve and David
- **Older Teenage Group (Ages 11–16)** : The Teenage Group will meet **6:30–8:30pm** on the following Fridays: **15 May, 26 June, and 17 July**. Leaders: Bwalya, Mweetwa and Night

These gatherings aim to help young people build friendships, grow in community, and deepen their faith in a welcoming and supportive environment. Parents and young people are warmly encouraged to take part.

Welcome to Our Parish Family

We warmly welcome Nkami Azariah Etim-Eni, who was baptised in our church recently. We pray for God's blessing upon the child and family, and we ask the parish to continue to support them with prayer and friendship.



Southampton Marathon – 3rd May

Due to the Southampton Marathon taking place on Sunday 3rd May, there will be road closures in the surrounding area, which may make it difficult for some parishioners to travel to church.

As a result, there will be an additional Mass at 6:00pm on Saturday 2nd May.

This arrangement has been made to help accommodate parishioners affected by the road closures. Thank you for your understanding, and please plan your journeys accordingly.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2026

Bishop Philip warmly invites you to join the 2026 diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes, taking place from Monday 6th July to Friday 10th July, departing from London Heathrow.

Pilgrims will stay at the Hotel La Solitude, just moments from the Sanctuary, offering comfortable ensuite rooms, shared meals, and a welcoming base for this special journey. The pilgrimage includes visiting places connected with St Bernadette, taking part in the main pilgrimage celebrations, moments of quiet reflection, and opportunities to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick. It is a beautiful opportunity to grow in faith, encounter God, and share in prayer with others.

This pilgrimage is a chance to grow in faith, encounter God, and share a journey with fellow pilgrims.

Email: lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Booking Form: [2026-Lourdes-Booking-Form-Portsmouth-v17.pdf](#)

Second Collection: Clergy Training Fund 2026

The Clergy Training Fund supports our seminarians, including the 11 men currently in formation for the priesthood, for the duration of their six or seven-year journey to ordination. Each seminarian brings to his training his own life experience, and then participates in a comprehensive programme of formation pastorally, intellectually, humanly and spiritually. These are the men who will baptise and catechise the coming generations, and care for us on our pilgrim way: our generosity today is a legacy to the Church of tomorrow.

To sustain a seminarian costs around £30,000 each year. Please support our seminarians in their journey by making a donation to this Fund.

Thank you.

Please see the GAYL link and QR code:

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/campaign/clergy-training-fund-2026>



Repository & Bookshop

We currently have a selection of devotional items featuring many different saints and celebrations. You are welcome to come and have a look. We are also in need of volunteers to help in the Repository. If you can spare a little time, please let the Parish Office know, your help would be greatly appreciated.