

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

6th April 2025

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

'Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.' John 8,11



**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

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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: Cecilia Kovacs (023 8055 5470)

Confessions: After 10 am Mass on Saturdays

Hall Bookings: contact the parish secretary

PARISH OFFICE OPEN NEXT WEEK: Tuesday/Friday 10:00-5 pm, Wednesday/Thursday 1 - 5pm

ALL MASSES ADVERTISED BELOW ARE AVAILABLE TO JOIN LIVE, ONLINE AT

www.churchservices.tv/portswoodchur

Date	Solemnities & Feast days	Times & Liturgies		Mass Intentions
Sun 6 April	FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT	8.30 am	Mass	Claire Starley RIP
		10.30 am	Mass	Anthony Ferrao RIP
Mon 7 April	of the 5th Week of Lent		NO MASS	
Tue 8 April	of the 5th Week of Lent	9.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration	
		10.00 am	Mass	
Wed 9 April	of the 5th Week of Lent	10.00 am	Mass	Eileen Kelleher RIP"
Thu 10 April	of the 5th Week of Lent	10.00 am	Mass	
Fri 11 April	of the 5th Week of Lent	9.00 am	Eucharistic adoration	
		9.30 am	Stations of the Cross	
		10.00 am	Mass	
		11.30 am	Funeral Mass	Helena Bielawska RIP
Sat 12 April	of the 5th Week of Lent	10.00am	Eucharistic service	
Sun 13 April	PALM SUNDAY	8.30 am	Mass	
		10.30 am	Mass	Gerdi Doherty RIP

READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY

8.30 Mass
1st Reading: Isaiah 43:16-21
Psalm: Ps 126 (125):1-2b. 2c-3, 4-5. 6. R3

2nd Reading: Philippians 3:8-14
Gospel: John 8:1 - 11

10.30 Mass
1st Reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14
Psalm: Ps 130 (129):1-2. 3-4. 5-6b. 6c-8. R7bc

1st Scrutiny
2nd Reading: Romans 8:8-11
Gospel: John 11:1 - 45



NEXT WEEK IN THE PARISH

Mon 7th Lenten reflections - 6:30pm to 7:45pm in the Parish Hall
Tues 8th Tea & Coffee after 10 am service – parish hall
Wed 9th Adoration for students and anyone else who would like to join us – 6-7 pm in the Lady Chapel
Thu 10th Caritas activity group– 10.30am
Fri 11th Funeral Mass – Helena Bielawska RIP – 11.30am
Lent soup lunch – after mass (12pm) Parish hall
Sun 13th Refreshments and Cake Sale after mass
Choir Practice - 11.30 am in the church. All welcome to join.

SECOND COLLECTIONS:

6th April: Flowers for Easter

13th April: No second collection

TOTAL FREEDOM FROM SIN

“Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth. So Jesus said to them, “Untie him and let him go.” John 11:43-44

The death of Lazarus can be seen as a symbolic representation of the soul that has died from mortal sin. This is similar to the fact that leprosy, physical ailments and the like are also symbols of sin. For that reason, Jesus’ initial reactions reveal how we should respond to serious sin in our lives. When Jesus faced the death of Lazarus, “he became perturbed and deeply troubled,” “Jesus wept,” He became “perturbed again” and He “cried out in a loud voice.” Though Jesus was God, He freely chose to assume human nature and to experience human emotions and passions to teach us how we should react. In this case, He chose to become perturbed, deeply troubled, to weep and to cry out to show us how we should react to grave sin. Grave sin kills the spirit. As a result, we must be deeply affected if we commit or witness a grave sin.

One lesson we can take from this passage is that when you or a loved one falls into grave sin, it must not be ignored. Final impenitence is a sin by which a person fails to have appropriate remorse for sin and reacts to it in a dismissive and casual manner. This cannot be our reaction. Begin by considering the great value of taking sin seriously, reacting to it with passion and emotion, and crying out to God for forgiveness.

