



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

15th March 2026 – 4th SUNDAY OF LENT

Laetare Sunday



“Do you believe in the Son of Man?”- John 9:1-41

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

Address: 346 Portswood Road, Southampton, SO17 3SB

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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:

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

Mothering Sunday

15th March

We pray in thanksgiving for all mothers.

Wishing you a joyful Mothering Sunday



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Tuesday 17 March

Happy St. Patrick's Day

PATRON SAINT OF IRELAND

“May the blessings of each day be the blessings you need the most”



Solemnities & Feast days	Times & Liturgies	Mass Intentions
Sun 15 March 4 th Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday)  Second Collection: Diocesan Clergy Assistance Fund	8.30 am Mass 10.30 am Mass	Praying for all children killed & suffering because of war Terry GURD RIP
Mon 16 March of 4 th Week of Lent	-NO MASS-	
Tue 17 March of 4 th Week of Lent Saint Patrich, Bishop, Missionary	9.00 am Adoration 10.00 am Mass	John Ford RIP
Wed 18 March of 4 th Week of Lent	10.00 am Mass	--
Thu 19 March Saint Joseph, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary	10.00 am Mass	--
Fri 20 March of 4 th Week of Lent	9.30 am Adoration 10.00 am Rosary 10.30 am Stations of the Cross 11.00 am Mass	For the Xia-Shi family: wellbeing, strength in difficulties, & success in Suo Shi's MSc application.
Sat 21 March of 4 th Week of Lent	10.00am Mass	10 th Anniversary of the Death of Zbigniew Wolas (RIP)
Sun 22 March 5 th Sunday of Lent	8.30 am Mass 10.30 am Mass	Maureen Slevin RIP --

If you wish to book a Mass intention, please use the Mass Intention envelopes in the porch or contact the Parish Office.



TODAY'S GOSPEL REFLECTION : Spiritual Sight Restored

As Jesus passed by he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him.” [John 9:1-3](#)



Imagine being blind throughout your life and then suddenly being healed. All of the sounds you had heard from childhood, all that you had touched, tasted, or smelled suddenly took on new form within your imagination as these images registered with sight for the first time. Colors suddenly made sense. Large items, such as trees that you had only heard in the wind and touched with your hands, could be seen from a distance, glimmering in the sunlight. Your mind suddenly perceived in a new way the utensils, clothing, and other items you used daily. Just as the blind man was filled with awe at receiving his sight, so too is the soul overwhelmed when freed from the blindness of sin and brought into the light of God's grace.

The healed blind man was given a gift that those who can see from birth are not. Perceiving and understanding the physical world only through four of his senses, and then adding the powerful fifth sense of sight later in life, provided immediate wonder and awe, filling him with profound gratitude for something most of us take for granted.

Think of a person who lives a sinful life for many years and understands life only through the distortions of sin and selfishness. Once set free from sin, the person's spiritual eyes are opened. Those who experience such a conversion are given a blessing that those who have been faithful throughout their lives do not receive in the same way. They understand the contrast between spiritual blindness and sight, and the newfound freedom they receive after conversion provides a greater understanding of the gift of God's grace and its transforming effects. They will never forget the weight of bondage once caused by their sin.

One reason God permitted this man to be born blind and live that way into adulthood was to illustrate the contrast between spiritual darkness and light. This is part of what Jesus means when He says this man was born blind “so that the works of God might be made visible through him.” The miracle not only illustrated Jesus' divine power but also symbolized the much deeper spiritual healing He offers to all. Just as the blind man received physical sight, we are offered the gift of spiritual sight through grace.

We are born with poor spiritual sight. Our fallen human nature, which suffers from concupiscence, tends toward selfishness and sin. Although capable of love and affection, a child is prone to selfishness, anger, emotional outbursts, and other “childish” behavior. Over time, with the guidance of good mentors, children begin to understand the value of greater patience and selfless acts of love, kindness, and generosity. Those who are not well-formed as adolescents or who choose to rebel selfishly in their later years never gain a clearer spiritual sight. The world around them remains blurry, and divine wisdom never penetrates their eyes of faith.

The story of the man born blind is an opportunity for each of us to examine how clearly we perceive our lives and the world around us. Just as the man was healed, we need healing from the blindness caused by our fallen nature. God's grace restores our spiritual sight, allowing His light to illuminate all we encounter in life.

