



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

18th January 2026 - SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME


'Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!' John 1:29-34

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 Officer: Laura Sparmann (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

Date	Solemnities & Feast days	Times & Liturgies		Mass Intentions
Sun 18 January	SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Jolanta Stefanowska Noel Finnegan RIP
Mon 19 January	St Wulstan, Religious, Bishop	NO MASS		
Tue 20 January	St Fabian, Pope, Martyr	9.00 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration Mass	Yvonne Robertson RIP
Wed 21 January	St Agnes, Virgin, Martyr	10.00 am 6pm	Mass Eucharistic Adoration	Trevor Newell RIP
Thu 22 January	St Vincent, Deacon, Martyr	10.00 am	Mass	Veronica Keeney RIP
Fri 23 January	Feria	9.00 am 9.30 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic adoration Rosary Mass	Good health of Victor Broderick
Sat 24 January	St Francis de Sales, Bishop, Doctor of the Church	10.00am	Mass	Stephen White RIP
Sun 25 January	THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME <div>SECOND COLLECTION: Cathedral</div>	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Peace of mind for Maureen For people of Ukraine

SUNDAY READINGS	
 18 th Jan	1st Reading: Isaiah 49:3, 5-6 Psalms: Ps 40(39):2, 4ab. 7-8a. 8b-9. 10. R 8a, 9a 2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1-3 Gospel: John 1:29-34

OTHER REGULAR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES IN THE PARISH
All Welcome to join..... Mon - Cooking with Confidence – 11 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 - Parent & Toddler Group (term time only) 10.30am – 12 noon, Church hall Thurs - Maintaining the parish gardens – from 10:30 am - Multicultural group – 11 am in the Church hall Sun - Refreshments after 10.30 am Mass- Church hall - Choir Practice 11:30am-12:30pm in the Church.

TODAY'S GOSPEL REFLECTION:

The New Paschal Lamb

John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. He is the one of whom I said, 'A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.'" [John 1:29-30](#)

Central to the Jewish faith was the Feast of Passover, the commemoration of God's deliverance of His people from slavery in Egypt (Exodus 12). In Jesus' time, Passover was one of three major annual feasts during which the Jews made a pilgrimage to the Temple in Jerusalem. Additionally, the Feast of Weeks celebrated the giving of the Law on Mount Sinai and the first fruits of the harvest (Leviticus 23:15-22), and the Feast of Tabernacles recalled the Israelites' wandering in the desert and celebrated God's providence (Leviticus 23:33-43).

Recall the first Passover meal. Moses instructed the people to sacrifice an unblemished lamb, mark the doorposts of their homes with its blood, and eat the lamb with unleavened bread and bitter herbs in haste, ready to depart. This act of faith and obedience protected them from the angel of death who passed over the marked houses, sparing the firstborn of Israel, while striking down the firstborn of Egypt. The Passover thus became a perpetual memorial of God's saving power and His covenantal faithfulness to His people.

Because of the Passover, the idea of a sacrificial lamb was intimately familiar to the Jewish people. The Jews were also familiar with the prophecy in Isaiah 53—often referred to as the Suffering Servant—in which the servant of the Lord is described as "a lamb led to the slaughter," who bears the sins of many (Isaiah 53:7, 10-12). Additionally, each morning and evening, a lamb was sacrificed in the temple as a continual offering for sin (Exodus 29:38-42).

As Jesus began His public ministry, the first thing said of Him came from John the Baptist: "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." His words would have resonated within the minds and hearts of John's disciples. His disciples believed that John was a great prophet and the forerunner of the Messiah, sent to prepare the way for the Lord. They saw him as a holy man who called for repentance and renewal, and some even wondered if he himself might be the Christ, though John consistently denied this.

Because John's ministry was one of preparation for the Messiah, his disciples would have anticipated the Messiah's imminent arrival. Imagine the excitement, surprise, questions, uncertainty, and hope that would have filled their minds and hearts as they listened to John's prophecy about Jesus. John continued, "He is the one of whom I said, 'A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.'"

