

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

16th June 2024

ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“To what shall we compare the kingdom of God?

It is like a mustard seed... once it is sown it springs up and becomes the largest of plants... .”

Mark 4:30-32

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


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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: 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 16 June	ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	- Maria Bibbo RIP
Mon 17 June	Feria	-	No Mass	
Tues 18 June	Feria	9.00 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic adoration Mass	Mary Josephine Shanahan RIP
Weds 19 June	St Romuald	10.00 am 6.00 pm	Mass Eucharistic adoration	-
Thurs 20 June	St Alban	10.00 am	Mass	-
Fri 21 June	St Aloysius Gonzaga	9.00 9.30 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic adoration Rosary Mass	-
Sat 22 June	Ss John Fisher & Thomas More	10.00 am	Mass	-
Sun 23 June	TWELVETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Margaret Davis RIP -

 <p>READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY 1st Reading: Exodus 17:22-24 Psalm: 92:2-3,13-14,15-16 2nd Reading: 2 Corinthinans 5:6-10 Gospel: Mark 4:26-34</p>	<p>NEXT WEEK IN THE PARISH: Tues 18th - Coffee morning after 10.00 am Mass Thurs 20th - Community Social/Activity group 10.30 am, in the hall. All welcome - Choir Practice 7.30 pm in the church. Anyone welcome to join. Sat 22nd - One Big Southampton Parish – shared lunch, progress update and discussions. Everyone invited – 12.30 pm in, the hall</p>
<p>SECOND COLLECTIONS: SUNDAY 9TH JUNE – Day for Life SUNDAY 16TH JUNE – No Second Collection</p>	

TODAY'S GOSPEL REFLECTION:

The Mysteries of the Kingdom

With many such parables he spoke the word to them as they were able to understand it. Without parables he did not speak to them, but to his own disciples he explained everything in private. Mark 4:33-34

The deepest mysteries of our faith can only be understood by someone who has deep faith. Understanding requires much more than just a keen intellect; it also requires an interior attentiveness to and familiarity with the voice of God. For that reason, as Jesus spoke to the crowds, He used parables and figures of speech rather than speaking directly about the mysteries of Heaven.

By analogy, if you were to attend a very special feast and you had well-formed taste buds, you might enjoy being served the best cut of meat cooked to perfection with a fine glass of wine. But to a small child, such a meal might not be that appealing.

The same is true with music. If you were a musician who studied and played music throughout life, then you might have a greater appreciation for certain types of music. Others might simply be drawn to a certain type of music by the beat or because it has catchy lyrics.

In a similar way, a person who has only a little faith might not be immediately drawn into the deepest mystical truths of God when they are explained directly and clearly. Instead, they might find that a simplified Gospel message that uses familiar imagery or stories is better able to catch their attention and communicate the message.

This is good to understand because it's good for us to turn to the means of communication with God most suited for our depth of faith and understanding. For most people, it will be very useful to see themselves as one of those people in the crowds to whom Jesus spoke His parables. We should especially see ourselves as a part of the crowds as we begin our journey of faith. However, when a person has spent much time in prayer and meditation over the years and their faith begins to deepen, they may find that parables and stories are not as inspiring as they once were. They need more. They long for God to speak to them more clearly and deeply.

Practically speaking, as your faith grows, it is good to look for the deeper ways that God speaks to you. How does He come to you and explain His will and the truths of faith more directly as Jesus did to the Apostles? Perhaps reading the lives of the saints, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, or some other spiritual book will engage you more deeply. Also, some Scripture passages may feed you more as you grow in faith, such as the passages where Jesus speaks more directly to His disciples.

Reflect, today, upon the way that you are most fully fed by God's holy Word at this point in your life. The best way to identify this is to consider what it is that has given you the most consolation and inspiration as of late. How has God's Word most powerfully resonated within you over this past year? Identifying the way that God has spoken to you recently is the best way to decide how to continue to receive from Him all that He wants to teach you and reveal to you at this point of your journey of faith. Continue to seek out God's voice, and be open to letting Him draw you ever more deeply into the beautiful depths of the mysteries of His Kingdom.

A reflection for the Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Yr B
www.mycatholic.life

PARISH NOTICES

TEA & COFFEE AFTER SUNDAY 10.30 AM MASS

Please join us in the hall for the usual refreshments after Mass today.

VACANCY, PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

Immaculate Conception Church, Southampton

20-25 hrs per week.

Full details can be found on the diocesan website at:
<https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/about-us/people/careers/>

'ONE BIG PARISH'

UPDATE, DISCUSSION AND SHARED LUNCH

Sat 22 June, 12:30 - 4:00pm, Immaculate Conception Hall

Over the next few years we shall be evolving as one large parish made up of the communities at Immaculate Conception, St Boniface, St Edmunds and St Josephs, Holy Family, St Vincent de Paul and St Teresa's in Totton. This afternoon is an opportunity for all to hear about the process of implementation of the Plan for our group of churches over the coming months, and to input your own thoughts. All are welcome to this event and it would be great to see some of our Immaculate Conception parishioners there.

