

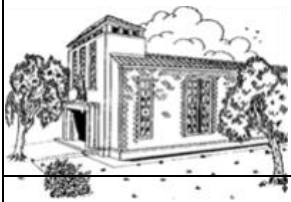
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

16th March 2025

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, 'This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!'

Luke 9,35



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

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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: 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**

Date	Solemnities & Feast days	Times & Liturgies		Mass Intentions
Sun 16 March	SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Terry Gurd RIP
Mon 17 March	St Patrick, Bishop		NO MASS	
Tue 18 March	of the 2nd Week of Lent	9.00 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration Mass	
Wed 19 March	St Joseph	10.00 am	Mass	Francis Bernard Klingwell, RIP
Thu 20 March	of the 2nd Week of Lent	10.00 am	Mass	
Fri 21 March	of the 2nd Week of Lent	10.30 am 11.00 am 11:30 am	Eucharistic adoration Stations of the Cross Mass	
Sat 22 March	of the 2nd Week of Lent	10.00am	Mass	Maureen Slevin (RIP)
Sun 23 March	THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Irene and Stanislaw Darlak RIP

READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY



1st Reading: Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18
Psalm: Ps 27(26):1. 7-8b. 8c-9c. 13-14. R1a
2nd Reading: Philippians 3:17-4:1
Gospel: Luke 9:28b-36

SECOND COLLECTIONS:

16th March: CAFOD
 23rd March: No second collection

NEXT WEEK IN THE PARISH

Tues 18th Tea & Coffee after 10 am service – parish hall
Wed 19th Adoration for students and anyone else who would like to join us – 6-7 pm in the Lady Chapel
Thu 20th Caritas activity group – 10.30am
Fri 21st Lent soup lunch – after mass (12pm) Parish hall
Sun 23rd Refreshments after mass –
 Choir Practice - 11.30 am in the church. All welcome to join.

BECOMING “FULLY AWAKE”

Peter and his companions had been overcome by sleep, but becoming fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As they were about to part from him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good that we are here; let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” But he did not know what he was saying. Luke 9:32–33

As we are presented with this glorious event of the Transfiguration this Sunday, there are numerous lessons we can learn from it. The passage above presents us with two particular lessons.

First, Peter and his companions were overcome by sleep while Jesus was transfigured in glory and conversing with Moses and Elijah. This line could suggest many things. It could mean that Peter was weak and more concerned with his human condition than he was with attentiveness to the important journey he was invited to take with our Lord.

It could reveal a kind of spiritual sloth. It is easy in life to become weary of the journey and to become drowsy at the times that we should be most attentive to our Lord. For example, think about any time when you knew you should pray but instead, sat daydreaming or distracted, or chose to fill that time with something mindless. Peter and his companions, therefore, teach us that it is easy for us in our fallen human nature to “doze off” during those times when God wants to speak to us, especially while at Mass.

Another interpretation of this line comes from the Church Father, Saint Ambrose. He suggests that this sleep of Peter and his two companions was primarily a result of them encountering “the incomprehensible brightness of the Divine nature.” As Jesus was transfigured, the initial vision was too much for them to comprehend, and so this vision began with them asleep as a symbol of the fact that we are all incapable of seeing the glory of God in our weakened state. But then they became “fully awake,” which implies that it took time for them to open their eyes to see the glory of God. This lesson teaches us that we all must wake up and work to become fully awake if we are to see the glory of God as He reveals Himself to us.

After becoming fully awake and encountering the incomprehensible brightness of the divine nature, Peter says, “Master, it is good that we are here; let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” The Gospel writer then goes on to say that Peter “did not know what he was saying.” Again, if we turn to Saint Ambrose, he points out that Peter’s experience is commendable because he not only had earnest feelings but also took the initiative of good deeds. He wanted to build three tents so that Jesus, Moses and Elijah would remain with them. But another Church father points out that Peter “did not know what he was saying” because he did not, at that time, realize that it was indeed his mission to build a dwelling place for Jesus, the Law and the Prophets. It was his mission to build the Church, which was to be the future dwelling place of God on earth and the place in which we will encounter God throughout life.

You, too, are entrusted with the responsibility of building up the structure of the Church on earth so that many may encounter the full glory of God. This will only happen if you continually seek to become fully awakened to the glory of God as He reveals Himself to you and, in the joy of that encounter, go forth to build up God’s Church by your earnest desire and intentional acts of charity.

Reflect, today, upon Peter and his two companions, James and John. Prayerfully ponder them asleep as Jesus was transfigured in glory. Reflect upon them waking up and beginning to realize what was taking place before them. Consider Peter’s excitement and amazement and the effect that had on him. And then ponder how these disciples eventually did go forth to build the Church, the house of God, so that they and many others would come to meet Christ. Pray that the witness of these disciples will inspire you to follow in their footsteps.