Though John's proclamation about Jesus took on a powerful significance for his disciples that first moment that he revealed Jesus as the Lamb of God, John's words must resonate within each of us today. Now that the Christmas Season is complete and we enter into Ordinary Time, we are invited to embrace Jesus' public ministry, with all His teachings and Paschal Sacrifice, as something extraordinary in our lives. We must approach His ministry with the same hope, enthusiasm, excitement, and anticipation that John's disciples experienced.

Reflect today on the moment when John the Baptist's disciples heard him proclaim, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" Like them, strive to see Jesus with new eyes and hopeful anticipation as we begin Ordinary Time. This liturgical season marks the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, and it must also be a renewed beginning of His works in your life. Follow Him without reserve, allowing Him to take away your sins and share in His life and love.

A reflection for the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

www.mycatholic.life

PARISH NOTICES

Have Your Say – A Once-in-a-Generation Opportunity

An important moment is approaching for the Catholic community across the City of Southampton. A proposal is being considered to bring together the existing parishes into one new Canonical Parish, to be known as **Our Lady Star of the Sea**.

This consultation is not a formality — it is a genuine invitation to be part of the conversation. Every parishioner is encouraged to take part, whether you feel hopeful, unsure, or even sceptical about the proposal. All views matter, and this is the moment when they can be heard. A questionnaire is available to help gather the thoughts, hopes, and concerns of parishioners. Before completing it, please take time to read the letter available in church today, which offers background information and guidance to support your reflection. **Your response will help shape the future of parish life in our city.** If you care about how our parishes grow, change, and serve future generations, this is your opportunity to contribute. All responses will be treated confidentially.

The questionnaire is available online at <https://www.immaculateconception.church/survey>, and paper copies can be found in the Church Porch.

We warmly encourage everyone to take part — not simply to respond to change, but to help shape it together.

An Invitation to Alpha – For the Curious, the Cautious, and the Committed

On **Wednesday 25th February (not the 25th January - diary clash means this has been pushed out)** at 7:30pm in the **Hall**, our parish will be launching **Alpha** — and everyone is warmly invited.

Alpha is a series of relaxed, welcoming sessions designed to explore the Christian faith. Over eleven weeks, each gathering focuses on a different question of life and faith — questions many of us already carry, whether we voice them or not. There is no pressure, no homework, and no expectation to have all the answers. Alpha is simply a space to listen, to share, and to belong. What makes Alpha special is that it is **not a lecture or a debate**, but a **conversation**. It creates room for open and honest discussion, where every viewpoint is respected. You are free to come as you are — whether you are deeply rooted in faith, quietly questioning, returning after time away, or simply curious.

Alpha is also more than a course; it is a **tool for evangelisation and parish renewal**. It helps us grow as a Church that listens well, welcomes generously, and encourages each person to discover their unique calling and gifts. Through Alpha, parishioners are empowered to become **missionary disciples**, grounded in faith and confident in sharing it through everyday life.

If you are interested please save the date as we will be publicising and sharing more information in the coming weeks.

Introducing ChurchSuite – Our new Parish Database



Our parish has been using PAMIS for some time, but over the coming months we will be moving to ChurchSuite, the new system being adopted across the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth. This diocesan change will help us work more closely together as one family.

What does this mean for you?

We'll be asking parishioners to provide some basic personal information so we can build an accurate and up-to-date database in ChurchSuite. We will keep the process simple, clear, and respectful.

To begin, we will only request essential details. Over time, with your help, we hope to build a fuller picture of our parish community to improve communication and support.

Once your details are added, you will receive an email with access to MyChurchSuite, a secure portal where you can view and manage your own information.

Thank you for your patience and support as we make this important transition in our parish. If you have any questions, please contact Gerard or Cynthia in the Parish Office, who will be very happy to help..



Youth Activities – Coming Soon

We are pleased to share that plans are underway to introduce regular social activities for young people in the parish. These will be parish-based, carefully organised, and led by young adults alongside experienced parishioners with many years of involvement in youth ministry, all of whom know the parish community well.

Parents and young people will receive further information in due course, including how to register interest.



Support Group for Young Parents – Coming Soon

The parish is also exploring the formation of a small support group for young parents who wish to encourage one another in raising their children in the ways of the Lord. This would provide an opportunity for mutual support, shared reflection, and faith-based conversation within the parish community.

Further details will be communicated in due course once arrangements are in place