

21<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2023  
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

*"I am not in the world any longer, but they are in the world  
and I am coming to you."*

John 17:11

WEEKLY  
INFORMATION  
& UPDATES

**Immaculate Conception Catholic Church**

346 Portswood Road, Southampton, SO17 3SB  
Tel: (023) 8055 5470

Website: [www.immaculateconception.church](http://www.immaculateconception.church)

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

Facebook: Immaculate Conception Church, Portswood  
Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth, (Reg Charity No: 1199568)

**Parish Priest:** Fr Anthony Chiatu  
**Parish Deacon:** Dcn Gerard Dailly  
**Hospital Chaplaincy:** (023 8120 8517)  
**University Chaplain:** Sr Emelliana Silva (07426 000213)  
**Safeguarding Officer:** Pat Saunders  
**Parish Secretary:** Rachel Brady (023 8055 5470)  
**Confessions:** After 10 am Mass on Saturdays  
**Hall Bookings:** contact the parish secretary

**ALL MASSES ADVERTISED BELOW ARE AVAILABLE TO JOIN LIVE, ONLINE AT**  
[www.churchservices.tv/portswoodchur](http://www.churchservices.tv/portswoodchur)

Date	Solemnities & Feast days	Times & Liturgies		Mass Intentions
Sun 21 May	<b>SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Irene Matthews RIP Maria Bibbo RIP
Mon 22 May	of the 7 <sup>th</sup> Week of Easter	-	NO MASS	
Tues 23 May	of the 7 <sup>th</sup> Week of Easter	10.00 am	Mass	Denis O'Brien
Wed 24 May	of the 7 <sup>th</sup> Week of Easter	-	NO MASS	
Thur 25 May	St Bede the Venerable	10.00 am	Mass	-
Fri 26 May	St Philip Neri	9.30 am 10.00 am	Rosary Mass	-
Sat 27 May	St Augustine of Canterbury	10.00 am	Mass	Thanksgiving
Sun 28 May	<b>PENTECOST SUNDAY</b>	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Una Collings RIP -



**READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Acts 1:12-14

**Psalm:** 26(27):1,4,7-8

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** 1 Peter 4:13-16

**Gospel:** John 17:1-11

**TEA AND COFFEE AFTER MASSES**

Please join us in the hall on **Sundays after the 10.30 am Mass** for tea and coffee. **And also after Mass on TUESDAYS** – A friendly welcome awaits you.

**MONTHLY SOUP LUNCHES**

12 noon on the First Friday of each month.  
All welcome. Please sign up at the back of the church if you can help with making a soup and serving one month.

**CLOSER TO CHRIST CAMPAIGN**

Our parish is currently undertaking the Closer to Christ Campaign which aims to support our priests from formation through to retirement and rejuvenate our parishes. We will be hosting a number of small gatherings at the Church to explain this initiative and hope you are able to make one of the following dates:

- Wednesday, 7th June at 6.00pm
- Tuesday, 13th June at 10.30 am (after Mass)

To rsvp, please call the parish office on 023 80555470 or email [office@immaculateconception.church](mailto:office@immaculateconception.church)

I appreciate you considering my invitation and I look forward to speaking with you soon.


Yours in Christ, Fr. Anthony

**HELP NEEDED FOR 10 MINUTES AFTER 10.30 AM MASS TODAY (SUNDAY) TO MOVE SEATING AROUND IN THE CHURCH.** This is preparation for First Holy Communion Masses. Please stay and speak to Mary Gobbi if you can help. **THANK YOU**

**INTERNATIONAL CELEBRATION**

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June

Including:

- **Brazilian Festival, 1-5 pm**  
At the Polish Club, 507 Portswood Rd SO17 2TH  
Music & Quadrilha dancing with DJ Alex Silva  
Brazilian food & drink for sale  
Feel free to wear traditional costumes  
Tickets £2 – book using this QR code →   
SCAN ME
- **International Mass, 7 pm**  
At St Edmunds Church, The Avenue  
celebrated in multiple languages  
Followed by refreshments and food shared in St Edmunds Hall  
Please bring some food from your country to share

**See posters in church porch for more detail**

**LATIN AMERICAN SPRING BAZAR**

SATURDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 11 AM – 3 PM

In the church hall

All welcome

**PARISH OFFICE OPEN NEXT WEEK:**

Tues, Weds, Thurs & Fri, 9.30 am – 2.00 pm

## Offering the Holy Mass with Jesus

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come. Give glory to your son, so that your son may glorify you, just as you gave him authority over all people, so that your son may give eternal life to all you gave him." [John 17:1-2](#)

This passage comes at the conclusion of the Last Supper and at the end of a lengthy discourse by our Lord. During the three previous chapters of John's Gospel, Jesus taught His disciples that He will bestow His peace upon them by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, that they must remain united to Him as a branch is attached to a vine and that the world will hate them and persecute them. After those instructions, Jesus raised His eyes to Heaven and prayed a lengthy prayer to the Father. It is His High Priestly Prayer by which Jesus acknowledged that His hour had arrived and that it is an hour in which He will glorify the Father. In this prayer, Jesus asks his Father for the disciples to be kept safe from the evils of the world. He also prays for all who would believe in Him and become His followers. Thus, in this prayer Jesus prayed for you.

