



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

“Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me?”

-Matthew 20:1-16

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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 LISTED BELOW ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE TO JOIN LIVE on our website or www.churchservices.tv/portswoodchur

Solemnities, Feast days & Memorials	Times & Liturgies		Mass Intentions
Sun 20 September TWENTY- FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.30 am	Mass	Eileen Frances Kingwell RIP
	10.30 am	Mass	Krystyna Madej & Adam Madej RIP
Mon 21 September ST MATTHEW	-NO MASS-		
Tue 22 September Feria	9.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration	Stephen White RIP
	10.00 am	Mass	
Wed 23 September St Pio of Pietrelcina	10 am	Service of the Word (No Mass)	--
	6 pm	Eucharistic Adoration	
Thu 24 September OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM	10 am	Service of the Word (No Mass)	--
Fri 25 September Feria	9.30 am	Rosary	--
	10.00 am	Service of the Word (No Mass)	
Sat 26 September Ss Cosmas & Damian	10 am	Service of the Word (No Mass)	--
Sun 27 September TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.30 am	Mass	Steve White RIP
	10.30 am	Mass	For all the deceased of Houedikin Family and Loko

"Today, accompanying children and young people in using technology for developing responsible relationships, helping them to recognise the risks and choose what fosters inner freedom, is a concrete form of charity and will safeguard their dignity. Teaching new generations that technological evolution does not follow a predetermined path, but can be guided by personal and collective responsibility, constitutes one of the most valuable services to the common good." (Pope Leo XVI: Magnifica Humanitas, 238.)

SUNDAY READINGS

1st Reading: Isaiah 55:6-9

'My thoughts are not your thoughts.'

Psalm: Ps 145(144):2-3. 8-9. 17-18. R18a

The Lord is close to all who call him.

2nd Reading: Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a

'For to me to live is Christ.'

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

'Do you begrudge my generosity?'

OTHER REGULAR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

All are welcome to join!

- Mon- Cooking with Confidence 11 am – 1 pm, Church Hall kitchen
- 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: Divine Equity

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

Jesus told his disciples this parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out at dawn to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with them for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. [Matthew 20:1-2](#)



As the parable unfolds, the landowner returns to the marketplace four more times—at nine o'clock, noon, three, and finally at five—to hire additional workers. When the day's labor concluded at six o'clock, each received the same full daily wage. Was this fair? To those who had worked the entire day, it certainly did not seem so. They grumbled, "These last ones worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us, who bore the day's burden and the heat" ([Matthew 20:12](#)).

God is perfectly just. Yet His justice is never separated from His mercy. Together they form a harmony we may call Divine Equity, a principle that transcends limited human notions of fairness. God gives not merely according to labor performed but

according to the wisdom of His eternal love and providence. What appears to us as inequality is, in truth, the generous outpouring of grace from the One who sees hearts, not hours. His ways are not our ways, and His judgments surpass the grasp of reason unaided by faith (cf. [Isaiah 55:8-9](#)).

At the heart of this parable is God's abundant generosity. To better understand Divine Equity, it is helpful to prayerfully place ourselves among each group of laborers. Among those who have labored in Christ's vineyard, we may find some who have far surpassed us in devotion and sacrifice, as well as others who arrived much later than we did.

Yet God sees each soul individually. He does not measure us against one another. He sees each worker according to his own disposition, his interior response to His call, and the sincerity of his effort. Grace is distributed not based on external accomplishments alone but on the openness of heart and fidelity to His will.

For example, when we work for God—meaning we live in a state of grace and are faithful to His divine will—we merit spiritual rewards by His generosity. But even the most devout soul can lose everything through mortal sin. If such sin is unrepented, Divine Equity, which always respects both justice and freedom, demands the consequence of eternal separation from God.

Conversely, a soul that lives much of life far from God, mired in sin, yet sincerely repents near the end—perhaps even in the final hour—can receive an abundance of grace. A genuine, humble, and complete conversion at the end of life opens the floodgates of Divine Mercy. In such a case, God's Divine Equity responds not by withholding grace, but by pouring it out lavishly, in accord with His infinite mercy.

Equity is not equality. In modern discourse, the term "equity" is often misused or distorted. But Divine Equity is something altogether different. It flows from God's perfect justice and mercy, distributing grace according to the truth of each soul's interior life—not according to a purely external standard.

Reflect today on your own place among the laborers in the vineyard. Are you tempted to compare your spiritual journey with others? Do you resent the blessings others have received, or do you trust that God sees your heart and will reward

you with generosity beyond measure? Rejoice that Divine Equity governs the Kingdom of Heaven; in that justice, perfected by mercy, all things are made right.

