



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

Parish Newsletter · Sunday 17 May 2026 · 7th Sunday of Easter

“For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you” John 17:1-11a

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

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Parish Priest: Fr Anthony Chiatu
Parish Deacon: Dcn Gerard Dailly
Hospital Chaplaincy: (023 8120 8517)
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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

Solemnities, Feast days & Memorials	Times & Liturgies		Mass Intentions
Sun 17 May 7 th Sunday of Easter	8.30 am	Mass	For the People of the Parish
	10.30 am	Family Mass	For the People of the Parish
Mon 18 May of the 7 th Week of Easter	-NO MASS-		
Tue 19 May DEDICATION OF THE CATHEDRAL OF ST JOHN, PORTSMOUTH	9.00 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration Mass	--
Wed 20 May St Bernardine of Siena	10.00 am 6 pm	Mass Eucharistic Adoration	Emelda Che RIP
Thu 21 May St Christopher Magallanes & Companions	10 am	Mass	Alex Michels RIP
Fri 22 May St Rita of Cascia	9.00 am 9.30 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration Rosary Mass	Naomi Philpot RIP
Sat 23 May Of the 7 th Week of Easter	10 am	Mass	10 th Anniversary of the death of Zbigniew Wolas RIP
Sun 24 May PENTECOST SUNDAY	8.30 am	Mass	For the People of the Parish
	10.30 am	Mass	For the People of the Parish

SUNDAY READINGS



1st Reading: Acts 1:12-14

Psalm: Ps 27(26):1. 4. 7-8a. R13

2nd Reading: 1 Peter 4:13-16

Gospel: John 17:1-11a

OTHER REGULAR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

- Mon- Cooking with Confidence – 10 am – 1 pm – Church Hall kitchen (not running until further notice)
- 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

The Hour of Glory

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](#)

The entirety of Chapter 17 of John's Gospel is traditionally referred to as Jesus' High Priestly Prayer. This prayer concludes the Last Supper Discourse, which we have been reading for the past two weeks. It marks a transition from the conclusion of Jesus' public ministry to His Passion and glorification. With His teaching completed, Jesus begins His prayerful offering of His life to the Father. The prayer can be divided into three sections:

1. Verses 1–11a: Jesus' intimate prayer to the Father focuses on their mutual glorification through the completion of His sacrifice. This “hour” of sacrifice and glory is now at hand.
2. Verses 11b–19: Jesus prays for the disciples who accompanied Him during His earthly ministry, asking for their protection, sanctification, and perseverance in their mission.
3. Verses 20–26: Jesus' prayer extends to all future believers, the Church throughout time, including us today. He prays for unity among believers, rooted in the love of the Father and the Son.

Today, in liturgical Year A, we read the first section of this prayer, when Jesus speaks of His divine mission and His imminent return to the glory He shared with the Father before creation. This prayer highlights a central theme in John's Gospel: Jesus' “hour.”

The theme of the “hour” was introduced at the wedding at Cana, the beginning of Jesus' signs. When the Blessed Mother intercedes for the couple, saying, “They have no wine,” Jesus replies, “Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come” ([John 2:3-4](#)). From that moment, Jesus references the concept of His “hour” throughout His ministry, pointing to the appointed time for His Passion and glorification.

In today's High Priestly Prayer, Jesus makes His final and definitive reference to His hour: “Father, the hour has come...” ([John 17:1](#)). The hour of His sacrifice, the pinnacle of His earthly mission, has now arrived. Though Jesus was fully aware of the suffering He was about to endure, He did not enter into that suffering with dread or fear. Rather, He did so with eager resolve, knowing that everything He had done throughout His life and public ministry pointed to this moment, which had finally come.

Jesus' human disposition while praying at this pivotal moment offers us an invitation to approach His Sacrifice in the way He did. His “hour” continues in our lives every time we are invited to embrace His Cross. Therefore, every opportunity for sacrifice—no matter how small—must be prayerfully embraced in union with Jesus' prayer.

Jesus' prayer teaches us that sacrifice is not something to resist or begrudge. Instead, every sacrifice becomes an opportunity to glorify God and receive a share in His glory. When we embrace sacrifice with generosity and trust, we unite ourselves to Jesus' perfect Sacrifice, participating in His work of redemption and giving glory to the Father. Reflect today on the interior disposition Jesus manifested as He faced His imminent suffering and death. He did not cower or hesitate. He looked at His Cross with divine eyes, seeing His Sacrifice as the pinnacle of His life's mission and the source of glory for Him and His Father. As we strive to embrace our own sacrifices, turn to Christ in prayer, asking for His grace and strength to offer His prayer as He offered it to the Father.

A reflection for the Seventh Sunday of Easter (Year A) www.mycatholic.life

PARISH NOTICES

Second Collection - World Day of Social Communications.

