



# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

*Our Parish vision is to bring people closer to Christ by inviting, welcoming, nurturing & nourishing everyone.*

*“Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows”*

*- Matthew 10:26-33*

**Address:** 346 Portswood Road, Southampton, SO17 3SB

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**Email:** [office@immaculateconception.church](mailto:office@immaculateconception.church)

**Website:** [www.immaculateconception.church](http://www.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](mailto: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 LISTED BELOW ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE TO JOIN LIVE AT [www.churchservices.tv/portswoodchur](http://www.churchservices.tv/portswoodchur)

Solemnities, Feast days & Memorials	Times & Liturgies		Mass Intentions
Sun 21 June TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.30 am	Mass	For Mags' Intentions, in thanksgiving
	10.30 am	Family Mass	--
Mon 22 June Ss JOHN FISHER & THOMAS MORE	<b>-NO MASS-</b>		
Tue 23 June St Etheldreda	9.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration	--
	10.00 am	Service of the Word (No Mass)	
Wed 24 June THE NATIVITY OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST	10 am	Service of the Word (No Mass)	--
	6 pm	Eucharistic Adoration	
Thu 25 June 12 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	10 am	Mass	Lorance Perera RIP
Fri 26 June 12 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	9.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration	Lorance Perera RIP
	9.30 am	Rosary	
	10.00 am	Mass	
Sat 27 June St Cyril of Alexandria	10 am	Mass	Prayers for Fr Anthony on his 10 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination
	1:30 pm	Fr Anthony's Celebration Mass	
Sun 28 June Ss PETER & PAUL	8.30 am	Mass	Blessings on Father Martin and his intentions
	10.30 am	Mass	For Mr Brian Physick RIP on his 99 <sup>th</sup> Birthday



*Thought for the Week "The Church's Social Doctrine brings us to the very heart of our faith: the mystery of the living God, revealed in Jesus Christ, who, as a communion of Persons — Father, Son and Holy Spirit — is love itself in relationship, expressed in the mutual gift of self and in sharing with the world. ." (Pope Leo: Magnifica Humanitas 48)*

## SUNDAY READINGS



1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Jeremiah 20:10-13

Psalm: Ps 69(68):8-10, 14, 17, 33-35.  
R14c

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Romans 5:12-15

Gospel: Matthew 10:26-33

## OTHER REGULAR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

- Mon- Cooking with Confidence 10 am\* – 1 pm, Church Hall kitchen (\*22<sup>nd</sup> June start time is 11 am instead of 10am)
- Tues- Tea & Coffee after 10 am Mass – 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: *Speaking and Proclaiming Without Fear*

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

*“What I say to you in the darkness, speak in the light; what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna.”* [Matthew 10:27-28](#)

When you pray, does God “whisper” to you? Do you sense His presence? Has He convicted your heart about Himself and all that He has revealed? Most likely He has, in His own silent way.

God rarely speaks to us in visions or by audibly hearing His voice. Though He has done so, as has been recorded in the lives of some saints, even if He did appear to you in that mystical way, this is not necessarily any better for your salvation and holiness than the ordinary way He usually speaks.

For most people, God comes in silent prayer, interior intuitions, and spiritual consolations. For example, one might be listening to a sermon and something jumps out, convicting one’s heart or inspiring with a supernatural insight or hope. God’s ordinary consoling activity in our lives must be “listened” to and responded to.

Listening to the Voice of God means we discern the eternal Truth He communicates to us, such as do this or avoid that, and we respond to Him. This is our conscience at work: “Conscience is the most secret core and sanctuary of a man. There he is alone with God, Whose voice echoes in his depths” (Gaudium et Spes #16).

In today’s Gospel, when Jesus says, “What I say to you in the darkness...” and “what you hear whispered...” refers to God’s communication with us in that secret sanctuary of our conscience. Jesus says that His communication is not given only to us but must be spoken “in the light” and proclaimed “on the housetops.” While our faith is personal and intimate, it must also become communal by sharing it with others through our words and actions.

Sharing our faith can be difficult. We might fear offending another who is not living the Gospel. In addressing this fear, Jesus says, “Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna.” Fear should never deter us from sharing our faith.

When we live our faith openly and share it charitably and unhindered, others will react. Some will joyfully receive our shared faith, but others will not. Among good-hearted Catholics, when the faith we share with others is not received well, we often second-guess ourselves. We become sensitive to the negative reaction, which easily leads to worry and fear. Such fear must be overcome with love and holy sorrow if we are to fulfill Jesus’ loving command.

One way to do so is to regularly align ourselves with God’s command rather than the fear inflicted upon us by the evil one. The one who can “destroy both soul and body in Gehenna” ultimately refers to God’s just judgment, which we must ponder with the spiritual gift of Fear of the Lord.

This holy fear is not a fear of punishment alone but a deep belief in and reverence for God’s justice and truth. It is the kind of fear that compels us to remain faithful, seeking to serve God above all else, and courageously and confidently sharing our personal faith with others as the greatest act of love we can offer.

A well-formed conscience, guided by the truth of the Gospel, gives us the confidence to speak with clarity and charity. It allows us to discern when and how to proclaim God’s truth in a way that draws souls to Him. If we remain open to His voice and are willing to proclaim what He whispers in our hearts, we will become true witnesses to Christ, bringing His light into a world in desperate need of Him.

