



# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

*“You received without paying;  
give without pay” - Matthew 9:36-10:8*

**Address:** 346 Portswood Road, Southampton, SO17 3SB  
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**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](mailto: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 LISTED BELOW ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE TO JOIN LIVE AT [www.churchservices.tv/portswoodchur](http://www.churchservices.tv/portswoodchur)

Solemnities, Feast days & Memorials	Times & Liturgies		Mass Intentions
Sun 14 June ELEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME	8.30 am	Mass	--
	10.30 am	Mass	Trevor Delves RIP
Mon 15 June of the 11 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	<b>-NO MASS-</b>		
Tue 16 June St Richard of Chichester	9.00 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration Mass	Baby Adam RIP & Finlay Channlay get well soon
Wed 17 June of the 11 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	10.00 am 6 pm	Mass Eucharistic Adoration	Emelda Che RIP
Thu 18 June of the 11 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	10 am	Mass	Mary Josephine Shanahan RIP
Fri 19 June St Romuald	9.00 am 9.30 am 10.00 am 1.00 pm	Eucharistic Adoration Rosary Mass Funeral Mass for Dr Trevor	Trevor Delves RIP
Sat 20 June Our Lady on Saturday	10 am	Mass	--
Sun 21 June TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.30 am	Mass	--
	10.30 am	Mass	--

*Thought for the Week "The quality of a civilisation is measured not by the power of its means, but by the care it is able to offer, by its capacity to recognise a face in the other person and not merely a function." (Pope Leo: Magnifica Humanitas)*

## SUNDAY READINGS



1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Exodus 19:2-6a

Psalm: Ps 100(99):1-2. 3. 5. R3C

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Romans 5:6-11

Gospel: Matthew 9:36-10:8

## OTHER REGULAR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

- Mon- Cooking with Confidence 10 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

### TODAY'S GOSPEL REFLECTION: *Driven by Divine Compassion*

At the sight of the crowds, his heart was moved with pity for them because they were troubled and abandoned, like sheep without a shepherd. [Matthew 9:36](#)

As Jesus went “to all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and curing every disease and illness” ([Matthew 9:35](#)), He was moved with deep compassion for the crowds. The Greek verb *splagchnizomai* is often translated as “moved with pity” or “moved with compassion.” It appears twelve times in the Gospels—eight times describing Jesus’ own compassion and four times illustrating divine mercy in parables or related contexts (the Good Samaritan, the Prodigal Son, the Unforgiving Servant, and the plea of a father for his demon-possessed son). This verb conveys not just an emotional response but a profound stirring of His entire being, compelling Him to act with divine mercy—engaging His mind, will, body, and emotions.

Understanding this verb is essential because it unveils the very heart of Christ’s mission, where His divine mercy is fully manifest in His humanity. Though His mercy originates in His divinity, He fully lived and expressed it in His human nature, allowing it to consume Him entirely and drive Him to shepherd His people.

Jesus’ all-consuming compassion should profoundly console us. God does not love us out of mere divine obligation; His love is deeply personal, intimate, and relentless. He is not distant or impersonal, aloof in His perfection. In Christ, God’s mercy is made visible—His human heart is stirred to action, doing everything He can to draw us closer to Himself. This is why His compassion is such a source of reassurance: He is not a distant or angry God, standing far off to condemn.

Rather, He is the God who, in Christ, allows Himself to be consumed with mercy, driven by compassion, and moved to act for the salvation of each one of us.

That same profound mercy continues to flow from the Sacred Heart today. In Heaven, Christ’s human heart remains inseparably united to His divinity, pouring forth the love of the Father and the Holy Spirit upon the world. His compassion is made present to us through His Church, especially in the Sacraments and in the lives of saintly men and women. This same compassion must become the driving force behind all we do for the Kingdom. We are called to be His living instruments of mercy, reflecting His Sacred Heart in our actions, words, and love for others—so that each of us might be reassured of God’s unfailing love.

We see in today’s Gospel that Jesus’ compassion moved Him to send out twelve of His disciples as His Apostles, entrusting them with His divine authority to proclaim the Kingdom of God, cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, and drive out demons. They were to be His chosen instruments of mercy, reaching out to the lost sheep of the house of Israel—those in dire need of God’s truth and healing grace.

Today, Jesus sends each of us forth in a unique way to be a beacon of light and mercy to others. He first calls us to love those closest to us—our family and friends—not in an ordinary way, but in a radical self-giving that mirrors His own love. We must allow our whole beings to be moved with divine compassion for them, reassuring them of both our love and God’s love. But our mission cannot end there. After loving our families, we must extend that same compassion to all whom God places in our lives, offering the same depth of mercy that filled Jesus’ Sacred Heart long ago.

