



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

"I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it." - Matthew 13:1-23

Address: 346 Portswood Road, Southampton, SO17 3SB

Tel: (023) 8055 5470

Email: office@immaculateconception.church

Website: www.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 OFFICE TIMINGS: Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday 9:00-3 pm, Friday 9-4pm, Monday Closed

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

 ALL MASSES LISTED BELOW ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE TO JOIN LIVE on our website or www.churchservices.tv/portswoodchur

Solemnities, Feast days & Memorials	Times & Liturgies		Mass Intentions
Sun 12 July FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Sea Sunday – Stella Maris	8.30 am	Mass	Joao & Angela Azavedo - 25 th Wedding Anniversary, Jenice Azavedo - Birthday
	10.30 am	Mass	Arthur Maxfield Death anniversary RIP
Mon 13 July St Henry	-NO MASS-		
Tue 14 July St Camillus of Lellis	9.00 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration Mass	Restful Soul of Beatrice Uzoekwe & Charles Okoye
Wed 15 July St Swithun	10 am 6 pm	Mass Eucharistic Adoration	Emelda Che RIP
Thu 16 July Our Lady of Mount Carmel	10 am	Mass	--
Fri 17 July St Bonaventure	9.00 am 9.30 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration Rosary Mass	Karenza Michels Birthday RIP
Sat 18 July Our Lady on Saturday	10 am	Mass	Dineth Fernando in Thanksgiving
Sun 19 July SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Family Mass	John Coffey RIP Sheila Gorham RIP



Thought for the Week: *"Humanity, created by God in all its grandeur, is today facing a pivotal choice: either to construct a new Tower of Babel or to build the city in which God and humanity dwell together. Each generation inherits the task of shaping its own era, of guiding history to become a place where the dignity of every person is safeguarded, justice is promoted and fraternity is made possible. Yet every era also runs the risk of creating an inhumane and more unjust world." (Pope Leo XIV, Magnifica Humanitas, 1.)*

SUNDAY READINGS



1st Reading: Isaiah 55:10-11

Psalm: Ps 65(64):10a-d. 10e-11. 12-13.
14. R Luke 8:8

2nd Reading: Romans 8:18-23

Gospel: Matthew 13:1-23

OTHER REGULAR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

All are welcome to join!

- Mon- Cooking with Confidence 11 am – 1 pm, Church Hall kitchen
- Tues- Tea & Coffee after 10 am Mass – Church Hall
- Thurs- Maintaining the parish gardens – from 10:30 am
Multicultural group – 10:30 am in the Church Hall
- Sun- Refreshments after 10.30 am Mass-Church Hall

The Generous Sower Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

“A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and birds came and ate it up...” [Matthew 13:3-4](#)

In today's Gospel, the Parable of the Sower is delivered from a boat, as Jesus addresses a large crowd along the shoreline. Jesus uses the natural acoustics of the water to carry His voice to the eager multitude who came to hear Him. Their earnestness offers us an opportunity for self-examination: Am I among that crowd, attentively listening as God speaks to me today? Do I go out of my way to seek, listen, and respond to the Word of God?

A parable is a method that both reveals and conceals. It reveals divine truth to those who are humble and receptive, and conceals that same truth from those whose hearts are closed. The truths of the Kingdom are not concepts that can be quickly grasped. They are divine mysteries that must enter the soul and be pondered and nourished. Only the spiritually docile can penetrate their depths and allow God's Word to transform their lives.

The Sower is Christ. The seed is the Word of God, and the soil represents the human heart, in all its various conditions of readiness and receptivity. Some souls await God's Word like freshly tilled, moist, and fertilized soil. As soon as the seed enters, it begins to grow rapidly—until fully grown and producing good fruit.

Other souls are less receptive. Like the path, some hearts are hardened, stubborn, refusing to receive divine truth. The Word is heard, but not truly received. The enemy snatches it away before it can penetrate.

Hearts that are like rocky ground are those who initially receive the Word with joy but lack perseverance. When trials come, they fall away. They may attend Mass, read Scripture, or begin with fervor, but without deep interior conversion rooted in prayer, they cannot endure the heat of testing.

The thorny heart is the divided heart, where the Word of God is mixed with anxieties, riches, and pleasures. The Gospel is heard—perhaps even cherished—but it is suffocated by worldly attachments, ambition, or fear. Earthly anxieties and the fascination of riches are thorns that smother the soul and prevent it from growing.

The good news is that God, the Divine Sower, is not passive. He sows the seed Himself—personally, directly, and abundantly. He is not like a remote monarch seated on a distant throne, waiting for us to come to Him. No—God always takes the initiative. He goes forth like the sower, casting His seed upon us even before we ask.

The seed comes to us in two essential ways: truth and grace. As truth, God's Word enlightens the intellect to know His eternal mysteries. As grace, God's Word strengthens the will to embrace and live those truths with faith and charity. The Divine Sower sows lavishly. He casts the seed everywhere—on the path, among the rocks, amidst thorns, and upon rich earth. This is not careless, but the work of Divine Mercy. God desires that all be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. Even where the ground seems hardened, shallow, or choked with thorns, He still sows. He never ceases to speak, to reach out, to invite. He sows even in places we might deem hopeless—until the final moment, when the time for sowing is ended.



