

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

28 April 2024

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

“I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit”
John 15:5

**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: Rachel Brady (023 8055 5470)

Confessions: After 10 am Mass on Saturdays

Hall Bookings: contact the parish secretary

PARISH OFFICE OPEN NEXT WEEK: Tuesday - Friday, 9.30 am – 2.30 pm

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

Date	Solemnities & Feast days	Times & Liturgies		Mass Intentions
Sun 28 April	FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Janine Spencer Jolanta
Mon 29 April	St Catherine of Siena	-	No Mass	-
Tues 30 April	of the 5 th Week of Easter	9.00 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic adoration Mass	John Ford RIP
Weds 01 May	of the 5 th Week of Easter	10.00 am 6.00 pm	Eucharistic Service Eucharistic Adoration	
Thurs 02 May	St Athanasius	10.00 am	Mass	Kate Paler RIP
Fri 03 May	Ss Philip & James	9.00 am 9.30 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic adoration Rosary Mass	-
Sat 04 May	The English Martyrs	10.00 am	Mass	-
Sun 05 May	SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Winifred McDonnell RIP -



READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY

1st Reading: Acts 9:26-31

Psalm: 22:26-27,28,30,31-32

2nd Reading: 1 John 3:18-24

Gospel: John 15:1-8

SECOND COLLECTIONS:

SUNDAY 28TH APRIL No Second Collection

SUNDAY 4TH MAY – CAFOD Sudan Crisis Emergency Appeal

NEXT WEEK IN THE PARISH:

Tues 30th - Coffee morning after 10.00 am Mass

Weds 1st - Eucharistic Adoration 6 pm in the lady chapel

Thurs 2nd - Community Social/Activity group – Gardening
10.30 am, in the hall. All welcome

- Choir Practice 7.30 pm in the church. Anyone
welcome to join.

Sat 4th - Maintenance morning 10.30 am – meet in the hall

Sun 5th - Refreshments in the hall – after 10.30 am Mass

TODAY'S GOSPEL REFLECTION:

Seeking to be Pruned

Jesus said to his disciples: “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and every one that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit. You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you.” [John 15:1-3](#)

Pruning a vine is an important part of helping it to grow and produce not only more fruit but the best fruit. If left unpruned, a grape vine will eventually produce less fruit and poorer quality fruit. Good pruning helps to direct the nourishment of the vine to the new buds that are most fruitful.

Jesus’ teaching above uses the imagery of pruning a vine to help us understand that faith must lead to charity. First, Jesus says that He is the “true vine.” He is the only source of the nourishment we need for the new life of grace. He is the only way to Heaven and salvation. Knowing our Lord and being attached to Him firmly is faith. Second, our Lord says

that He takes away every branch that does not bear fruit. This indicates that faith without the good fruit of charity is dead and is like a branch on a vine that produces nothing. Third, when Jesus finds a branch that bears good fruit, he doesn't leave it alone. Instead, He prunes it with loving attention so that "it bears more fruit."

To apply these teachings to your own life, begin by looking at your faith as if it were a branch firmly attached to a vine. Do you believe all that God has spoken through His holy Word? It is useful to regularly examine your conscience in regard to your faith. Since faith is the first step in the spiritual life, it must remain firmly grounded in the Truth God has revealed. This means we must regularly study the Word of God as it is revealed through the Scriptures and the catechetical teachings of the Church, and assent to those teachings with all our mind.

Next, after affirming your faith in all that God has spoken through the Scriptures and the Church, try to examine your charity. Do you see concrete acts of love in your life that result from your faith? In other words, we can "love" many things in a purely emotional sort of way. But charity is based on faith, not on how we feel. Charity is the fruit of faith. What acts of charity can you point to in your life? What have you sensed God calling you to do in a selfless and sacrificial way? Have you done it?

Finally, when you discover the ways that charity is alive within you, know that God will focus His pruning there. Pruning can be painful. It will require sacrifice, patience in the face of trial, overcoming selfishness, and doing things you don't feel like doing. In fact, sometimes God even makes charitable acts seem unpleasant as a way of pruning your motivations and making them more pure, based more on faith than on emotion. But this is good.

Reflect, today, upon this holy imagery from Jesus. It's a lesson from nature that reveals the supernatural life of grace at work. Don't be deterred by the pruning God wants to do. Embrace suffering with love, respond to injustice with forgiveness, offer mercy when you don't feel like it, and seek to serve selflessly those who seem undeserving. Doing so will prune you so that God will be able to build up His Kingdom in glorious ways through you.

A reflection for 5th Sunday of Easter, Yr B
www.mycatholic.life

PARISH NOTICES

TEA & COFFEE AFTER 10.30 AM MASS

Please join us. All welcome.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE MORNING

Saturday 4th May, 10.30 am - Meet in the hall

Could you help us with carrying out checks around our buildings and grounds to enable us to maintain our property and meet legal requirements. There are also minor maintenance tasks which we need some help with, a list of which will be available on the day.