When Jesus cried out, commanding Lazarus to come out of the tomb, the details were added that Lazarus did come forth but was still bound “hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth.” Saint Augustine teaches that, in part, this symbolizes the entire process of confession and the forgiveness of sins. First, no person is capable of confessing their sins by their own effort. It must be that they are moved by grace and the command of our Lord to come forth to show themselves in their bound state to God. Lazarus’ obedience to Jesus’ command symbolizes the Christian’s response to God when called to repentance. When our Lord says, “Untie him and let him go,” this symbolizes the unmerited effect of the Sacrament of Confession and the power it has to release a person not only from their sins but also from the ongoing effects of those sins.

Our Church teaches that sin has a double consequence. First, it keeps us from eternal salvation. This effect is remedied through Confession and forgiveness. However, there is a second effect called “temporal punishment” (see the Catechism of the Catholic Church #1471–1473). This “punishment” is not from God, but from sin. It means that when we sin, even in a less serious way, we become attached to that sin and that the ongoing temptation to return to it is strengthened. Thus, ongoing conversion also means we hear our Lord say, “Untie him and let him go.” This is especially accomplished by ongoing conversion and growth in virtue.

Reflect, today, upon the rich symbolism found in the story of the raising of Lazarus from the dead. As you do, listen for the passionate voice of Jesus who calls to you, “Come out!” What sin is Jesus calling you to be free from? Identify that sin and repent of it with the same passion that our Lord exhibits. From there, consider any ongoing temptation you struggle with and any attachment you still have toward a particular sin. Jesus desires that you be completely unbound and set free. Be open to that grace and do all you can to accept it.

A reflection for the Fifth Sunday of Lent (Year A)

www.mycatholic.life

PARISH NOTICES

MARATHON ROAD CLOSURES

Those who cannot make to mass on Sunday due to the marathon road closures can attend any of these evening

For a road closure map click here:

<https://www.southamptonmarathon.co.uk/residents-info>

services on Saturday:

6.15pm St Joseph's

6.30 pm St Boniface

6.30 pm Saint Vincent de Paul

5.30pm St Boniface

7pm St Edmund's

REINTRODUCING A PARISH CHARITY

This year we shall be reintroducing a parish charity. This means that a portion of funds raised through fund raising activity within the parish will be given to the selected parish charity. If there's a charity you are keen to support that operates in Southampton please collect a form from the office. Forms are available from Anastasia on Sundays and from Cecilia during office hours, or can be downloaded from the website:

<https://www.immaculateconception.church/copy-of-resources>

Please ensure that you submit your proposal for a parish charity by 30th April. For further information please contact anastasia.mulenga@gmail.com

Vocations Prayer Newsletter April 2025

<https://portsmouthvocations.org/so/6bPNiIW6e?languageTag=en>

THE EASTER STORY – PAGEANT

Thank to David Maddocks and his crew for the wonderful Easter Pageant presentation last Sunday. Please note that the recording is available to download from our Churchservices TV account in the next three months.

<https://www.churchservices.tv/portswoodchur/archive/recordings/ggClhfzpUvyReZ6>

LENT LUNCHES -A THANK YOU

The parish would like to say a big ‘Thank You!’ to all the volunteers who cooked and presented the Lenten Lunches this year. Also thank to those who came along and donated to various charities. The following amounts were raised:

SPUC: £101.00

Christian Aid: £120

Mountbatten Hospice: £246.55

SVP: £130

Aid to the Church in Need: £139.50



BABY EZEH BAPTISM

27th April 12.30

The Ezeh family would like to invite everyone including children in the parish to celebrate together the birth of their newborn baby, **Ihechukwu Terrence Ezeh**. **After the baptism ceremony there is also a lunch for everyone in the parish hall. Everyone is welcome.**

EASTER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN

April 9th Wednesday, from 10am to 4pm in the Parish Hall

Activities day for young parish people from 5 to 15 years. Please bring drinks and a packed lunch or ingredients for pizza making. It would be great if one or two parents or students might spare an hour or two to lend a hand.

