



# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

11 February 2024

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

*Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do,  
do everything for the glory of God"*

1 Cor 10:31

**WEEKLY  
INFORMATION  
& UPDATES**

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

**Address:** 346 Portswood Road, Southampton, SO17 3SB  
**Tel:** (023) 8055 5470  
**Website:** [www.immaculateconception.church](http://www.immaculateconception.church)  
**Email:** [office@immaculateconception.church](mailto: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 Officer:** Laura Sparmann  
([safeguarding@immaculateconception.church](mailto:safeguarding@immaculateconception.church))  
**Parish Secretary:** Rachel Brady (023 8055 5470)  
**Confessions:** After 10 am Mass on Saturdays  
**Hall Bookings:** contact the parish secretary

**PARISH OFFICE OPEN: Tuesday – Friday, 9.30 am – 2.30 pm**

**ALL MASSES ADVERTISED BELOW ARE AVAILABLE TO JOIN LIVE, ONLINE AT  
[www.churchservices.tv/portswoodchur](http://www.churchservices.tv/portswoodchur)**

Date	Solemnities & Feast days	Times & Liturgies		Mass Intentions
Sun 11 Feb	<b>SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME FOURTH</b>	8.30 am	Mass	Patrick & Martin Conway and Kenneth & Anne Redmond RIP Karenza & Alex Michels RIP
Mon 12 Feb	Feria	10.30 am	Mass	
Tues 13 Feb	Feria	10.00 am	Mass	-
		9.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration	
		10.00 am	Mass	-
Weds 14 Feb	<b>Beginning of the season of Lent  ASH WEDNESDAY</b>	10.00 am	Mass	
		6.00 pm	Eucharistic Adoration	
		7.30 pm	Mass	-
Thurs 15 Feb	after Ash Wednesday	10.00 am	Mass	-
Fri 16 Feb	after Ash Wednesday	9.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration	
		9.30 am	Rosary	
		10.00 am	Mass	-
Sat 17 Feb	after Ash Wednesday	-	NO MASS	
Sun 18 Feb	<b>FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT</b>	8.30 am	Mass	Rem Treacy RIP
		10.30 am	Mass	Anna Conway



**READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Leviticus 13:1-2,44-46

**Psalm:** 32:1-2,5,11

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1

**Gospel:** Mark 1:40-45

**SECOND COLLECTIONS:**

THIS SUNDAY – 11<sup>th</sup> Feb - Caritas

NEXT SUNDAY – 18<sup>th</sup> Feb – No Second Collection

**NEXT WEEK IN THE PARISH:**

**Mon 12<sup>th</sup> - Mass** at 10.00 am with Cameroon Priests

**Weds 14<sup>th</sup> - Ash Wednesday Masses** at 10.00 am & 7.30 pm  
**Adoration for students and anyone else who would like to join us** – 6-7 pm in the Lady Chapel

**Thurs 15<sup>th</sup> - Choir Practice.** Anyone is welcome to join  
- 7.30 pm in the Church

**Fri 16<sup>th</sup> - Baptism** - Luca & Julia, 1.30 pm

**Sat 17<sup>th</sup> - Rite of Election** – Our RCIA candidates attending,  
St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth, 11 am

**Sun 18<sup>th</sup> Baptism** – Nicola, 12.30 pm

**TODAY'S GOSPEL REFLECTION: Restoration**

*A leper came to Jesus and kneeling down begged him and said, "If you wish, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, "I do will it. Be made clean."* [Mark 1:40-41](#)

In the Old Testament, Leviticus 14, God gave Moses a purification rite to be used for those who were cured of leprosy. This detailed rite that spanned several days was used to reintegrate a healed leper back into society. After Jesus healed

the leper in today's Gospel passage, He ordered him to "go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses prescribed; that will be proof for them." Thus, Jesus not only healed the man but instructed him that he was ready to be restored to the community.