Sunday 17th May marks the 60th World Day of Social Communications.

This year's theme is *Preserving Human Voices and Faces*.

The second collection on this day supports the work of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, particularly its websites, publications and social media channels. The Bishops' Conference works hard to foster positive relationships with media outlets to communicate the Good News of the Gospel.

For more information, and to read Pope Leo's message for World Communications Day 2026, please visit: cbcew.org.uk/wcd/
<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/campaign/catholic-communications-network-second-collection>



RCIA – A New Beginning Together

We give thanks to God for the successful completion of this year's RCIA programme and warmly congratulate those who have recently been received into the Church. It has been a joy to journey with you. As faith continues to grow beyond reception, we would love to stay connected. We are therefore inviting all who have completed the RCIA programme over the past three years to a monthly gathering for ongoing support, fellowship, and formation. Our first reunion will take place on **Tuesday 16th June at 7:15pm**. This will be a wonderful opportunity to reconnect, share experiences, and continue growing together in faith.

St Joseph's Men's Group – A Space for Faith and Fellowship

In response to a growing desire for mutual support and fraternity, we are pleased to launch a new Men's Group in the parish under the patronage of St Joseph. This group will meet once a month on a Tuesday, offering a relaxed and welcoming space where men can come together to explore topics of their choice, reflect on the life and virtues of St Joseph, and support one another in faith and daily life. If you are interested in being part of this new initiative, please add your name to the sign-up sheet available in the porch. The group will begin in June, and all men of the parish are warmly invited.

Centenary Pilgrimage

St Peter and the Winchester Martyrs - Centenary Pilgrimage to the Catholic National Shrine & Basilica of Our Lady in Walsingham, Norfolk - **August Monday 10th / Tuesday 11th**. Departing St Peter's 6.30am by coach.

Monday 10th - travel to Holkham Hall for a day exploring the magnificent Hall and gardens, [Holkham Hall & Estate | Norfolk, England](#) before travelling onto our overnight accommodation in Walsingham. [Elmham House - the Shrine's Pilgrim Hotel - Catholic National Shrine of Our Lady](#)

Tuesday 11th - a day spent at the Basilica and Shrine of Our Lady [Catholic National Shrine & Basilica of Our Lady, Walsingham](#) taking part in the daily programme of services to include Sacrament of Reconciliation, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Pilgrim Mass, and others and the opportunity to explore the shrine, Slipper Chapel and grounds. Depart Walsingham late afternoon with a meal stop en route (cost not included), return to Winchester by circa 9/9.30pm.

What is included in the cost - return transport by coach from Winchester. (It may be possible to arrange another pick up if there is enough demand). Overnight accommodation in simple single rooms with shared bathroom facilities, dinner, breakfast, and packed lunch, entrance to Holkham Hall and Gardens.

Cost £203 per person. For more information or booking please contact pilgrimage@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

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

Our Bookshop is now stocked with a range of devotional items for First Holy Communion next month, such as rosaries, missals, cards and more. You are welcome to come and have a look. We are also seeking volunteers to help run the Repository – if you can spare a little time, please contact the Parish Office.

Sacramental life in the Parish

Take the Next Step in Faith – Sacramental Preparation Now Open



Is the Lord inviting you or your loved ones to take a deeper step in faith? Our parish warmly welcomes you to consider the following opportunities for growth in the sacramental life of the Church:

First Holy Communion (2027): Registration is now open for children aged 9 years and above who wish to prepare to receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist for the first time in 2027. This is a sacred milestone in the life of a child, opening them more fully to Christ's presence. Registration deadline: 15th June

Confirmation Programme: Young people aged 14 to 17 years are invited to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation, through which they are strengthened by the Holy Spirit and sent forth as committed witnesses of Christ. Preparation sessions will begin in October. Registration deadline: 15th June

We kindly encourage parishioners to share this invitation with family members and friends who may be eligible.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA): Our RCIA programme, beginning in November, is open to adults (18 years and above) who: have not yet been baptised, have been baptised but have not yet received the Eucharist and/or Confirmation, or wish to be received into full communion with the Catholic Church. This is a welcoming journey of faith, formation, and community life within the Church.

Marriage in the Church: If you are married civilly or in another context but have not yet had your marriage sacramentalised (convalidated) in the Catholic Church, and would like to regularise your union, we warmly invite you to speak with us.

A Call to Vocation: If you feel the Lord may be calling you to the priesthood or to a deeper commitment in His service, we encourage you to take that step in faith and begin a conversation.

For all enquiries, please complete the form using the link or QR code below.

Alternatively, feel free to contact the Parish Office or speak directly with Fr Anthony or Deacon Gerard.

[Sacramental Initial Interest Form](#)