This is a vital task for as many parishioners in our community to help with. Without this our parish home will fall into a state of neglect causing danger to those using the buildings and grounds, together with huge repair bills, of which we would have to pay for from parish funds collected from you as parishioners, which we cannot afford. Please do come and help with this task. The more who help, the smaller the load for each of us.

PARISH BBQ – Sunday 12th May

Please join us for a BBQ lunch after 10.30 am Mass on Sunday 12th May. All the usual BBQ food plus refreshments and cakes – **we need bakers to donate cakes!** All proceeds raised will support the parish and Emergency Relief Fund. If you would like to help in any way, please speak to Anastasia after 10.30 am Mass.

LOST PROPERTY - Two Caps- Black & Navy Blue on the way to a Charity Shop if not claimed within the next 2 weeks!

Date for the diary!

PARISH SUMMER FAIR

Saturday 13th July

We are once again collecting donations for a raffle, tombola, plants, cakes etc. If you have any donations you would like to offer, please bring them to the hall after Masses. If anyone would like to organise a stall or help in any way, please talk to Anastasia after 10.30 am Mass.

BLESSING OF THE WATERS, ROGATION DAY, Onboard the steamship Shieldhall, Southampton Docks Sunday 5th May, 2.30 pm

This is one of Valerie Laurent's final events as the Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor of Southampton and Admiral of the Port, and also Fr Anthony's final public event as the Lord Mayor's Chaplain, where he will be involved in leading this short service.

Live music, tea and refreshments will be provided, plus an opportunity to visit the engine room. All are invited to join this event.

All funds will go to the Lord Mayor's three chosen charities: Saints Foundation, the Southampton Sea Cadets, and Southampton City Farm and the SS Shieldhall.

Tickets £5. Available from **Eventbrite:**

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/blessing-of-the-waters-tickets-658568214257?aff=ebdbsbdestsearch&keep_tld=1

**KITCHEN EQUIPMENT
AVAILABLE TO TAKE AWAY TODAY!**

Having cleared out our old kitchen to make way for the new one, we now have a lot of surplus kitchen items plus one or two other goods. These will all be laid out on tables in the hall this Sunday to browse through after both Masses and take whatever you would like. Anything left will go to charity next week.

INFANT BAPTISM PREPARATION

If you would like your baby/young child to be baptised, you will need to attend a baptism preparation session for parents. Next session:

Tuesday 7th May, 7.30 pm – 9.00 pm in the hall

Please contact the parish office to register your child for baptism and to attend the course.

COFFEE AFTER 8.30 AM SUNDAY MASS

Tea and Coffee is always served on the first Sunday of each month after the 8.30 am Mass. Please do come along as there are only a tiny number of people there these days! If you would be willing to help with setting up and serving refreshments your help would also be very welcome. If however, there seems to be no demand for this opportunity, we will consider discontinuing it in the near future.

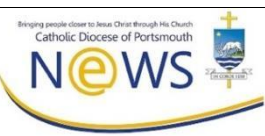
PARISH INCOME – MARCH 2024

Offertory	1,558.73
Gift Aid envelopes	230.00
Standing Orders/Direct Debits	3,074.00
Card machine	171.10
Online donations	605.00
Flowers for Easter	309.52
Repair Café refreshments	30.50
Refreshments after Masses	24.00
Cake Sale	85.15
Hall income	170.00
TOTAL	6,258

We have also received a generous legacy donation of 5402.44

OTHER SPECIAL COLLECTIONS/DONATIONS:

Clergy Assistance Fund	277.19
Emergency Relief Fund	20.00
TOTAL	297.19



**PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE
E NEWS & JOB VACANCIES**

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

<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue442?e=34c55ac6ce>

RUBY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CONGRATULATIONS!

John & Trish Bell are celebrating their 40th Wedding Anniversary on Sunday 5th May. They will be away that weekend celebrating but Trish is providing some cake after Mass on 12th May with the tea and coffee!

**VACANCY – PARISH ADMINISTRATOR
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, SOUTHAMPTON**

Part time, Salary approx £12.00 per hour
Full details of hours, salary and job spec to be confirmed next week.

After six remarkable years of service, our Parish Administrator, Rachel Brady, will be leaving her post on May 31st, 2024, to dedicate more time to her family. Throughout her tenure, she has been instrumental in supporting Frs Antony and Anthony and responding to the diverse needs of our parishioners. We wish to take this opportunity to thank her for her selfless service to our parish community.

As we express our gratitude to Rachel, we also look forward to welcoming a new Parish Administrator who will continue to serve our community. In this pivotal role, the administrator is required to demonstrate invaluable qualities such as patience, resilience, tact, diplomacy, flexibility, and a firm yet friendly demeanor. Their exceptional ability to manage and prioritize a dynamic workload, coupled with expertise in Office 365 and adeptness with technology, will significantly contribute to the efficient functioning of our parish office.

