



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

19th April 2026 - THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

*"He was known to them
in the breaking of the bread." -Luke 24:13-35*

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:

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



Happy

St George's Day

Patron of England

23 April



Solemnities, Feast days & Memorials	Times & Liturgies		Mass Intentions
Sun 19 April <i>3rd Sunday of Easter</i> Family Mass	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Hugh & Polly Gillick RIP Praying for all children suffering because of conflict and war
Mon 20 April <i>of the 3rd Week of Easter</i>	-NO MASS-		
Tue 21 April <i>St Anselm, Bishop & Doctor of the Church, Memorial</i>	9.00 am 10.00 am	Adoration Mass	--
Wed 22 April <i>of the 3rd Week of Easter</i>	10.00 am 6 pm	Mass Adoration	Emelda Che RIP
Thu 23 April <i>St George, Martyr, Patron of England, Solemnity</i>	9.45 am	Mass	--
Fri 24 April <i>St Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Priest & Martyr, Memorial</i>	9.00 am 9.30 am 10.00 am	Adoration Rosary Mass	--
Sat 25 April <i>St Mark the Evangelist, Feast</i>	10.00am	Mass	Dr. Sena Fernando RIP
Sun 26 April <i>4th Sunday of Easter</i>	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Patrick Jordan and family RIP Daniel Ivuerah & Anna Ivuerah RIP

SUNDAY READINGS



1st Reading: Acts 2:14, 22-33

Psalm: Ps 16(15):1-2a, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11. R1

2nd Reading: 1 Peter 1:17-21

Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

SECOND COLLECTION



Sun 26 April

Diocesan Clergy Training Fund

OTHER REGULAR WEEKLY ACTIVIES IN THE PARISH

All Welcome to join.....

- **Mon- Cooking with Confidence** – 10 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- Alpha 7pm**, 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

Dispelling Confusion

Jesus said to his disciples:

That very day, the first day of the week, two of Jesus' disciples were going to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus, and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred. And it happened that while they were conversing and debating, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him. [Luke 24:13-16](#)

These two disciples were overwhelmed by grief and bewildered by the events that had taken place. As they walked the seven-mile journey from Jerusalem to Emmaus, they expressed their sadness and confusion. Jesus, Whom they had hoped “would be the one to redeem Israel,” was brutally tortured and crucified before their eyes. After His death, He was buried, and that very morning they heard reports from some of the women, as well as Peter and John, that His body was missing from the tomb. What’s more, the burial cloth was neatly rolled up in the tomb, and the women informed the disciples that they saw “a vision of angels who announced that he was alive.” The two did not know what to think.

As the story unfolds, Jesus appeared to them as they walked and conversed with them, “but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him.” Jesus’ hidden presence teaches us that He is often with us, in our midst, yet we do not recognize Him. Distractions, trials, or our own misconceptions can dull our spiritual senses. We often fail to perceive His presence in the Eucharist, the Scriptures, the Church, during our prayer, and in one another.

Jesus’ loving rebuke of these two disciples was intended to wake them up: “Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” Every time we stumble from spiritual blindness, which leads to confusion, our Lord lovingly says the same to us. We must take that rebuke with humility, acknowledging our blindness and inability to perceive His constant presence.

Jesus then “interpreted to them what referred to him in all the Scriptures.” This opening of their minds to the spiritual Gift of Understanding is key. By humbly acknowledging our spiritual blindness and the foolish way we often go about our daily lives, we dispose ourselves to this precious gift. The Gift of Understanding cannot be acquired by our own effort. Only after we honestly humble ourselves before God will He open our minds to all we need to know and understand.

Once they arrived in Emmaus and invited this divine Stranger to stay with them for the night, Jesus agreed. As they dined, “while he was with them at table, he took bread,



said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them.” The Lord Himself, the great High Priest, gave them the Eucharist, and suddenly “their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight.”

Though our Lord vanished from their sight, He remained with them, as He does with us today. His presence in the Eucharist is His True Presence, His Divine Essence. By revealing Himself in the Scriptures and the Breaking of the Bread, He teaches us that He is always with us in His Word and in the Sacraments. We consume His Word through daily meditation, study, and the teachings of the Church. His True Presence is with us when we attend Mass and participate in the Sacraments.

