



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

“My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour” - Luke 1:39-56

Church Contact: office@immaculateconception.church | (023) 8055 5470 | www.immaculateconception.church

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



“Your body,
most pure and
without blemish, was not left
to the earth but was assumed
to the royal heavenly
dwelling, you, Queen,
Sovereign, Lady, the Mother
of God, the true Theotokos.”
- From homily of St John
Damascene in the early eighth
century.

Wishing everyone a
very Happy Feast

Week Commencing 16th August | THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Solemnities, Feast days & Memorials	Times & Liturgies		Mass Intentions
Sun 16 August THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	8.30 am	Mass	Edmund Durkin RIP
	10.30 am	Mass	Thanksgiving Mass for Nwoguh family
Mon 17 August Feria	-NO MASS-		
Tue 18 August Feria	10.00 am	Mass	Emelda Che RIP
Wed 19 August St John Eudes	10 am	Mass	--
Thu 20 August St Bernard	10 am	Mass	--
Fri 21 August St Pius X	9.30 am 10.00 am	Rosary Mass	John Laurent RIP
Sat 22 August The Queenship of Mary	10 am	Mass	Dineth Fernando Thanksgiving
Sun 23 August 21 st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.30 am	Mass	Mr Januario Monteiro & Mr Constancio Botelho death anniversary RIP
	10.30 am	Mass	Remembrance service Godfroy Houedikin & Neal Cookson
Please note: There will be no Eucharistic Adoration during August. We look forward to resuming our regular times of Adoration in September.			



SUNDAY READINGS: 1st Reading: Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:20-27

Psalm: Ps 45(44):10. 11. 12. 16. R10b

Gospel: Luke 1:39-56



'You are Peter, and I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven.' - Matthew 16:13-20

Solemnities, Feast days & Memorials	Times & Liturgies		Mass Intentions
Sun 23 August 21 st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.30 am	Mass	Mr Januario Monteiro & Mr Constancio Botelho death anniversary RIP
	10.30 am	Mass	Remembrance service Godfroy Houedikin & Neal Cookson
Mon 24 August ST BARTHOLOMEW	-NO MASS-		
Tue 25 August St Louis IX	10.00 am	Mass	Dunn McCarthy RIP & Prayers for the families and friends
Wed 26 August Blessed Dominic Barberi	10 am	Mass	Emelda Che RIP
Thu 27 August St Monica	10 am	Mass	--
Fri 28 August St Augustine of Hippo	9.30 am 10.00 am	Rosary Mass	--
Sat 29 August The Passion of St John the Baptist	10 am	Service of the Word (No Mass)	--
Sun 30 August 22 nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Wendy Whitcher RIP Remembrance service for Tina Leng



SUNDAY READINGS: 1st Reading: Isaiah 22:15, 19-23
2nd Reading: Romans 11:33-36

Psalm: Ps 138(137):1-2a, 2bc, 3, 6, 8bc. R8bc
Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

Thought for the Week: "The "Amen" that we say in the liturgy, the Body we eat and the Blood we drink shape our entire lives. The Eucharist "is an extremely personal encounter with the Lord and yet never simply an act of individual piety." In the Eucharist we find a visible manifestation of the reality that we "are the Church of Christ, his members, his body. We are brothers and sisters in him. And in Christ, though many and diverse, we are one: In Illo uno unum." (Pope Leo: Magnifica Humanitas, 235.)



Vocations – August 2026

Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary - August 16, 2026

"Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." Mary's faith is a model for consecrated life, trusting God's promises completely.

Is there an area of your life where you could trust God more? Might He be calling you to follow her example?

Talk to your priest or contact Cn. John Cooke. vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or call 01329 318 869

A Promise and Sign of Hope

Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

“My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great things for me and holy is his Name.” [Luke 1:46–49](#)



Today we celebrate one of the great solemnities on the Church’s liturgical calendar: the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Belief in her bodily assumption first took root in the early Church among those who witnessed this glorious event. Though we do not have written firsthand accounts of the Assumption, a variety of traditions have stood the test of time.

According to a tradition handed down by Saint John Damascene in the fifth century, all of the Apostles except Thomas were miraculously gathered in Jerusalem at the time of Mary’s Dormition, or falling asleep. After reverently placing her body in a tomb near the Garden of Gethsemane, they later opened it at Thomas’s request, who had arrived late and wished to venerate her body. To their astonishment, the tomb was empty.