A reflection from www.mycatholic.life

PARISH NOTICES

Parish Barbecue – Everyone Welcome! This Sunday! 20 September 2026 - after the 10:30am Mass

Join us after the 10:30am Mass for our Parish Barbecue. Everyone is welcome — old and new, regulars and visitors, including those who normally attend the 8:30am Mass. It is also a great opportunity to welcome our new and returning students as they begin another year with us. As part of our celebration, we will also take the opportunity to congratulate Rev Dr Anthony Chiatu on his recent graduation and celebrate this wonderful achievement with him. *Good food, good company and a chance to celebrate our parish — everyone is invited!*

Second Collection 29 September - SVP. (St Vincent de Paul)

This is the annual collection for our parish SVP group. This group has been active since the opening of the church and has a long history of helping those in need. The needs of people do not change. Loneliness, isolation, difficulties attending appointments, money to pay a bill. SVP members give their time to others to listen and care, irrespective of race or creed. Please support this charity and consider joining the small group which always needs committed members. St Vincent de Paul said, **"It is only for your love that the poor will forgive you for the bread you give them"**.



Christmas Fayre – 14 November - Donations Needed!

Our Christmas Fayre will be held on Saturday 14 November, and we would be very grateful for your support. We are now collecting good quality donations for the fayre. Items can be left at the back of the church or in the parish hall. We are also looking for volunteers to help with preparations, setting up, running stalls on the day, and clearing away afterwards. If you can spare some time, please speak to the parish office.



Thank you for helping to make our Christmas Fayre a success!

AN APPEAL FOR READERS

Have you ever considered yourself reading at Mass? Proclaiming God's Holy Word to the assembly is one of the great privileges given to the faithful. But reading well in church is a skill in its own right: pacing, clarity, breathing, knowing where to pause and where to let a line land. It takes practice to do it justice. That's exactly why we're inviting you to train. Experienced readers, who have already mastered this craft, will pass on their skill to you, so that when you stand at the ambo you can proclaim the Word with confidence and reverence. If you've ever felt that quiet nudge to take part, this is your invitation.

Please complete a form, copies are in the box near the sacristy door. Training sessions will be arranged, and you'll be able to undertake the privilege of proclaiming God's Holy Word.

Welcome Students!

We would like to extend a warm welcome to both new and returning students. We hope you have had a good start to the new academic year.

If you are new to the parish, please do introduce yourself to Deacon Gerard and Fr Anthony, who will be delighted to meet you.

Date for Diary - Sunday 11 October

10:30am Mass will be led by our Nigerian Community - more details to follow.

Wessex Rotary Shoebox

Have you picked up your shoebox yet? Shoeboxes are available from the church porch and parish office. Please remember to return your filled shoebox next month so it can reach a disadvantaged child in time for Christmas.

RCIA - Autumn 2026

Curious about the Catholic Faith?

Have you ever wondered what Catholics believe, why we celebrate the Mass, or what it means to have a relationship with Jesus and His Church?

Perhaps you are thinking about becoming Catholic, or simply want to find out more. **Wherever you are on your journey, you are very welcome.**

Our **RCIA programme begins in early October 2026**, meeting each **Tuesday evening from 7:00pm–8:30pm in the Parish Hall.**

There is **no pressure and no expectation to make any commitment.** It is simply a chance to ask questions, explore the Catholic Faith and begin a journey together. We will walk alongside you, taking time to discover more and talk about possible next steps as the months go by.

RCIA is also open to **Catholics who would like to prepare for a Sacrament they have not yet received.**

Interested in joining us?

If you would like to explore the Catholic Faith with us, or prepare for a Sacrament, please complete the form here- [SOUIC - RCIA - 2026/27](#) or scan the QR Code.

Alternatively, contact the **Parish Office**, leaving your name and contact details, and we will be in touch.

If you have questions or would simply like to talk about whether RCIA is right for you, please speak to **Fr Anthony or Deacon Gerard.** We would be very happy to hear from you.

You don't need to have all the answers. You don't even need to know exactly what you are looking for. Just come and explore.



ALPHA - Autumn 2026

What if there's more to life?



What do you think about faith, God and the bigger questions of life?

Alpha is a relaxed and welcoming space to explore those questions together. Our next Alpha course on a Wednesday Evening begins in early October and runs through to mid-December 2026. Over eleven weeks, each session looks at a different aspect of faith, followed by an open conversation. There are **no lectures, no pressure, no homework and no right or wrong answers** – just an opportunity to listen, ask questions and share what you think.

And yes, **Alpha is for the sceptics too!** You don't have to be certain about faith, or even sure what you believe. You may simply be curious, questioning, returning to faith, or wanting to understand Christianity a little better. Alpha is about **conversation, friendship and discovery.** It can open up new questions, deepen faith, build friendships and help us grow together as a parish community. After Week 3, we will invite anyone who has not yet joined to wait until our next Alpha course, which we hope to begin in early 2027. This helps everyone to experience the journey together from the beginning.

So, whether you're **16 or 99, committed, curious, questioning or sceptical** – why not give Alpha a try? Come along. Ask questions. Share your thoughts. You might be surprised where the conversation leads. Please sign up using the QR Code or complete the form here - [SOUIC - ALPHA - Autumn 2026](#). **Everyone is welcome.**



New Banking Charges from 1 September 2026

From 1 September 2026, Lloyds Bank will introduce new charges for banking transactions. Where possible, parishioners are encouraged to give by standing order, contactless payment (via the DONA machine in the porch), or other electronic methods. We also encourage the use of BACS transfers rather than cheques wherever possible. Thank you for your continued support and generosity.