At that time, leprosy was a horrible disease, not only for its physical effects, but also because the leper was not permitted to be a part of the society. This was because leprosy was quite contagious. By keeping those infected separate, the disease did not spread as easily to others.

As we ponder this healing, try to imagine not only the pain caused by the leper's disease, but especially the pain caused by his isolation. Obviously, there were no phones at that time, no video chatting, and no means of communication from a distance. Therefore, isolation would have meant a complete loss of the person's relationship with his family and friends, as well as his former livelihood, home and all that was a part of his life.

On a spiritual level, the various illnesses that Jesus cured are, in part, to be seen as symbols of sin. In the case of leprosy, we should see this illness as a symbol of the effects of mortal sin. And mortal sin, unless it is cured by God's forgiveness, has the effect of completely isolating a person from the life of grace. One becomes cut off from a relationship with God, as well as every other relationship that is centered in Christ. When one commits mortal sin and remains in that sin, that person is not capable of true love, since all grace is gone from their life. Therefore, their relationships become self-centered, demanding and unholy.

For those who have fallen into mortal sin, this leper is a symbol of the way out. First, he came to Jesus and knelt down before Him. He humbled himself before our Lord, acknowledging that Jesus was the answer to his ailment. He then begged Jesus for help. But the way he begged Jesus is also revealing.: he did not demand a healing but instead simply professed his faith in the fact that Jesus could heal him. And then he knelt there in trust and hope. This leper teaches us the perfect way to approach our Lord when we struggle with serious sin.

Reflect, today, upon this leper. Try to understand his isolation and loss. Try to understand his humility and faith. And seek to imitate the way that he comes to our Lord. Do not be afraid to humble yourself before God as you acknowledge the sins and other needs you have. Profess your faith in His almighty power and love, and place yourself into His hands of merciful love. He will not let you down.

*A reflection for the 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Yr B*

[www.mycatholic.life](http://www.mycatholic.life)

## PARISH NOTICES

**TEA & COFFEE AFTER MASSES** Work continues on the hall kitchen but tea and coffee is still be available after the 10.30 am Mass on Sundays. Please join us.

### CAKE SALE

**After 10.30 am Mass TODAY 11<sup>th</sup> Feb**

We would very much appreciate donations of cakes, homemade or shop bought, to sell. Please bring any contributions to the hall before Mass.

### MASS ON MONDAY THIS WEEK

This Monday, please come and join the Cameroon priests from around the diocese for Mass whist they are at Immaculate Conception for a meeting.

### ASH WEDNESDAY – Lent starts this coming Wednesday.

There will be two Masses at 10.00 am and 7.30 pm

### MEMORIAL MASS FOR FR ANDREW MCMAHON RIP

**Immaculate Conception Church**

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February, 10.00 am**

Followed by refreshments in the church and a short talk about Fr Andrew. We would also like to hear your memories of Fr Andrew. If you would like to write a short piece about your experience of him, we invite you to send it in to the parish office email or drop a note in the presbytery letter box. We plan to collate them all and have a collection of memories on a sheet for all to take away from the event. Please ensure you send anything you would like included, to the parish by Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

## CONFIRMATION

**For young people aged 14-18**

We will be starting a Confirmation programme for young people, over the next few weeks. If you would like to be Confirmed, please fill in a registration form available in the church porch or download one from our website. The link can be found at the bottom of the following page:

<https://www.immaculateconception.church/confirmation>

**Please return forms as soon as possible**

## FAITH DISCUSSION GROUP

**Wednesdays in the Church Hall at 7 pm, starting 21<sup>st</sup> Feb.**

We will be restarting the faith discussion group sessions this Lent which we began last year. All are invited to this opportunity to listen, share and learn more about our faith from each other. We have had some suggestions for discussion themes. If you have others, please do put them in the suggestion box in the church porch.