Reflect today on your own need to see more clearly. We need our spiritual sight restored and sharpened if we are to perceive ourselves and our world with divine Wisdom. It takes humility to admit we have poor spiritual sight, and profound humility to admit if we are spiritually blinded by sin. Learn from the wonder and awe that this healed blind man experienced, and know that our Lord wants us to have clearer spiritual vision.

OTHER REGULAR WEEKLY ACTIVIES IN THE PARISH

We offer a variety of weekly parish activities throughout the week, and you are warmly invited to join us. Whether you're new to the parish or have been with us for years, there's always a place for you. Come along, meet others, and share in our parish life.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cooking with Confidence 10 am - 1 pm, Church hall kitchen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tea & Coffee After 10 am Mass, Church hall ▪ RCIA 7:15 pm – 8.45 pm, Church hall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Alpha Course 7pm, Church hall
Thursday	Sunday	<p style="text-align: center;">All Welcome to join.....</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Multicultural group 10:30 am, Church hall  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintaining the parish gardens from 10:30 am 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Refreshments After 10.30 am Mass, Church hall 	

PARISH 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.

Diocesan Clergy Assistance Fund - Sunday 15th March 2026

The Clergy Assistance Fund contributes to the work of the Department for Clergy Team. The Clergy Assistance Fund supports the work of the Department for Clergy, helping our Diocese care for priests in active ministry, religious orders, the Ordinariate, overseas clergy, and our retired priests. These priests serve our parishes, chaplaincies, schools, and communities with dedication. This appeal helps the Diocese support their wellbeing, holiness, and health—serving those who serve us.

The Clergy Support Team cares for the welfare, formation, and personal support of our clergy. It provides spiritual direction, counselling, appraisals, guidance, and practical help. The team organises retreats, formation days, courses, and sabbaticals, and supports junior, overseas, and especially retired clergy. It is the main way the Bishop ensures the wellbeing of all our priests.

Thank you for your support.

Lenten Soup Lunches

You are all invited to the 12 noon lunches. Please come and enjoy the freshly made soups, meet up with friends and help the charities who benefit from them.



We especially welcome anyone who has not been before.

Next Soup Lunch & Charities We Are Supporting

- 20 March – Christian Aid
- 27 March (the last lenten soup lunch) – S.V.P (The Bigger Picture; Young Vincentians)

A big thank you to everyone who came to the Soup Lunches last week and generously donated to support the charity.



Repository & Bookshop

We now have a lovely selection of **Mother's Day gifts**, as well as a range of **Irish items** and **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.



Taste of British Isles



Join us on **26th April from 1:30 pm to 5:30 pm** 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, bring friends and family, and enjoy an afternoon full of community spirit, culture, and great tastes!

Accommodation Needed

A visiting Catholic family (husband, wife, and their 18-month-old child) from Italy, is seeking short-term accommodation in Southampton from June to August. They are finding it very difficult to secure suitable accommodation through commercial agencies for such a short period.

They are looking for a small flat, studio, annex, or spare room, and are happy to pay a fair rent.

If you can help, please contact the parish office.

Something exciting is beginning for our young people!

Our Youth Engagement Team has been working with great passion and commitment to build something meaningful and lasting for our young people aged **5-16**. Their goal is simple but powerful: to create a space where young people can grow in faith, friendship, confidence, and joy within our parish community. We are delighted to announce that the **first youth gathering will take place during the holiday on 8th April at 10:30am**. It will be a wonderful opportunity for children and young people to connect, learn, and have fun together. Parents and young people can look forward to more exciting activities and initiatives designed especially for them. **More updates will be shared in the coming days, watch this space!**

Parish Youth Activities – Spring & Summer

We are pleased to begin building our parish youth community with several upcoming events for young people.

■ Youth Day – Easter Holidays (Ages 5-16)



A Youth Day for will take place on **Wednesday 8 April, 10:00am-3:00pm in the Parish Hall**, led by Sue and Steve with support from other volunteers.

■ 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

FUNERAL of Mrs Brenda Street

Requiem Mass:

Friday, 27th March 2026 at 1:00pm

Immaculate Conception Church, Portswood

Committal: Southampton Crematorium East Chapel at 2:30pm



Please keep Mrs Brenda Street and her family in your prayers.

