



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH


29th March 2026 – 12th April

‘He must rise from the dead.’ - John 20:1-9

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


ALL MASSES SCHEDULED BELOW ARE AVAILABLE TO JOIN LIVE, ONLINE AT www.churchservices.tv/portswoodchur

Week Commencing 29th March – Holy Week

	Date	Times & Liturgies	Mass Intentions
 Sunday Readings 1st Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7 Psalm: 22(21):8-9. 17-18a. 19-20. 23-24. R2a 2nd Reading: Philippians 2:6-11 Gospel: Matthew 21:1-11 2nd COLLECTION 3 April Holy Places	Sun 29 March Palm Sunday	8:30 am Palm Sunday 10:30 am Procession and Mass	Special Intention Ann Queen For the repose of the soul of Houedikin Godfroy
	Mon 30 March	-- No Mass--	
	Tue 31 March	No Mass at ICC, <i>Chrism Mass – 11 am at St Johns Cathedral Portsmouth</i>	
	Wed 1 April	10:00 am Mass	Lawrence & Luigiana Clegg RIP
	Thu 2 April Maundy Thursday	7:30 pm Mass of the Lord’s Supper followed by Altar of Repose (Night Prayer at 11:40pm)	Emelda Che RIP
	Fri 3 April Good Friday	9:30 am Children’s Way of the Cross 12:00 Noon Stations of the Cross 3:00 pm Celebration of the Lord’s Passion	
	Sat 4 April Holy Saturday	1:00 pm Blessing of Food 8:00 pm Easter Vigil	Elizabeth Nurser RIP
	Sun 5 April Easter Sunday	8:30 am Easter Sunday Mass 10:30 am	Claire Starley RIP Mercy Yeboah RIP



Week Commencing 5th April – Week within Octave of Easter

	Date	Times & Liturgies	Mass Intentions
 Sunday Readings 1st Reading: Acts 10:34a, 37-43 Psalm: 118(117):1-2. 16-17. 22-23. R24 2nd Reading: Colossians 3:1-4 Gospel: John 20:1-9	Sun 5 April Easter Sunday	8.30 am Easter Sunday Mass 10.30 am Easter Sunday Mass	Claire Starley RIP Mercy Yeboah RIP
	Mon 6 April	-NO MASS-	
	Tue 7 April	10.00 am Liturgy of the Word	--
	Wed 8 April	10.00 am Liturgy of the Word	--
	Thu 9 April	10.00 am Liturgy of the Word	--
	Fri 10 April	9:30 am Rosary 10.00 am Liturgy of the Word	--
	Sat 11 April	10.00am Liturgy of the Word	--
	Sun 12 April Divine Mercy Sunday	8.30 am Mass 10.30 am Mass	-- Ghislain and Yvonne Dagnon





Sunday Readings

1st Reading:

Acts 2:42-47

Psalm:

118(117):2-4. 13-15b. 22-24. R1

2nd Reading:

1 Peter 1:3-9

Gospel:

John 20:19-31

Date	Times & Liturgies	Mass Intentions
Sun 12 April Divine Mercy Sunday	8.30 am Mass 10.30 am Mass	-- Ghislain and Yvonne Dagnon
Mon 13 April	-NO MASS-	
Tue 14 April	9.00 am Adoration 10.00 am Mass	Shay & Jane Fenton
Wed 15 April	10.00 am Mass 6.00 pm Adoration	Emelda Che RIP
Thu 16 April	10.00 am Mass	--
Fri 17 April	9.00 am Adoration 9:30 am Rosary 10.00 am Mass	--
Sat 18 April	10.00am Mass	--
Sun 19 April 3 rd Sunday of Easter Family Mass	8.30 am Mass 10.30 am Mass	Hugh and Polly Gillick RIP Praying for all children suffering because of conflict and war



TODAY'S GOSPEL REFLECTION : Understanding the Resurrection

On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him." [John 20:1-2](#)



Have you ever misunderstood something, even when your intentions were good? We all experience moments when we act with love but still get things wrong. Even our good actions are rarely perfect.

On that first Easter morning, before the sun rose, Mary Magdalene offers an example of this. She got some things right—her love and devotion to Jesus were sincere—but she did not yet understand the full reality of what she witnessed. Though the other Gospels mention other women at the tomb, John highlights Mary. Saint Augustine suggests that this is because she was “undoubtedly the most fervent in love” with Christ.

When Mary Magdalene saw the stone rolled away, her love compelled her to act immediately. Saint John Chrysostom says she “ran to the disciples with all the speed of love.” Her fervor drove her to tell Simon Peter and John what she had seen, showing us how love urges us to seek God without delay.

Despite her deep love, Mary misunderstood the meaning of the empty tomb. Her emotional response—“They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him”—reveals her struggle to grasp the mystery unfolding before her. Like many of us, she was driven by emotion rather than a deeper trust in God.