Reflect today on the inner Voice of God, echoing in the depths of your conscience. Do you hear Him and respond to His Voice? If so, then do not be afraid to share your knowledge of God freely and charitably with others. Foster, instead, a holy fear that drives you to greater fidelity to God and the charity of sharing His love with others.

A reflection from [www.mycatholic.life](http://www.mycatholic.life)

### Day For Life - Second Collection 2026

This year's collection is on Sunday 21 June and the theme is 'The Wonder of the Child in the Womb'. On Sunday 21 June 2026, Catholics across England and Wales will mark Day for Life, the day in the Church's year dedicated to raising awareness about the meaning and value of human life at every stage and in every condition. This year's theme is 'The Wonder of the Child in the Womb'. Parenthood is a vocation of joys and hopes, of grief and anxieties. On this year's Day for Life, we acknowledge the particular grief of mothers and fathers who have lost a child before birth or in infancy. Many parents find consolation in their faith and its assurance that every child, including those who lose their life before they are born or soon after, is created, willed and deeply loved by God from all eternity. Here's the [link to the Give As You Live donation page](#).

## PARISH NOTICES

### Fr Anthony's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination – This Saturday

We joyfully celebrate our parish priest, Fr Anthony's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination on 27<sup>th</sup> June at 1:30 pm, followed by refreshments in the parish hall. Fr Anthony will be joined by a classmate of his, Fr Gaston Afah, and a group from the Catholic Men Association and friends. All are warmly invited to join us for this happy occasion.



### Message from Fr Antony

My Dear Friends:

*What can I say to you, a truly loving, caring and generous Faith Family, to express my sincere thanks and appreciation! Never, in my wildest dreams, did I expect the 50th anniversary of my ordination to be such a beautifully, memorable experience. Thank you. May the Lord bless and reward your love, compassion and generosity.*

*I thought we were going to have the simple mass of St Antony, followed by some tea and cake! My heart-felt thanks to Fr Anthony, his dear brother, Deacon Emmanuel, our wonderful altar servers, brilliant choir and musicians, our IT experts, and all who made the liturgy such a spiritual experience. Suffice it to say, the liturgy has reconnected a number of people with their Catholic, Spiritual Tradition from which they had drifted. You did a spectacular job!*

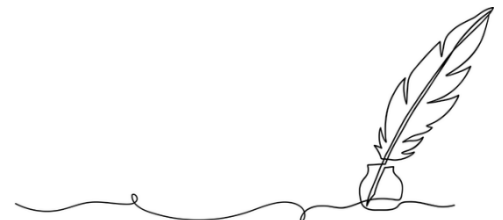
*The celebration in the Hall was truly mind blowing! The warm, embracing welcome, the amazing celebratory meal, slides and video messages from parishes around the world, in which I ministered, all bore the hallmark of a Faith Community which, in the words of St Augustine, are "minds through which Christ thinks, hearts through which Christ loves, voices through which Christ speaks, and hands through which Christ helps". I am so very proud of, and grateful to/ for each one of you.*

*Your parish gift of tickets to Les Miserables... it is appropriate, as in the words of Victor Hugo: "To Love another person is to see the Face of God".*

*Please accept my loving, and grateful thanks, and always...*

*Remember me as loving you,*

*Fr Antony Gatt*



## 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:  
**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:  
**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.

## Income for the Month of May

Income	May-26
Bookshop	129.70
Candles	106.69
Donations	1,000.00
Taste of the British Isles	87.00
BBQ	199.60
Teas	10.00
DONA	226.30
Envelopes	201.70
On-Line Giving	219.00
Offertory	1,474.59
Standing Orders & DDs	2,890.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>6,544.58</b>
<b>Special Collections</b>	
CCN	162.50
Clergy Training	20.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>182.50</b>

*Thank you for your continued support and generosity.*

## Can You Help? Questionnaire

We would like to thank all those who have completed the “Can You Help? Will You Help?” questionnaire. We have made a very encouraging start and are grateful for your support.

If you have not yet returned your form, we look forward to receiving any outstanding responses. Please hand your completed form to the parish office or to Eleanor after Mass.

Many thanks for your continued willingness to help and serve our parish community.

## Maintenance Morning – Saturday 11th July

Our next Maintenance Morning will take place on Saturday 11th July, following the morning Mass. We would be very grateful for volunteers to help with a range of tasks, including cleaning the kitchen, clearing drains, light gardening, and cleaning the church.

If you are able to lend a hand, even for a short time, your support would be greatly appreciated.

If you notice anything around the parish that needs repair or replacement, please do let the parish office know. Thank you for helping to care for our shared space.



21 June 2026

HAPPY  
**Father's**  
day

We give thanks for all fathers and father figures in our parish.  
May God bless them with strength, joy, and peace.  
Wishing you all a happy and blessed Father's Day.

## Parish Administrator Vacancy – St Edmund's

St Edmund's is currently recruiting a Parish Administrator, based at St Edmund's Lodge, The Avenue, Southampton. For full details and the job description, please see the link below.

<http://catholicdioceseofportsmouth.peoplehr.net/Pages/JobBoard/Opening.aspx?v=5ce3a172-94c9-409f-9675-100c20cba58e>

*Wishing you a peaceful and blessed week ahead.*