



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

SUNDAY 7TH – SUNDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER 2025

“Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple”

Luke 14:27

**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

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 Officer: Laura Sparmann

(safeguarding@immaculateconception.church)

Parish Secretary: Vacant position (023 8055 5470)

Confessions: After 10 am Mass on Saturdays

Hall Bookings: contact the parish secretary

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

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

REGULAR MASS TIMES

Sunday	8.30 am & 10.30 am
Monday	No Mass
Tuesday	10.00 am
Wednesday	10.00 am
Thursday	10.00 am
Friday	10.00 am
Saturday	10.00 am

Holy days of Obligation 10 am & 7.30 pm

OTHER REGULAR LITURGIES & DEVOTIONS

Tuesday	9.00 am Eucharistic Adoration
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Wednesday	6.00 pm Eucharistic Adoration
Thursday	9.30 am Rosary

SUNDAY READINGS FOR SEPTEMBER

7TH SEPT 1st Reading: Wisdom 9:13-18b
Psalm: 90:3-6, 12-4, 17
2nd Reading: Philemon 1:9-10, 12-17
Gospel: Luke 14: 25-33

4TH SEPT 1st Reading: Wisdom 9:13-18b
Psalm: 90:3-6, 12-4, 17
2nd Reading: Philemon 1:9-10, 12-17
Gospel: Luke 14: 25-33

21ST SEPT 1st Reading: Wisdom 9:13-18b
Psalm: 90:3-6, 12-4, 17
2nd Reading: Philemon 1:9-10, 12-17
Gospel: Luke 14: 25-33

28TH SEPT 1st Reading: Wisdom 9:13-18b
Psalm: 90:3-6, 12-4, 17
2nd Reading: Philemon 1:9-10, 12-17
Gospel: Luke 14: 25-33



MASS INTENTIONS THIS MONTH

Sun 7th Sept	8.30 am	Krystyna Madej & Adam Madej RIP
	10.30 am	Bryan Rosario RIP
Sat 13 th Sept		Nora Savage RIP
Thurs 18 th Sept		Lorance Perera RIP
Fri 19 th Sept		Eileen Kingwell RIP
Sat 20 th Sept		Tomey Fernando RIP
Sun 21st Sept	8.30 am	Luis Greaves RIP
Tues 23 rd Sept		Dennis & Naomi Philpot RIP
Sat 27 th Sept		Lydie & Oscar Tchuissiu RIP
Sun 28 th Sept		Steve White RIP

SECOND COLLECTIONS THIS MONTH

Sunday 7 th Sept	No Second Collection
Sunday 14 th Sept	Catholic Education Service
Sunday 21 st Sept	Home Missions
Sunday 28 th Sept	No Second Collection

OTHER REGULAR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES IN THE PARISH

All Welcome to join.....

Mon - Cooking with Confidence – 11 am – 1 pm – church hall kitchen

Tues - Tea & Coffee after 10 am Mass – church hall

Weds - Parent & Toddler Group (term time only)
10.30am – 12 noon, church hall

Thurs - Maintaining the parish gardens – from 10 am
- Caritas Activity Event – 11 am in the church hall

Sun - Refreshments after 10.30 am Mass- church hall
- Choir Practice 11.30 am in the church.

**PLEASE CHECK THE
NEWSLETTER FOR
OCCASSIONAL VARIATIONS TO
THE USUAL SCHEDULE ABOVE.**



TODAY'S GOSPEL REFLECTION:

“Hating” So As To Love

Great crowds were traveling with Jesus, and he turned and addressed them, “If anyone comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.” Luke 14:25–26

Why would Jesus exhort the “great crowds” to hate their families? In fact, Jesus went even further than that. He said they must also hate their own lives. If they do not, then they cannot be His disciples. One thing that this shocking teaching did was to shake people out of their lukewarm faith. Sometimes we think of Jesus only as a kind and gentle soul Who always brightens people’s days. We see images painted of the smiling Jesus Who always made people feel welcomed and loved. And though these images have truth, it is also true that one way He brightened their days was by challenging them to the core of their being to convert. And that is what Jesus does today in our Gospel.