This led the Apostles to conclude, through divine revelation, that the Blessed Virgin had been assumed body and soul into Heaven. That empty tomb is still honored today in the cave near Gethsemane and remains a popular place of pilgrimage. This early tradition laid the foundation for the Church’s growing conviction through the centuries that Mary’s Assumption was not merely a pious belief but a divinely revealed truth. In 1950, this truth was solemnly defined as dogma by Pope Pius XII in *Munificentissimus Deus*.

Why was the Blessed Virgin Mary taken body and soul into Heaven at the completion of her earthly life? Because, by a singular grace, when she was conceived in the womb of her mother—traditionally known as Saint Anne—her conception was the Immaculate Conception. That is, she was conceived without the stain of Original Sin. This grace, called a prevenient or preceding grace, was given to her through the foreseen merits of her Son’s future death on the Cross. That grace transcended time and preserved her from sin in advance, making her Son also her Savior, as she proclaimed in the Magnificat: “My spirit rejoices in God my Savior.”

Though the Blessed Virgin Mary was not saved by her own merit, having been given the fullness of grace at the moment of her Immaculate Conception, she perfectly cooperated with that grace throughout her life. She remained free not only from Original Sin but also from all personal sin. Since “the wages of sin is death” ([Romans 6:23](#)), and since the Blessed Mother was entirely without sin, her body and soul were never separated in death, which leads to bodily corruption. Instead, having completed the course of her earthly life, the Blessed Virgin Mary “was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory” (*Munificentissimus Deus*, 44).

Why is this important for us today? Because the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary is not only a singular privilege granted to her, it is also a sign of hope and a promise of what awaits all who remain faithful to Christ. Mary is the first and greatest disciple; where she has gone, we hope to follow. Her bodily glorification reveals that our salvation is more than spiritual, it also includes the redemption of the body. In a world wounded by sin, suffering, and death, the Assumption shines as a beacon of the final victory of grace. It reminds us that Heaven is our true home, that holiness is possible, and that those who entrust themselves to God alongside our Blessed Mother will share in Christ’s Resurrection. As our loving Mother, now enthroned in glory, Mary intercedes for us and draws us ever closer to her Son, encouraging us to live each day with faith, purity, and joyful hope.

Reflect today on the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary as a sign of hope and a promise of what is to come for you and your loved ones. Though we will die and our bodies will be laid to rest, one day our bodies and souls will rise and share in the resurrected glory of Jesus and Mary. This will be our eternity. Turn your eyes to that day, profess your faith in it, rejoice in God your Savior, and proclaim His greatness alongside His most glorious Mother.

A reflection from www.mycatholic.life

PARISH NOTICES

Final Call: First Holy Communion & Confirmation Programme

This is the final call for children wishing to enrol in the First Holy Communion and Confirmation programmes.

Parents and guardians are asked to register their initial interest using the form or QR code:

[SOUIC Sacramental Initial Interest Form](#)



Alternatively, feel free to contact the Parish Office or speak directly with Fr Anthony or Deacon Gerard.

Please register as soon as possible to avoid missing the enrolment deadline.

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. 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



ICC Income for July

Income	Jul 2026
Donations	5.00
Tea & Coffee	26.00
DONA	295.68
Envelopes	166.23
Online giving	546.75
Offertory	1,170.45
Standing Orders & DDs	2,906.00
Total Income	5,116.11

Special Collections

Day for Life	4.92
Stella Maris	456.09
Total	461.01

Thank you for your support and generosity

Parish Office Closed

Please note that the Parish Office will be closed from Friday 14 August until Friday 21 August 2026.

For any urgent enquiries during this period, please contact the parish priest, either in person after mass, on the phone 02380 555470 or in email: cnjingo@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

You can also contact Dcn Gerard Dailly at gdailly@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

Feedback from a viewer of our livestreamed Mass

"I just wanted to say a very big thank you for the 10:30 Mass today. We watched online and it was amazing! You are very blessed to have such a wonderful community."

We are grateful for this kind feedback and thank everyone who contributes to making our liturgies a welcoming and prayerful experience, both in church and online.

Thank you for your continued support and participation in parish life.



Have a blessed and peaceful week ahead.