Reflect today on God's generous and continuous sowing in your soul. He never ceases speaking to you, calling to you, and planting His Word within you. How receptive are you? Which soil best describes your soul? It's never too late to respond in this life. God's Word can grow rapidly within us when our souls are fertile and receptive. Remove the rocks, cut down the thorns, and till the hardened path, so that the abundant seed will make its way into your heart.

A reflection from www.mycatholic.life

Second collection - 12 July 2026 - Sea Sunday – Stella Maris – The Apostleship of the Sea

Seafarers and fishers play a vital role in all of our lives, but they often work in difficult, hazardous conditions. Sea Sunday is Sunday 12th July. It is when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. Your support will make a big difference to seafarers and fishers in need. You can donate in church, by visiting www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate, or by texting 'SEA' to 70460 to donate £5. This collection is vital to enable Stella Maris to continue its important work, so please give generously. Thank you.



PARISH NOTICES

Cleaner Vacancy - Parish of the Immaculate Conception, Portswood



We are looking for a reliable and dedicated Cleaner to help maintain our church premises and presbytery to a high standard, ensuring they remain clean, safe, and welcoming for worship and parish life.

This vital role supports the dignity of our spaces and the mission of the Parish by fostering a respectful and well-cared-for environment for all.

Interested applicants are warmly invited to contact the Parish Office for further details.

Wessex Rotary Shoebox Appeal



We are once again supporting the Wessex Rotary Shoebox Scheme, which sends shoeboxes filled with gifts to disadvantaged children in Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, and Ukraine (via Poland), ensuring they receive them in time for Christmas. Shoeboxes are available from the church porch or the parish office. We look forward to receiving your filled shoeboxes. Thank you for your generosity and kindness. For more information, please contact Norman Fairchild or parish office.

For guidance on what items may be included in the boxes, please visit: www.wessexrotaryshoebox.org.uk

Thank you for helping to bring joy and hope to children in need.

Parish upcoming events

- Older Teenage Group (Ages 11–16) will meet 6:30–8:30 pm on Friday 17 July.
Leaders: Bwalya, Mweetwa and Night.

Cake Sales – Summer Break



Please note that there will be no cake sales during July and August. Our cake sales will resume in September.

Thank you for your continued support, and we wish everyone a happy and restful summer 🍰

Wedding Mass

Wedding Mass will be celebrated at the church on **25 July at 10 am** as Night & Emil join together in the Sacrament of Marriage.

Please note that there will be no regular 10 am Mass or Confessions on this day. We kindly ask parishioners, where possible, to leave parking spaces available for the wedding guests and their families. Please keep the couple in your prayers that God will bless them with a lifetime of love and happiness together.



ICC Income for the month of June 2026

Income

Bookshop	57.56
Candles	7.00
Closer to Christ	750.00
Repair Café refreshments	39.50
Polish BBQ	11.50
Cake Sale	82.00
DONA	357.14
Envelopes	220.40
On Line Giving	219.00
Offertory	1,714.69
Standing Orders & DDs	3,052.00
Total Income	6,510.79

Special Collections

Day For Life	67.95
Peter's Pence	107.72
Total	175.67

Thank you for your continued generosity and support

Hosepipe ban

Southern Water has introduced a hosepipe ban across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight from Friday 10 July following record-breaking heatwaves and low reservoir levels. Residents are being asked to start reducing their water use now to help protect local water supplies and precious chalk streams.

Current Diocesan Job Vacancies

- [Parish Administrator, Maidenhead & Twyford](#)
- [Parish Administrator, Basingstoke](#)
- **Cleaner Vacancy - Parish of the Immaculate Conception**

Raising awareness of domestic abuse during the football World Cup

With 2026 football World Cup now underway, it is a time of coming together in celebration. It is also likely to be accompanied by an increase in domestic abuse incidents, fuelled by heightened emotions, alcohol and other economic/social pressures. A [study](#) by Lancaster University found that domestic abuse increased by 38% when England lost a match and by 26% when they won or drew, with a further 11% rise the following day regardless of the result (Solace Women's Aid, Women's Aid, Crown Prosecution Service). Please pay attention to those around you, particularly if you already have concerns. If someone is in immediate danger call 999. The National Domestic Abuse hotline is 0808 2000 247. For more information, contact Caritas at caritas@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or safeguarding@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

Obituary



Rowena McComb, who died on 4 July, just a few weeks after her 97th birthday, was a long-time parishioner of the Immaculate Conception. For many years she served the parish playing the organ, enriching the liturgy with her music. In her forties, she married Desmond, whom she had met at church. Following his death in 2020, Rowena often spoke of her gratitude to God for the wonderful marriage they had shared. She continued to have Holy Communion each Sunday, even as it gradually became more of a struggle for her to read the Gospel, until she peacefully faded away, grateful to still be in her own home. Funeral details to follow soon.

Wishing you all a blessed week ahead. Take care and stay well hydrated in the summer heat.