If you are interested in the role and would like to find out more about the associated responsibilities and expectations, I invite you to contact Rachel at 023 80555470 to schedule an informal discussion at the parish office.

Thank you for your continued support and participation in our parish community.

Fr. Anthony

VACANCIES – SPRINGHILL CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

We have two part time vacancies:

- Midday supervisory assistant
- Afterschool club playworker

Full details can be found on the school website at www.springhillcatholic.co.uk or for further info please contact the school office on 02380 333954

**A NEW CHRISTIAN FILM
ORDINARY ANGELS (12A)**

Showing at

**Showcase cinema, West Quay Shopping Centre
from TODAY Friday 26th April to Thurs. 2nd May
Performances are: 4.10pm and 5.40pm daily
and also: 10.30am on Monday and Thursday**

For trailer and details visit:

flicks.co.uk/movie/ordinary-angels/

"Very few movies have so well integrated Christian faith, values and entertainment" - Movieguide

Take a look at this 2-minute background film:

youtube.com/watch?v=pV-ijGVJUM4

CARITAS UPDATES

Caritas Plymouth invites you to an event for those interested in learning more about **modern slavery**, particularly in the care sector. There are some great speakers from the Medaille Trust and Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority.

Tuesday 30th April, 10.30 – 12.30

Church hall, St Marys Catholic Church, 211A Wimborne Road, Poole, BH15 2EG.

Please register beforehand at:

<https://forms.office.com/e/zUCKyENMNH>

Latest issue of Caritas Portsmouth Newsletter:

<https://mailchi.mp/3bb303fb8b15/caritas-portsmouth-news>

Dementia Friend Information session.

Tuesday 21st May at 7pm

This event will run on MS Teams and a link will be available next week.

Refugee Week (17th-23rd June),

online networking lunch event **Tuesday 18th June**. Link to be made available nearer the time.

Exploring how we can support refugees and asylum seekers in our parishes.

DIOCESAN FREE WILLS SERVICE

The Diocese has partnered with market-leading solicitors and will-writing providers to offer anyone over 18 basic simple or mirror Will for free. Whether you would like to write your Will in-person, online or over the 'phone, you will be expertly supported throughout a quick and straightforward process. There is no obligation to leave your Parish a gift in your Will, but a gift of this kind is an opportunity to make a lasting gift to the Church, and we hope many will choose to do so. More information can be found at: Make your FREE Will - Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth, (portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

CAFOD & SVP - A YEAR OF ENCOUNTER

With a UK general election due sometime this year, politicians will be looking for our votes. We have a responsibility as Catholics to make sure that parties commit to tackling issues such as poverty and injustice. Raising our voices and contacting parliamentary candidates as a parish community will send a strong signal to those standing for election in our local constituencies. *A Year of Encounter* is a joint initiative between CAFOD and St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP), equipping Catholics to ask key questions of local candidates at the key moments. Please see cafod.org.uk/encounter for more information, including an online session on Saturday 4th May to learn more.

FRENCH INTERN STUDENT SEEKING ACCOMMODATION FOR 2 MONTHS – MAY & JUNE

Age 18, Catholic French student. Seeking affordable temporary accommodation from 4th May – 30th June, ideally in a committed practicing Catholic home in the Portswood area. If you think you could help, please contact the parish office for contact details as soon as possible.

DIOCESAN EVENTS:

A Day for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

Saturday 4th May 2024, 9:30am – 2:30pm

A Day for Readers:

Saturday 19th October 2024, 9:30am – 2:30pm

All Eucharistic Ministers and Readers around the diocese are encouraged to attend these events which will be held at St Bede's Church, Basingstoke, RG24 9DX. Hosted by the Diocesan Liturgy Formation Team Please RSVP to liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

22 – 26 July 2024

If you would like to participate in this year's pilgrimage, please contact sfield@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Retreat – Our Father in Heaven

St Peters Church Pastoral Centre, Winchester

3 – 4 May 2024

Pope Francis has asked that this year is dedicated to a year of prayer focused on the Lord's prayer, in preparation for the Jubilee Year 2025. Starts on Friday evening and continues through the day on Saturday.

Please register by Monday 29th April at:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/year-of-prayer-our-father-in-heaven-retreat-days-fri-3-pm-and-sat-4-may-tickets-877957062207?aff=oddttdcreato>

Once you have registered, you will receive further details nearer to the date of the event.

MASS IN CANTONESE

Monday 6th May

Holy Cross Church, 53 Leigh Rd, Eastleigh SO50 9DF

Celebrated by Fr Bruno Lepu, MEP, who served as a priest in Hong Kong for many years. He will also hear confessions in Cantonese before Mass. Refreshments will be served after Mass.

2 pm – Confessions

3 pm – Mass

4 – 6 pm – Refreshments served

It would be helpful to have an idea of numbers beforehand. If possible please sign up using the goole form here: <https://forms.gle/gvQbZkjNt775aXPY7>