A reflection for the Second Sunday of Lent (Year C)
www.mycatholic.life

PARISH NOTICES

CAFOD LENT APPEAL

FAMILY FAST DAY COLLECTION – 16th MARCH

Please donate to our Family Fast Day parish collection and be a pilgrim of hope with CAFOD this Jubilee Year. You’ll be supporting communities experiencing the impacts of war, poverty and climate change to find solutions and hope.



Use the CAFOD envelope in church, donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope or call us on 0303 303 3030. You can also text CAFODLENT to 70085 to donate £10.

LIFT TO CHURCH – HELP NEEDED

An elderly parishioner in SO17 is looking for regular help to get to and from Church on Sundays. If you think you can help driving, please contact the Office in the first instance.
office@immaculateconception.church

THE EASTER STORY – PAGEANT



30th March 2025 – Mothering Sunday – 10:30am Mass

Please note – both the date and the time, as this will be a slightly longer than usual service.

Thank You to all those who have volunteered to help in anyway to make this the success it deserves to be.

We are still looking for some more volunteers to help with some of the behind-the-scenes activities including Lighting and moving some props. If there are any abled bodied Gentlemen, we would really appreciate your help!

Please speak to Fr. Anthony; Deacon Gerard; David or Mary if you can help.

JOIN US THIS LENT - LENTEN REFLECTION PROGRAMME

Monday evenings 6:30pm to 7:45pm in the Parish Hall

Please join us this Lent for weekly reflections and discussions, using material from The Living Faith series led by Fr Columba Jordan, CFR. Fr Columba is a Franciscan Friar of the Renewal. The teaching is simple yet rich and challenging, the activities individual and communal.

- Video duration 13 – 15min long and can either be paused in the middle to look at some of the Qs or watched in one go then the Qs.
- Discussion guide will be made available

- **Session 1** Interior Life
- **Session 2** Mass and Confession
- **Session 3** Ongoing Formation
- **Session 4** Catholic Community
- **Session 5** Personal Apostolate



INCOME FOR FEBRUARY 2025

Candles	91.35
Tea/Coffee	116.48
Cake Sale	109.26
Repair Café	56.66
Contactless DONA	177.12
Envelopes	266.00
OnLine giving	239.00
Offertory	1,523.36
Standing Orders & DDs	3,129.45
Total Income	5,708.68

Special Collections

CAFOD	25.97
PAX Christi	10.00
Total	35.97

EASTER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN

April 9th Wednesday, from 10am to 4pm in the Parish Hall

Activities day for young parish people from 5 to 15 years. Please bring drinks and a packed lunch or ingredients for pizza making. It would be great if one or two parents or students might spare an hour or two to lend a hand.

Contact the organiser: Steve Deadman

GOOD FRIDAY AT 9.30 AM IN THE CHURCH

Childrens' Way of the Cross with Father Anthony.

LENT LUNCHES -2025

The next weekly Friday soup lunch will take place again this week in support of the Mountbatten Hospice Charity. A selection of delicious soups will be provided by our volunteers. Please come and support this effort which is not only a social opportunity to meet but raises money for worthy causes.

The lunch is available from 12pm.
If you would like to come and need a lift please contact the office.



CARITAS GROUP

Programme for the upcoming next few weeks:

20/3/25 Board Game Day

27/3/25 Calligraphy

3/4/25 Ching Ming festival / cold food festival

10/4/25 stretching exercise

JOIN CAFOD'S BIG LENT WALK IN THE JUBILEE YEAR

You are invited to join CAFOD's Big Lent Walk and journey together with Catholics in England, Wales and Scotland as Pilgrims of Hope in this Jubilee Year - walking 200km over 40 days during Lent. Journey to one of the churches or shrines designated as places of pilgrimage in our diocese as part of your Big Lent Walk.

Every £1 you raise will support communities like Lokho's in Kenya, experiencing the worst impact of the climate crisis, to rebuild their lives in hope. Sign up here:

<https://walk.cafod.org.uk/>

IMPORTANT PETITION

Please consider signing the Care Not Killing petition which calls on MPs to vote against legalising assisted suicide in England and Wales.

The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill would make vulnerable people - including the elderly and disabled - feel a burden on family or carers resulting in pressure to end their lives.



Alternatively, use this QR code on your phone.

JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES



Fr Anthony is keen to organise a parish group to join the pilgrimage to Lourdes organised by the diocese and led by Bishop Philip Egan.

The dates are 7-11 July, 4 nights.