(Please bring some food for a shared lunch)

If you have any queries, please do email the parish office or speak to Fr Anthony or Deacon Gerard.

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.

REGISTRATION FOR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2025

The registration dates for the future FHC programmes are now being aligned with rest of the Southampton Deanery. Registration for next year's FHC will open on June 3rd and close in September in all the local parishes.

If you would like your child to make their First Holy Communion, they should be over the age of 8 or in year 4 or above at school and they should register for the programme taking place at the parish in which they would normally attend Mass. They should be attending Mass with their family as regularly as possible.

Registration forms for the programme at Immaculate Conception are available from the parish office by email, from the parish website or from the church porch. Completed forms should be returned to the parish office.

FUNERAL – Kevin O'Shea RIP

Kevin's funeral will be at Immaculate Conception Church on **Monday 1st July, 2 pm**, followed by a gathering in the hall for anyone who knew him.

NEW LECTIONARY & MISSALS

Our grateful appreciation to a kind doner who has offered to buy the new lectionaries we are required by the church to use from the beginning of Advent 2024. Congregational Missals available after this date will also be based on the updated lectionary. Therefore, **new 3 year cycle Sunday Missals are available to order in our bookshop**. The price is likely to be approximately £19. If you would like to pre-order one, please visit the bookshop after Sunday Mass, to leave your details and a £10 deposit.

REFUGEE WEEK 17 – 23 JUNE 2024

Each story of migration is different, but most people arriving on our shores share feelings of loss and fragmentation. The events below taking place this week provide some opportunities for gaining a better understanding and insight into the lives of refugees and to show friendship and solidarity with them.

Refugee Week
Lots of free events
Everybody welcome
Come in your national dress!

Monday 17th June
Poetic drama performance
1pm, Central Library

Wednesday 19th June
Film screenings and Q&A
7pm, MAST Mayflower Studios

Saturday 22nd June
Information stall - children's art
11am, Above Bar
Carnival Parade
1pm, Above Bar to Palmerston Park
Community picnic
Food - music - dancing - games
2-5pm, Palmerston Park
Banner-making workshop

For more details, see our webpage:

www.avvg-refugees.org.uk

Refugee Week 17-23 June 2024
#RefugeeWeek #SimpleActs #OurHome

GO! SOUTHAMPTON
MAST Mayflower Studios
SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL

CARITAS PORTSMOUTH are also running an event for Refugee week.....

The theme for Refugee Week this year is 'Our home' and we want to see how we can make our parish communities more welcoming to those arriving in our country, fleeing war, persecution and violence. On **Tuesday 18th June from 12:30-1pm** we are holding an online lunchtime event where we will hear from one of our parishes who works with refugees and asylum seekers, with time to discuss and ask questions.. Everyone is welcome. Register via our website <https://caritasportsmouth.org.uk>

THE PARISH GARDENS

Thank you to our very small group of gardeners who keep the gardens tidy and looking lovely all year around, and especially at this time when the results of all their hard work is on show! Our thanks in particular to Jane, Fiona & Vee who take care of the garden beds and weeding, and John & Sheila who help out with grass cutting, and to Eugene for arranging the cutting of the hedges recently. None of our gardeners are getting any younger and they would very much appreciate the help of anyone else who enjoys gardening, as it is a large site involving considerable work. The work is mainly done on Thursday mornings when tea and coffee is always available! (although you can come at any time)

PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE
E NEWS & JOB VACANCIES
Activities, events, news and job vacancies from around the Diocese.
<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue448?e=34c55ac6ce>

STELLA MARIS SOUTHAMPTON VOLUNTEERS



An exciting development in the form of a new Seafarers Club, is opening up in Southampton, managed by the local Stella Maris team. This will be based in the Stella Maris Pastoral Centre next to St Joseph's Church in Bugle Street.

They are currently looking for volunteers to staff the new Seafarers Club, As part of a team, you would provide a friendly welcome to visiting seafarers and offer practical advice on the city's attractions and would be backed by experienced Stella Maris staff who are there to help anyone with further support needs. For more information, please pick up a leaflet at the back of the church or visit the Stella Maris webpage at: www.stellamaris.org.uk/seafarerscentre/southampton

SOUTHAMPTON COUNCIL OF FAITHS



invite you to join them on a

Walk for Peace

Sunday 23rd June

12.30 Starting at the Queens Peace Fountain in East Park
13.00 Vedic Temple (presentation and lunch) leave 14.30
14.45 Tegh Bahadur Gurdwara leave 15.30
15.45 St Nicholas leave 16.15
16.30 St Michaels
17.00 finish

Everyone is welcome and we hope you will enjoy meeting some of the faith communities in the city. Please RSVP by email to southamptonfaiths@gmail.com so that we have any idea of numbers for catering purposes. Please see the web site in case of any changes: <https://www.southampton-faiths.org/events>

HALL SURVEY FOLLOW UP After both Masses this Sunday -

Based on the recent survey results you are invited to discuss and share your views on priorities for progress with the parish hall before any final decisions are put in place. Location to be announced at the end of Masses.