## GIFT AID

If you gift aid your donations to the parish, please don't forget to complete a new Gift Aid form as soon as possible. We are unfortunately now unable to claim any further gift aid on your donations, unless we have a new Gift Aid form signed with our new diocesan charity number on it. Forms can be picked up from the church porch. A reminder also that purple envelopes can no longer be accepted. Any cash or cheques to be gift aided must be given in a white envelope with your details on it.



## PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE E NEWS & JOB VACANCIES

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

<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue433?e=34c55ac6ce>

## HELPING IN THE PARISH

Over the past year I have been listening to people and having consultation meetings, gradually building a structure for our parish. We now need more people to volunteer their help. Some tasks require just a small amount of time, some can be done from home, some are one offs, others temporary. And then there are also more time consuming roles.

The parish belongs to the community and it is only through your time and commitment that it is able to grow. If you have a particular interest or skill you are willing to use in the life of the parish, I would love to hear from you. Some examples could be:

- **Building trades and general maintenance**
- **Gardening**
- **Cleaning**
- **Music**
- **Taking communion to the sick and housebound**
- **Reading at Mass**
- **Church shop**
- **Refreshments after Masses**
- **Events & Fundraising planning team**
- **Health & Safety advice**
- **Finance/property team**
- **Flower arranging**
- **Welcoming and hospitality team**
- **IT and Audio Visual equipment in the church**
- **Photography**
- **Social Media**
- **Visiting housebound**
- **Providing soup for soup lunches**
- **Helping with sacramental preparation – Baptism, First Holy Communion, Confirmation, RCIA, Marriage (you don't need to be an expert on the Catholic faith but just be practicing with a genuine interest)**

Thank you for all you do and for what you could do in the future!

*Fr Anthony*

## Lord Mayors Charity Masked Ball

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024, 6.30 pm – 1.00 am

Mike Channon Suite, St Mary's Stadium, Southampton

A reminder about this exciting event coming up soon.

A night of glamour with a three course meal and wine, live music, dancing, table magic with Colin Phillips and hosted by compere Mike Osman. All proceeds are to support three local charities, City Farm, Sea Cadets and the Saints Foundation. So far, we already have enough parishioners to book a table for 10 – there is still plenty of time to book more! Tickets £60/person for table of 10 or £65 each.

Bookings at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lord-mayors-hollywood-glamour-masked-ball-tickets-640131118407>

## WINTER NIGHT SHELTER

Taking place in the city centre during February. Volunteers needed to help. Details available on the hall noticeboards.

## CAFOD



**SATURDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> FEB 11 AM - 1 PM**  
**STARTING AT ST EDMUNDS CHURCH**

Join other Catholics from around the Southampton parishes to walk together up to and around the Common, advertising the Lent Fundraising campaign. Tea, Coffee, Cakes served afterwards in St Edmunds Hall. Further details of the full CAFOD Lent Challenge to walk 200 km in 40 days to help fight Global Poverty, can be found on the poster in the church porch or check the CAFOD website.

## NEXT REPAIR CAFÉ

**At Immaculate Conception Church Hall**  
**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February, 10.30 am – 1.00 pm.**

Do you have anything you need help repairing?  
Most items tackled including electrical, sweeping, computers, bikes etc. Bring it along and have a tea/coffee & cake while you wait/watch your repair being done.

## CREATING THE PERFECT WELCOME

A FREE WEBINAR from the National Churches Trust  
13th February 2 – 3pm.

One of the goals within our Diocesan Mission Plan is to: 'Develop a comprehensive approach to welcome in each church community to enable participation for all'. This is the ideal session for anyone involved in church hospitality and driving repeat visits to places of worship. Themes covered include: · Why should you welcome visitors and what have you got to offer them? · How to meet and greet church visitors. What are people interested in when they visit your church or chapel? · Why is interpretation important? · How can we interpret and share our stories; simple and effective things you can do? Book your FREE place here: Creating the Perfect Welcome :

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=g-LefJx8vEqfaVNQsT7rzhytLEHoDbZPowE-wZWC03ZUQUIESokxVUI1ToZIM1ZJMUUIWDBVMFBLTC4u>