To hate your father, mother, children, siblings and even your very self is obviously not a reference to the sin of hate that flows from anger. In this case, the word “hate” refers to the best way to love others and to love even your own self. To begin, let’s look at the conclusion. Jesus said that this form of hate is a requirement of being His disciple. This is the key. Unless we are first and foremost a disciple of Christ, we cannot love others and we will not even love ourselves in the proper way. “Hate” in this context refers to selfish attachments. This means that people and things can easily get in the way of our love of God. When they do, we must see them as an obstacle to both the love of God, as well as to the authentic love of others and even ourselves. For example, if a family member were to demand in some way that you love them more than you love God, then this must be rejected with passion. This could be referred to as holy hatred of the temptation, not the person. Say a spouse criticizes you for attending Mass and tries to stop you from doing so. If you listen to them, then you are placing them before God. Or say someone hurts you and you choose to forgive them, only to have a family member challenge you and try to stir up anger in you toward that person. If you listen to them, then you are not listening to God. In these cases, we must “hate” in the sense that we reject the temptation.

What about yourself? How do you hate yourself? This is a reference to the many ways that our disordered appetites are drawn to sin. If we indulge in the disordered desires, or even worse, if we treat those disordered desires as normal and good for us, then we have chosen the disordered desire over God. In that case, we must learn to hate and reject the selfish and disordered desire, choosing God and His will alone.

When we are able to choose the love of God first and foremost in our lives, rejecting the temptations that come through others and even the temptations within our disordered desires, then, and only then, are we in a position to love others and ourselves, in the right way. Jesus obviously wants us to love others and ourselves. But this is only possible when our love is pure and holy and flows from the love of God. Any other form of “love” is not love at all. It is a selfish attachment that hinders our true mission as lovers of God and instruments of that love to others.

Reflect, today, upon the passion that you must have to reject all forms of sin. This includes sin that tempts you through the mediation of your family and friends. It also includes every form of temptation that arises within you on account of your disordered human nature. This holy hatred is an act of love in that it seeks to eliminate everything that keeps you from true love. Choose, today, to be a faithful disciple of Jesus and commit yourself to reject all that seeks to interfere with this choice. Doing so will not only increase your love for God, it will also increase your love for others, and even your love for your own soul.

A reflection for the twenty third Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year C
www.mycatholic.life

If you like to read these Sunday Gospel reflections, future weeks this month can be found at

<https://mycatholic.life/upcoming-reflections/#cal>

PARISH NOTICES

WELCOME TODAY!

This weekend, we are truly blessed to welcome Archbishop Andrew Nkea Fuanya, Archbishop of Bamenda, together with his delegation, to our parish as part of his pastoral visit to the Diocese of Portsmouth.

We also extend a very warm welcome to the Cameroon Catholic Community from across the UK, who have joined us to celebrate this joyful occasion.

Your presence enriches our parish family, and we are grateful to share in this time of faith, unity, and celebration. May the Lord bless Archbishop Andrew, his delegation, and all our Cameroonian brothers and sisters.

VACANCY

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

Immaculate Conception Church, Southampton
20-25 hrs per week.

This is a pivotal role in supporting the parish priest, providing a sympathetic and efficient focal point for enquiries, liaising with parishioners and managing all aspects of administration to ensure the smooth day to day running of the parish. Full details can be found on the diocesan website at:

<https://portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/about/careers/>
(If you would like an informal chat about the role before applying, please speak to Fr Anthony)

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CORPUS CHRIST 2026.

We look forward to the first **compulsory** welcome session for new parents and children on **Saturday 13th September at 1100 in the church.**

Application forms are available from the website or the back of church. The application form, with a passport sized photo, should be submitted by Monday 15th September. Applications will be received in person in Saturday 13th. On Sunday 14th September someone will be in the parish office to receive applications at the following times; 9 am – 10 am and 1140 am - 1230 pm.

TEACHING AS JESUS DID: NURTURING FAITH IN EVERY AGE SATURDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER 1045 FOR 1100-1400 IN THE HALL

You are invited to join a **workshop designed for catechists and parents who wish to help children/adults to develop spiritually and learn about their faith.** We will be using examples from the way Jesus taught and spiritually developed the disciples, people and children. The workshop will use scenarios and practical activities to consider how we can help children /adults of different ages, knowledge, experience, and styles. Practical tips on creating a good learning environment will also be explored.