Contact the organiser: Steve Deadman

GOOD FRIDAY AT 9.30 AM IN THE CHURCH

Childrens' Way of the Cross with Father Anthony.

CARITAS GROUP

Caritas is planning to run cooking classes after Easter – details to be confirmed. **They are still looking for the lost CARITAS aprons?** Somebody must have taken them home to be washed but we don't know where they are. Please contact the office if you can help.

Programme of the Hong-Kong Group for the upcoming few weeks:

10/4/25 Stretch Exercises/ Board Game

17/4/25 No activities

24/5/25 Activities Reviews and Planning

FOOD FOR THOUGHT FROM FRANK CAMPBELL

Our pastoral leader has recognised the need for some prayerful reflection on the mission of the Christian community, especially in the current turmoil over reform theology / synodality - the style of church leadership which Pope Francis has encouraged.

The other Christian denominations have much to teach Catholics about the merits and weaknesses of synodality, the mechanism for resolving church disputes. I can recommend essays by Cardinal Avery Dulles and Joe Holland on the early dispute between Peter and Paul over the requirement of circumcision before baptism. It seems right to us and the Holy Spirit, that this change in moving from Judaism to Christianity should not be a requirement.

Dulles recommended discussion to discern the will of the Spirit, and it is in that light that we embark on synodal discourse today. Synodality has been described as 'looking together in the same direction'.

Reference:

'Tracing the Spirit: Communities, Social Action, and Theological Reflection', Editor: James E Hug, Paulist Press 1983

IMPORTANT PETITION

Please consider signing the Care Not Killing petition which calls on MPs to vote against legalising assisted suicide in England and Wales. Please see the notice board or use this QR code. Also, read the pastoral letter on the website: <https://www.immaculateconception.church/copy-of-resources>



JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES



This year is a Jubilee Year, declared by Pope Francis to have the theme 'PILGRIMS OF HOPE'.

Our parish is planning to form a group to go on a Pilgrimage to Lourdes with the Diocesan Pilgrimage led by Bishop Philip Egan.

Dates Monday 7th – Friday 11th July 2025

Booking Forms are now available from the office or Liz Bellamy.

Please could the completed forms be returned by Sunday 13th April so that the bulk of the forms can be taken to the Diocesan Office before Easter. Later bookings will be accepted. Please be aware that the balance payment will be due at the end of May.

For further information please contact the office, Fr Anthony or Liz Bellamy

THE REPAIR CAFÉ RETURNS

The Repair Café returns to Immaculate Conception on **Saturday 19 April from 10.30 till 1pm.**

A variety of repairs can be undertaken for a donation. Refreshments available throughout this session.



PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE E NEWS & JOB VACANCIES

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

<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue485>

DAVID'S MAMMOTH 160 MILE FUNDRAISER FOR SOUTHAMPTON SIGHT

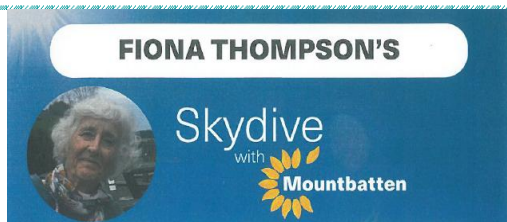


Our parishioner, David Maddocks is embarking on a challenge to raise funds for **Southampton Sight**. David, who suffers from chronic open angle glaucoma, a degenerative eye disease, is severely sight impaired. Southampton Sight have been helping him with their counselling, training, advice and physical aids.