Spiritually speaking, this High Priestly Prayer continues today through the celebration of the Holy Mass. Recall that Jesus had just celebrated the Last Supper with His disciples and was preparing to offer His life on the Cross for the salvation of the world. Within this holy context, Jesus prays this prayer. It is a prayer that is perpetuated by our Lord every time we celebrate the Holy Eucharist.

In commenting upon this passage, Saint Augustine notes that this prayer is prayed immediately after Jesus told His disciples that they would encounter trouble within the world. "In the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have conquered the world." For that reason, Jesus set an example for us on how we are to deal with the troubles we encounter in life. We, too, must turn our eyes to Heaven and pray to the Father. The best way to do so is by our full interior participation in the Holy Mass.

What form of "trouble" do you experience right now in your life? There are many things that fall into that category and are different for each person. As you call your struggle to mind, try to imagine our Lord kneeling next to you, praying this prayer to the Father for you. In reality, this is exactly what Jesus does every time we participate in the Holy Mass. The Mass is His "hour." It is His perfect offering to the Father. It is the one and only source of all grace in our world and in our lives. It is Jesus glorifying the Father and inviting us to share in that glorification by uniting ourselves and our troubles to Him in His offering. It is through this perfect Sacrifice that Jesus bestows "eternal life" upon you and all who turn to Him in their need.

Reflect, today, upon the way in which you celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. When you attend, do you find you become distracted or are inattentive to what takes place? The Mass is your hour each week in which you kneel next to Jesus as He kneels next to you, praying to the Father in Heaven. The power of the Mass is infinite. Within the Mass all the grace you need is given to you, and you are invited to share in the glory of the Son of God. Ponder your participation in the Mass and renew your commitment to

pray it with our Lord with the same depth of prayer Jesus had at that first and perpetual offering.

A reflection for the 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter, Year A  
My Catholic Life, [www.mycatholic.life.com](http://www.mycatholic.life.com)

### SECOND COLLECTIONS:-

**TODAY SUNDAY 21<sup>st</sup> May – World Communications**

The Catholic Communications Network assists the Church to share the Gospel. Pope Francis' theme for World Communications Day is a call for a peaceful dialogue that allows for uncomfortable truths to be spoken of without resorting to contentious and hostile debate." Speaking the truth "means giving a reason for your hope' and doing so gently, using the gift of communication as a bridge and not as a wall." Today's appeal assists the Church to cultivate this attitude of attentiveness and to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with people throughout the world.

**NEXT SUNDAY 28<sup>th</sup> May – No second collection**

**Any donations can be made in cash or by cheque via the collection baskets in the church or using our card payment machine in the church porch. The Parish Bank Account details are: Name: CDP, Immaculate Conception Church, Sort Code: 30-93-04, Account No: 00887995**



### RECENTLY DIED

Iain Rylands RIP

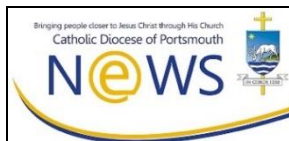
Funeral on 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 1.30 pm  
at St Edmunds Church, Southampton

### JOB VACANCIES WITHIN

#### THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PORTSMOUTH

A number of vacancies currently advertised at:  
<https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/about-us/other/jobs/>

- Assistant Parish Administrator, St Edmunds, So'ton,  
<https://forms.office.com/e/VwQifW9Vie>
- Vacancies at Springhill - Teacher positions available, see school website for details - [www.springhillcatholic.co.uk](http://www.springhillcatholic.co.uk)



### THIS WEEK'S PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE E NEWS

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

<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue408?e=34c55ac6ce>

### 2 BED FLAT WANTED TO RENT

For a Nigerian Catholic family moving from Nigeria to Southampton in June. Father already working in full time employment here. If you can help or know of anything he could consider, please contact the parish office. Thanks

**THANK YOU** – Our sincere thanks to Fr Antony Gatt who has been looking after the parish while Fr Antony Chiatu is away. This will be his last weekend with us after which he begins his well earned and long awaited retirement properly in Bournemouth!