Jesus was certainly not displeased with her misunderstanding, as Scripture identifies her in [John 20:11-17](#) as the first to whom He appeared. When she encountered the risen Christ, she initially mistook Him for the gardener, indicating that

her understanding of the Resurrection was still unfolding. Despite that, Jesus met her where she was and guided her toward deeper faith. This reminds us that our emotions, though good, must be purified by faith, allowing love to mature into greater trust and understanding.

Reflect today on Mary Magdalene's experience on Easter morning. Like her, we are called to seek our Lord with fervor, even when our understanding is incomplete. And like her, we can trust that Jesus will meet us where we are, gently leading us into deeper faith. As we celebrate the Resurrection, pray that your love, with all its emotions, may be more fully purified by grace, so that you, too, will encounter Christ with renewed understanding and joy.

A reflection for **Easter Sunday** www.mycatholic.life

PARISH NOTICES

SUPPORT OUR PRIEST THIS EASTER

Easter is a time of hope, new life, and gratitude. It's also a moment to appreciate the people who quietly make a difference in our lives – especially Fr Anthony. Week after week, he guides us, prays for us, supports our families, and leads our parish with care, wisdom, and kindness. His work often happens behind the scenes, but it means so much to our whole community. The Easter Offering is a special opportunity to give thanks and to support the life and ministry of the parish. Any contribution you can make will help sustain the work of the parish and its priest. If you cannot give financially, your prayers remain deeply valued and appreciated. Donations given on Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday, along with any applicable Gift Aid, will go towards supporting the priest of the parish. Every contribution over this weekend helps continue the mission and ministry of the Church. This Easter, let's come together to show Fr Anthony how much he is appreciated. Thank you for your generosity, your kindness, and your support.

To help with the Easter Offering, you can make your donation in one of the following ways:

- **An envelope marked “Clergy Easter Offering” or • Using the contactless terminals in the Porch**
- **By bank transfer. Please remember to reference “Easter Offering.”**

Account Name - CDP Southampton Immaculate Conception

Sort code: 30-93-04

Account: 00887995

Bishop Philip: Statement of Decriminalisation of Abortion

Bishop Philip has issued a pastoral message to the clergy and faithful of the Diocese following the recent vote in the House of Lords on proposed legislation concerning the decriminalisation of abortion. In his statement, he reflects on the dignity and sanctity of human life, encourages prayer for the protection of the unborn, and invites us as Catholics to continue witnessing to the value of every human life with compassion and hope. –

[Read here](#) (Copies are available in the Church Porch)

Thank you from CAFOD

Thank you for your generous support this Family Fast Day – your kindness is helping families like Shorai's in Zimbabwe and Rejoice's in South Sudan grow food, even in the face of drought and floods. You have shown what it means to love your neighbour this Lent – fasting, praying and giving so families can put food on the table. Find out how your donations are helping to build a better world at cafod.org.uk/thankyou .PS It's not too late to donate – pick up a CAFOD envelope in church or visit cafod.org.uk/envelope



Good Friday Collection - Holy Places

The Good Friday Collection supports the care of sacred sites and Christian communities in the Holy Land. Each year donations from churches around the world help the Franciscan Friars maintain important holy places such as the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre, the Basilica of the Nativity, and the Basilica of the Annunciation, while supporting schools, homes, jobs and pastoral work for local Christian families.

Holy Week - Triduum



I would like to help draw the attention to the Parishioners to the significance and importance of Holy Week, particularly the Triduum. [Click here to read.](#) Alternatively copies are available in the Church porch.

More Notices

- **Children's Way of the Cross – Good Friday:** There will be a Children's Way of the Cross on **Good Friday at 9.30am** in our church. This is a special service prepared for all families to attend.
- **Cake Sale on 12th April:** We are appealing again for more bakers and cake donations.
- Alpha will recommence on 15 April. There will be RCIA on Tues 31 March.
- **Parish Youth Activities:** A Youth Day for will take place on **Wednesday 8 April, 10:30am–3:00pm in the Parish Hall**, led by Sue and Steve with support from other volunteers.
- **Taste of British Isles:** Join us on **26th April after 10:30am mass** for a vibrant celebration of flavours and culture from across the British Isles! This special event will feature: **Irish dancers, raffle & delicious food.** Come along and enjoy an afternoon full of community spirit, culture, and great tastes!
- **Repository & Bookshop:** We now have a lovely selection of gifts, as well as a range of Easter items available in the Church Bookshop. Do pop in and have a look! 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.
- **Clocks change this weekend 29 March:** Don't forget: we **spring forward**, so it's one hour less sleep!
- **Holy Week & Easter Service Leaflet :** Please refer to the Holy Week and Easter service leaflet to find all the service times. Copies are kept in the porch, and all service times will also be available on our parish website.

Please remember **Brenda Street** in your prayers, a long-time parishioner who passed away recently.

May she rest in peace.



**Wishing all our parishioners and friends a joyful & blessed Easter.
May the Risen Lord fill your hearts with peace, hope, & renewed life.**