At the age of 72, he wanted to challenge his disability and do something to help others affected by sight loss. He will walk the famous Camino de Santiago de Compostela choosing an old pilgrim route 160 miles long from Porto in Portugal to Santiago in Spain. The route will take over 13 days, including 1 rest day, from the 13th - 26th of May 2025 and he will be accompanied by his brothers in law, Mike and Adrian. You can support his fundraiser on justgiving.com/page/southampton-sight-fundraiser-6

LOST AND FOUND

In the office I have a collection of: 2 baseball caps, a blue water bottle, a pink notebook with a zebra on it, a pair of shades, a tiny black lock with four digits code, hair bands and various jewellery



At the age of 80 I am planning a skydive (parachute jump) on the 14th June to raise at least £1000 for the Mountbatten Hospice and its outreach work. Did you know that the hospice receives only one third of their funding from the government? That means it is up to people like us to donate the rest so they can continue to support people who are dying and their families. The one certainty we all share is that we are going to die, but the hospice movement can make a huge difference to the how and where of it.

My own experience of the Mountbatten Hospice care was when my husband, Christopher was dying.

Thanks to their attentive listening to his needs and wishes as well as as their expertise in alleviating any physical and emotional pain, he was able to die peacefully and with grace at home as he had wanted and with his family around him. Please donate as you can, and wish me luck!



<https://mountbattenhampshire.enthuse.com/pf/fiona-thompson> Thanks, Fiona

FAITH REFLECTIONS ON END OF LIFE CARE AND ASSISTED DYING by Southampton Council of Faiths

**7.30-9.00pm, April 22nd 2025
King Edward VI School
Wilton Road, Southampton SO15 5UQ**

Chaired by Rt. Hon Darren Paffey MP,
with contributions from:

- Prof Fiona Woollard (Southampton University Philosophy Dept)
- Mr Tejalkumar Chordiya (Jainism)
- Dr Harjeet Singh Virk (Portsmouth Hospitals University Trust - Sikhism)
- Dr Aiman Alzetani (SUHT - Islam)
- Prof Julian Hughes (Bristol Medical School - Roman Catholic)
- Rev Dr Ben Kautzer (Parish Priest - Church of England)

Please register by Eventbrite <https://tinyurl.com/mzv9xa9f>

Suggested donation: £5 towards costs & donation to
The Mountbatten Hospice

Doors will open at 7.00pm - Parking available

CAFOD & CARITAS NEWS

URGENT MYANMAR EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

CAFOD is running an emergency Myanmar Earthquake Appeal to provide water, food, solar lights, mosquito nets and water purification tablets to those devastated by this disaster. Their generosity will extend far and wide and will help the Catholic Church in Myanmar bring comfort and relief to families who are in urgent need. Donate at www.cafod.org.uk/myanmar



Are you looking for a way to Care for Creation and build a better world?

Register for our Laudato Si' Animators program! Laudato Si' Animators are members of the Laudato Si Movement, a global community of prayer and action, who animate their local parishes and communities to engage in ecological spirituality, sustainable lifestyles and advocacy for climate and ecological justice. Animators work to bring Pope Francis's encyclical Laudato Si' to life and care for our common home. The **registration deadline is April 16** and the first live session of the training is on **April 30**. <https://laudatosi animators.org/>

To celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the publication of Laudato Si', Caritas and CAFOD are holding an event **Saturday 10th May, 10am-1pm, St Peter's Winchester** to look at the practical actions we all can take to care for our common home. Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/yckb39e3>

EASTER EGG COLLECTION TO SEAFARERS



Stella Maris Chaplains and Volunteer Ship Visitors will be visiting ships in our Southern ports during Holy Week and after Easter, and expect to bring this great celebration to many hundreds of seafarers who remain confined to their ships at this time, without the prospect of taking shore leave or visiting a church.

Together with faith materials, we would like to offer Easter Eggs and chocolates, the international symbol of celebration of this Solemnity of Solemnities, and would greatly appreciate the support of your parish/school/group in our Stella Maris Easter Egg appeal.

Can you help us by donating Easter eggs and chocolates? Your gift may be the only gift a seafarer receives this Easter. Collection basket can be found in the church porch.