£879 Full price /£825 Special youth price which includes:

- Accommodation at Hotel La Solitude
- Direct return flights between Heathrow Airport and Toulouse, including all airport charges, government levy and Lourdes city tax, 1x20 kg check-in bag and 1x small cabin bag.
- Private coach transfer between the airport and hotel.
- Breakfast, lunch, and dinner served each day.
- Full religious programme facilitated by Joe Walsh Tours in conjunction with the Spiritual Director, Canon PJ Smith.

Please let Fr Anthony or the office know if you are interested.

Vocations Prayer Newsletter January 2024

<https://www.portsmouthvocations.org/so/93PLB-Vah?languageTag=en>

EASTER EGG COLLECTION TO SEAFARERS



Stella Maris Chaplains and Volunteer Ship Visitors will be visiting ships in our Southern ports during Holy Week and after Easter, and expect to bring this great celebration to many hundreds of seafarers who remain confined to their ships at this time, without the prospect of taking shore leave or visiting a church.

Together with faith materials, we would like to offer Easter Eggs and chocolates, the international symbol of celebration of this Solemnity of Solemnities, and would greatly appreciate the support of your parish/school/group in our Stella Maris Easter Egg appeal.

Can you help us by donating Easter eggs and chocolates? Your gift may be the only gift a seafarer receives this Easter.

DAVID'S MAMMOTH 160 MILE FUNDRAISER FOR SOUTHAMPTON SIGHT



Our parishioner, David Maddocks is embarking on a challenge to raise funds for **Southampton Sight**. David, who suffers from chronic open angle glaucoma, a degenerative eye disease, is severely sight impaired. Southampton Sight have been helping him with their counselling, training, advice and physical aids.

At the age of 72, he wanted to challenge his disability and do something to help others affected by sight loss. He will walk the famous Camino de Santiago de Compostela choosing an old pilgrim route 160 miles long from Porto in Portugal to Santiago in Spain. The route will take over 13 days, including 1 rest day, from the 13th - 26th of May 2025 and he will be accompanied by his brothers in law, Mike and Adrian.

You can support his fundraiser on justgiving.com/page/southampton-sight-fundraiser-6



IN NEED OF HEALING ?

COME TO OUR HEALING PRAYER EVENING
Sunday 11th May @7.30pm

Holy Saviour Bitterne Church, Bursledon Road, SO19 7LW

ALL WELCOME (Faith, no faith, need healing or just curious)
Expect the miraculous - Jesus can heal Body, Mind & Spirit
Holy Spirit is alive & active, enabling us to heal in Jesus' name

"He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds"
Psalm 147

"Lord my God, I called to You for help, and You healed me"
Psalm 30

Praise & Worship Music, Talk, Prayer - Hosted by HOTS
(Healing on Streets Team - 10yrs Bitterne Precinct)

CAN YOU OFFER HOSPITALITY?

Marie Boutheon, a French lady, who came to Southampton last year for the month of June, and made some acquaintances is returning in June with 3 of her children, Jeanne aged 18, Gloria aged 13 & Gabriel aged 11.

They're looking for a basic accommodation (a big room and shared facilities) for four weeks in exchange for a service or rent, ideally around Bitterne Park where the youngest child will attend school.

If you can help, please contact the office. Thank you!

INTERFAITH FRIENDSHIP LUNCH

Come and join the Southampton Council of Faiths (SCOF) for our Friendship Lunch at the Nanaksar Gurdwara on Sunday 30th March 12.30 - 14.00 . Please book your free place here (but mind the clash with Mothers Day!)-

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/friendship-lunch-30th-march-gurdwara-nanaksar-tickets-1262704155119?aff=oddtcreator>

SIGNIFICANT WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

To be held at St Bede's Church, Basingstoke
On Saturday 21 June at 11am



Any couple celebrating 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, 60th or more can apply to attend, please see your parish secretary or email anniversaries@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk for an application form.

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH PILGRIMAGE TO ROME Monday 20th - Saturday 25th October 2025

Full Package price: £1287 - based on 20 paying pax.
If numbers reach 30 the price will be slightly reduced.
Single rooms £215 pp (limited no available)
Price includes flights with Vuelling from London Gatwick.
Package includes: 5 nights stay at Hotel on half board basis. Return transfers by coach from/to Rome Airport.
Full services of English speaking courier every day.
1 x 1/2 day coaching tour in Rome area.
Deposit: £400 per person
Comprehensive Travel Insurance included in price.
Forms and deposits to be sent directly to Tangney Tours.

For further information and a booking form please contact:
Mary Anne Normand
manormand@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Sarah Vasquez 01732 886 666 Sarah@tangney-tours.com



PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE
E NEWS & JOB VACANCIES
Activities, events, news and job vacancies from around the Diocese.

<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue482>

(For a different issue please change the number to in the URL.)