Come to Immaculate Conception Parish Hall, at 1045 for welcome refreshments (after the 1000 mass) 1100-1400 for the Workshop. (Includes a lunch break- please bring your own)

We look forward to you joining us

Please contact Mary Gobbi

at worship@immaculateconception.church or ring 02380769783 for further information / reserve a place.

NEW CRAYON SETS AVAILABLE IN THE PORCH.

New sets of crayons/pencils will be available in the porch from Sunday 14th September to celebrate Education Sunday. Please enjoy using the new crayon sets, but return them complete after mass so they can be enjoyed the next week! They are used by many families and enhance the children's experience during mass.

We would like to thank the donors of the new crayons and ask for everyone's support in the use of the crayons. Last year, we had to replace the sets twice because about 20 sets of crayons 'went missing', pencil sharpenings were left in the bags, on the floor and crayons not returned. We would be grateful if parents could ensure their children take and return 1 set of crayons (6 mixed colours in each bag) **per family**. Please could *any adult* pick up any loose crayons and return them to the porch box to prevent accidents. A few volunteers to regularly sharpen the crayons/pencils would be welcomed, as we can no longer leave pencil sharpeners in the bags due to the mess that was created and for safety reasons.

If there are any families who need new crayon/pencil sets for home/school use, please let us know as our donors have kindly provided some spare sets for this purpose.

SUNDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER IS CATHOLIC EDUCATION

SUNDAY. Children may like to attend mass in their school uniform if they wish.

New Parents and Toddlers Group VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We're looking for friendly, reliable volunteers to support a **Parents and Toddlers group**, running **every Wednesday during term time from September**. This is a great opportunity to support young families in the community in a warm, welcoming environment.

Your role will include:

-  Setting up and packing away toys and activities
-  Helping with stories, rhymes, and play
-  Serving snacks and refreshments
-  Supporting parents during the session

If you enjoy spending time with young children, we'd love to hear from you!

Please contact:

 Kreza@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
uk

 +44 7464 925699



PARENTS AND TODDLERS FUN

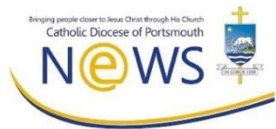
Wednesday
10.30 AM - 12.00 PM
In the Parish Hall
of
Immaculate Conception Church, Portswood

Upcoming Dates - 10, 17, 24 September
08, 15, 22 October

£1 per family
includes tea/coffee
and snacks

Contact Us
07464925699
Kreza@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Caritas Portsmouth is part of the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth. Charity No. 1099568



PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE E NEWS & JOB VACANCIES

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

<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue501?e=34c55ac6ce>

PLEASE NOTE

THERE IS NO EUCHARISTIC ADORATION ON
WEDNESDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER



Catholic Agency for
Overseas Development

Response in Gaza

Your donations to Gaza since the start of the conflict have been a vital lifeline. Right now, CAFOD's partner, Caritas Jerusalem, is delivering essential medical treatment to displaced people and providing medicines to treat chronic illnesses. We have helped 1,400 households with cash to buy supplies in the last month and we are currently feeding 2,000 people with new stocks of flour and rice. Despite the restrictions on aid coming into Gaza, CAFOD's local partners are working tirelessly to help people. An with your ongoing support, they will do all in their power to keep doing so. You can find out more about how you can make a difference in Gaza at <https://cafod.org.uk>. Thank you for backing our work through holding collections for our Family Fast Day appeals and for continuing to pray for peace in the Middle East.

JULY INCOME

Candles	70.77
FUNDRAISING - Closer to Christ	1,066.24
FUNDRAISING - Taste of Ireland	225.50
DONA	751.80
ENVELOPES	268.00
ONLINE GIVING	509.12
OFFERTORY	1,641.64
St Orders & DDs	3,175.88
Total Income	7,708.95

Special Collections

Emerg relief Fund	10.00
Peter's Pence	39.52
Stella Maris	412.08
Day For Life	29.52
World Communications	19.68
Clergy Training	118.08
Total	628.88

INCOME AUG 2025

Repository and Papers	15.74
Candles	22.43
Repair Café	52.40
DONA	415.26
Envelopes	246.00
On Line Giving	239.00
Offertory	1,337.86
St Orders & DDs	2,898.00
Total	5,226.69

Special Collections	None
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