Reflect today on the initial confusion of these two disciples, filled with sorrow and bewilderment as they grappled with recent events. Contrast this with the growth in faith they likely experienced in the months and years ahead. Little by little, they grew in understanding and belief, allowing their misconceptions about who the Messiah would be—not a political leader, but the Savior of the World—to be dispelled. Whenever you face confusion, turn to the example of these disciples and learn from the lessons taught through them. Seek Christ in His Word and Sacraments, trusting that He will dispel doubts and guide you to greater faith.

A reflection for the Third Sunday of Easter (Year A)

www.mycatholic.life

PARISH NOTICES



Taste of the British Isles - Sunday 26th April



Everyone is welcome, please join us in the hall after Mass, tea and coffee as usual, lunch from 1pm.



The afternoon then starts : a demonstration of Irish dancing and an invitation to join in afterwards but only if you want to!!, a fun quiz, just a couple of rounds and finally a raffle including a brand new AREBOS breadmaker, vouchers from local businesses and several other prizes.

Donations and proceeds will be shared with this year's charities, The Sunday Lunch Project, and the Street Pastors. See you all there!

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: **24 April, 5 June, and 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: **15 May, 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.

Repository & Bookshop

We currently have St George items in stock, as well as a selection of devotional items featuring many different saints. We are also in need of volunteers to help in the Repository. If you can spare a little time, please let the Parish Office know, your help would be greatly appreciated.

Funeral

Wilson Martin Watts

Requiem Mass:

Thursday 23rd April 2026, 2.00pm

at

Immaculate Conception Church

Committal:

Thursday 23rd April 2026, 3.00pm

Quob Lane Cemetery, West End



Please keep Mr Wilson Martin Watts & his family in your prayers

Income for March 2026

Income

Candles	62.95
Donations	5,500.00
Tues Tea/Coffee	20.00
Cake Sale	128.33
DONA	342.41
Hall Hire	455.00
Envelopes	215.00
On Line Giving	239.00
Offertort	1,819.80
Standing Orders & DDs	3,222.00
Total Income	12,004.49

Special Collections

CAFOD	659.77
Cathedral	88.57
Clergy Assistance	297.15
Total Sp C	1045.49

Thank you for your continued generosity.

Portsmouth Diocese 2026 Life in the Spirit Seminars

The Life in the Spirit Seminars are mainly used in the context of renewal, primarily for people who already identify as Catholic to bring those church members to a fuller experience of life in the Spirit. However, the Life in the Spirit Seminars have a primarily evangelistic character. They are designed to take the basic message of Christianity and to proclaim it anew so that those who hear it can make a renewed commitment to the Lord in a way which will allow them to receive a fuller experience of the work of the Spirit in their lives. The Second Vatican Council called for the spiritual renewal of the spiritual life of the Catholic people. It is hoped that the Life in the Spirit Seminars can be an instrument for that and for the answering of the prayer which Pope John asked us to pray for the Council: "Renew in our day, O Lord, your wonders as in a new Pentecost."



This has been echoed by various popes down the ages, especially in more recent times by Pope Francis, "I would ask you to share Baptism in the Holy Spirit with everyone in the Church..."

This particular programme has 7 sessions, which will be on Thursday evenings at 7.30pm from 23rd April. The themes covered are God's Love, Salvation, New life, Receiving God's Gift, Baptism in the Holy Spirit, Growth and Transformation. All these sessions are available online; however, it is recommended that people try to attend the Holy Spirit Day on Saturday 23rd May at St Bede's

Church, Basingstoke for the Baptism in the Holy Spirit session. This is a very special time, being Pentecost weekend, to receive such prayer in person.

<https://uso6web.zoom.us/meeting/register/ontyh8dxTF6b72BXv1LByg>

"Does God Exist?" - Thomistic Institute – University of Southampton

The Thomistic Institute is in the process of establishing a chapter at the University of Southampton, with the aim of promoting Catholic philosophy and the Church's intellectual tradition, particularly through the thought of St Thomas Aquinas, via lectures and reading groups. Our inaugural public lecture, "Does God Exist?", will be given by Prof. Gaven Kerr (St Patrick's Pontifical University) on Thursday 30 April at 7.00pm, Highfield Campus, Building 58, Room 1007.

The event is free and open to all. Event page:

<https://thomisticinstitute.org/events/does-god-exist-kerr-soton>

