

11TH JUNE 2023
CORPUS CHRISTI, YEAR A

"This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever."

John 6:58

WEEKLY
INFORMATION
& UPDATES

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

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)

Parish Priest: Fr Anthony Chiatu
Parish Deacon: Dcn Gerard Dailly
Hospital Chaplaincy: (023 8120 8517)
University Chaplain: Sr Emelliana Silva (07426 000213)
Safeguarding Officer: Vacant Position
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

Date	Solemnities & Feast days	Times & Liturgies		Mass Intentions
Sun 11 June	CORPUS CHRISTI The Body and Blood of Christ	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Krystyna Madej RIP Stephen Atkinson
Mon 12 June	Feria	-	NO MASS	-
Tues 13 June	St Anthony of Padua	9.00 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration Mass	-
Wed 14 June	Feria	10.00 am	Mass	Anne Steel RIP
Thur 15 June	Feria	10.00 am	Mass	Mary Josephine Shanahan
Fri 16 June	The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus	9.00 am 9.30 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration Rosary Mass	-
Sat 17 June	The Immaculate Heart of Mary	10.00 am	Mass	-
Sun 18 June		8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	- Maria Bibbo RIP



READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY

1st Reading: Deuteronomy 8:2-3,14b-16a

Psalms: 147:12-15, 19-20

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:16-17

Gospel: John 6:51-58

****CAKE SALE****

AFTER MASS THIS SUNDAY 11th June

If you are able to bake/buy and donate a cake, any offerings would be very gratefully received. Please bring them to the hall before Mass.

NEW FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2023-24

If you would like your child to make their First Holy Communion next year, there will be an introductory session on Saturday 15th July at 10.45 am in the church. Please complete a form which can be found at the back of the church or online at immaculateconception.church/files/ugd/850ccc_ffd9f86a4a734c6e8a4a45d0532e3e57.pdf and return it to the parish office via Fr Anthony, Deacon Gerard or Mary Gobbi, preferably before 15th July.

Please note that in order to register, you should be attending Mass with your child, in this parish each Sunday and your child should be in year 4 or above on 1st September 2023.

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.

CLOSER TO CHRIST MEETING

Tuesday 13th June after 10.00 am Mass.

At the start of our tea and coffee after Mass this Tuesday there is a short presentation/discussion with Fr Anthony about the Closer to Christ Campaign initiative to help you to make an informed decision about giving your support. You can read more about the campaign on the Diocesan website at the following link: <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/our-mission/special-campaigns-support/closer-to-christ/>

The initiative is about enabling parishes to become financially sound and adequately resourced, so as to empower the laity, supported by clergy, to maximise the impact of our mission of bringing people 'Closer to Christ'. We need parish priests to help carry out this mission and so the campaign also importantly supports the welfare of clergy from seminary stage right through to retirement.

PARISH OFFICE OPEN NEXT WEEK

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

Wonder and Awe Before the Eucharist

While they were eating, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take it; this is my body." Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, and they all drank from it. He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed for many." [Mark 14:22-24](#) (Year B Gospel)

At the holy Mass, as soon as the priest pronounces the words of the consecration, transforming the bread and wine into the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ our Lord, he genuflects, rises, and then says, "The mystery of faith." What is "the mystery of faith?" Oftentimes, when we say that something is a mystery, we mean that the conclusion is hidden but that there are certain clues to help solve the mystery. And once the mystery is solved, everything is clear and it is no longer a mystery.

"The mystery of faith" is much different. Those words are spoken at Mass immediately after the consecration as a way of drawing the faithful into a holy awe and amazement of what just took place. But this mystery can only produce wonder and awe if the reality of what just took place is understood through the gift of faith. Faith is knowing and believing without perceiving the reality before us with our five senses or through logical deduction. In other words, faith produces true knowledge of a spiritual reality that can only be known, understood and believed through spiritual insight. Therefore, if we attend the Mass and have been gifted with the knowledge of faith, then as soon as the consecration of the bread and wine takes place, we will cry out interiorly, "My Lord and my God!" We will know that God the Son is present before us in a veiled way. Our eyes do not perceive, nor do any of our senses reveal to us the great reality before us. We cannot rationally deduce what just took place. Instead, we come to know and believe that the Son of God, the Savior of the World, is now present before us in His fullness, under the veil of mere bread and wine.

In addition to the divine presence of our Lord and our God, the entire Mystery of our Redemption is made present. Saint Pope John Paul II tells us that in this moment there is a "oneness in time" that links the *Paschal Mystery*, that is, the Life, Death and Resurrection of Jesus, to every moment that the Eucharist is celebrated and made present through the words of consecration. And that unity between each Mass and the *Paschal Mystery* "leads us to profound amazement and gratitude" (*Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, #5). Do you sense and experience this profound amazement and gratitude each time you attend the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass? Do you realize as you attend the Mass and as the words of consecration are spoken that the entire Mystery of your redemption is made present before you, hidden from your eyes but visible to your soul by faith? Do you understand that it is God the Second Person of the Most Holy Trinity Who descends to us to dwell with us in that moment of time in this glorious Sacrament?

Reflect, today, upon the hidden but real Mystery of Faith. Allow yourself to be drawn into a wonder and awe at what you are privileged to attend. Let your faith in the Most Holy

Eucharist grow by being open to a deepening of this gift of faith through spiritual insight and belief. Behold this great Gift of the Eucharist with the eyes of faith and you will be drawn into the wonder and awe that God wants to bestow upon you.

A reflection for Corpus Christi, Year A
My Catholic Life, www.mycatholic.life

SECOND COLLECTIONS:-

TODAY SUNDAY 11th June – Homeless & Poor

NEXT SUNDAY 18th June – Day for Life

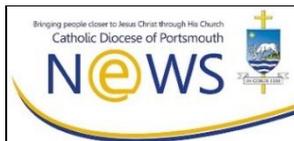
Any donations can be made in cash or by cheque via the collection baskets in the church or using our card payment machine in the church porch. The Parish Bank Account details are: Name: CDP, Immaculate Conception Church, Sort Code: 30-93-04, Account No: 00887995

SUMMER FAIR We are now collecting items for this year's Summer fair: tombola, raffle, bottles, bric-a-brac etc. Please bring any appropriate donations at the weekends and leave in the church porch. Thank you!

ST GEORGE CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Catholic Schools Inspection Report May 2023

St George College's staff and governors are excited to share our recent Catholic School inspection report. Overall the school is graded Good, and the Catholic Life and Mission of the College is Outstanding. We are immensely proud of the positive feedback we received around students' exemplary behaviour, the culture of continuous improvement, and the dedication of our staff and governors. The report also recognizes our inclusive approach, empowering students of all backgrounds and abilities to actively contribute to our vibrant community and our commitment to religious education and impactful liturgical events. We invite you to read the full report on our website at www.stgcc.co.uk.



THIS WEEK'S PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE E NEWS

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

[https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue410?e=\[UNIQID\]](https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue410?e=[UNIQID])



RECENTLY DIED

Pat Saunders RIP Pat died very suddenly and unexpectedly last Saturday. Both he and his wife, Frances, have been involved as part of our parish community here for many, many years, in many different ways, and always willing to give some friendly help wherever it was needed. He will be very much missed in our parish. Please hold Pat, Frances and their family in your prayers at this time. Details for Pat's funeral will be in the newsletter when they are available.

REPAIR CAFÉ

AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH HALL

Saturday 15 June, 10.30 am to 1pm. If you have items which could be repaired and put back into use, bring them along. More details on the poster in the porch and in our monthly bulletin.