Reflect today on Jesus’ divine compassion from two perspectives. First, gaze at His overflowing love for you. There is no way to overestimate that love. Second, allow that love to transform you so that His mercy flows through you into the lives of others. Do not hold back the love of God—let it pour forth freely and abundantly. Let His divine compassion move your entire being so that you become a true instrument of His mercy, drawing souls to Him through the power of love and all-consuming compassion.

## Day For Life - Second Collection 2026

This year's collection is on Sunday 21 June and the theme is 'The Wonder of the Child in the Womb'

On Sunday 21 June 2026, Catholics across England and Wales will mark Day for Life, the day in the Church's year dedicated to raising awareness about the meaning and value of human life at every stage and in every condition.

This year's theme is 'The Wonder of the Child in the Womb'. Parenthood is a vocation of joys and hopes, of grief and anxieties. On this year's Day for Life, we acknowledge the particular grief of mothers and fathers who have lost a child before birth or in infancy. Many parents find consolation in their faith and its assurance that every child, including those who lose their life before they are born or soon after, is created, willed and deeply loved by God from all eternity. Here's the [link to the Give As You Live donation page](#).

## PARISH NOTICES

### Fr Anthony's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination

We joyfully celebrate our parish priest, Fr Anthony's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination on 27<sup>th</sup> June at 1:30 pm, followed by refreshments in the parish hall. Fr Anthony will be joined by a classmate of his, Fr Gaston Afah, and a group from the Catholic Men Association and friends. All are warmly invited to join us for this happy occasion.



### Sacramental life in the Parish - Deadline

- Please note that the registration deadline is **15 June** for those interested in receiving **First Holy Communion 2027** (aged 9+), and **Confirmation** (aged 13–17). For all enquiries, please complete the form using the link or QR code below. Alternatively, feel free to contact the Parish Office or speak directly with Fr Anthony or Deacon Gerard.



[Sacramental Initial Interest Form](#)

- RCIA – A New Beginning Together: Our RCIA Reunion takes place this week on **Tuesday 16th June at 7:15pm**. We warmly invite all who have completed the RCIA programme over the past three years to join us for this first gathering of ongoing support, fellowship, and formation.

### Housebound Parishioners

Our parish is currently updating our list of housebound parishioners.

If you or a relative are unable to attend Mass due to poor health, illness or mobility challenges, please kindly contact the parish office.

We would be very happy to arrange a visit and stay connected with you.

### St Joseph's Men's Group – A Space for Faith and Fellowship

In response to a growing desire for mutual support and fraternity, we are pleased to launch a new Men's Group in the parish under the patronage of St Joseph. This group will meet once a month on a Tuesday, offering a relaxed and welcoming space where men can come together to explore topics of their choice, reflect on the life and virtues of St Joseph, and support one another in faith and daily life. If you are interested in being part of this new initiative, please add your name to the sign-up sheet available in the porch. The group will begin in June, and all men of the parish are warmly invited.

### Rev Kevin Bidgood R.I.P. funeral

The Funeral, a Requiem Mass, will be held at 12:30pm on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2026 at St Edmund's Church, Southampton, followed by burial at Southampton cemetery.

### Memorial Mass

On 4<sup>th</sup> July 2026, there will be a memorial mass for Fr Shaun Budden and Fr Kevin Bidgood at 10am followed by refreshments in the hall. Fr Shaun and Fr Kevin were both integral to our parish community. We give thanks for their lives and service, and all are warmly invited to join us in prayer and remembrance

### Southampton Council of Faiths – Peace Walk

The Southampton Council of Faiths warmly invites everyone to take part in a Peace Walk on Sunday 28th June. The walk will begin at 12:30pm from the Queen's Fountain in East Park (City Centre) and will bring together people of all faiths sharing their prayers and thoughts for PEACE IN THE CITY AND WORLDWIDE. All are welcome. Let us walk together for peace.

### Repair Cafe

The next Repair Cafe at Immaculate Conception church hall, will be held on Saturday 20 June from 10.30am till 12.30pm. We undertake to try fixing jewellery, sewing repairs, electric & electronic repairs, bike & scooter repairs and many other items for a donation of your choice. Whilst awaiting your turn, we have refreshments including delicious homemade cakes. Please tell your family and friends about this opportunity and we look forward to seeing you there. Eleanor and team.



### Healing Prayer Evening

All welcome (Faith, no Faith, need healing or just curious)  
**on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June @ 7:30 pm**

At Holy Saviour, Bitterne Church, Bursledon Rd,  
Southampton SO19 7LW

Praise & Worship, Music, Talk and Prayer  
Holy Spirit is alive & active, enabling us to heal in Jesus' name.

For more information, please contact Steve 07540229973  
*Please note that this Healing Prayer Evening is **not organised by the parish**. However, parishioners are very welcome to attend **on an individual basis***

### Funeral



Brian Physick with his late wife, Eleanor, married for 61 years.

### Mr Brian Physick

Requiem Mass:

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2026, 11 am

At Immaculate Conception Church

Committal:

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2026, 1:15 pm

Southampton Crematorium West