

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

2nd – 9th March 2025

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

'It is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve." 'Luke 4,8



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

Address: 346 Portswood Road, Southampton, SO17 3SB
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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: Cecilia Kovacs (023 8055 5470)
Confessions: After 10 am Mass on Saturdays
Hall Bookings: contact the parish secretary

**THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FROM 26TH FEBRUARY AND REOPEN ON THE 11TH MARCH DUE TO ANNUAL LEAVE.
WITH URGENT QUERIES PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH PRIEST.**

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

Date	Solemnities & Feast days	Times & Liturgies		Mass Intentions
Sun 2 March	EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Annabelle Dailly RIP Krystyna and Adam Madej RIP
Mon 3 March	Feria		NO MASS	
Tue 4 March	St Casimir, Prince of Poland	9.00 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration Mass	
Wed 5 March	ASH WEDNESDAY	10.00 am 7.30 pm	Mass Mass	
Thu 6 March	after Ash Wednesday	10.00 am	Mass	
Fri 7 March	after Ash Wednesday	10.30 am 11.00 am 11:30 am	Eucharistic adoration Stations of the Cross Mass	
Sat 8 March	after Ash Wednesday	10.00am	Mass	Dunn/McCarthy families
Sun 9 March	FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Mary Roddan RIP Gorham family RIP
Mon 10 March	of the 1st Week of Lent		NO MASS	
Tue 11 March	of the 1st Week of Lent	9.00 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration Mass	Bill Chandler
Wed 12 March	of the 1st Week of Lent	10.00 am 6pm	Mass Eucharistic Adoration	Maria Ferrao RIP
Thu 13 March	of the 1st Week of Lent	10.00 am	Mass	
Fri 14 March	of the 1st Week of Lent	10.30 am 11.00 am 11:30 am	Eucharistic adoration Stations of the Cross Mass	
Sat 15 March	of the 1st Week of Lent	10.00am	Mass	
Sun 16 March	SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Terry Gurd

READINGS

2nd March

1st Reading: Sirach 27:4-7
Psalm: Ps 92(91):2-3. 13-14. 15-16. R cf. 2a
2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:54-58
Gospel: Luke 6:39-45



**5th March
Ash Wednesday**

1st Reading: Joel 2:12-18
Psalm: Ps 51(50):3-4. 5-6b. 12-13. 14, 17. R cf. 3a
2nd Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2
Gospel: Luke 6:39-45

9th March

1st Reading: Deuteronomy 26:4-10
Psalm: Ps 91(90):1-2. 10-11. 12-13. 14-15. R cf 15b
2nd Reading: Romans 10:8-13
Gospel: Luke 4:1-13

SECOND COLLECTIONS:

2nd March – Racial justice
9th March – No second collection
16th March - CAFOD

NEXT TWO WEEKS IN THE PARISH

Tues 4th	Tea & Coffee after 10 am service – parish hall RCIA Course – 7.30-9 pm in the parish hall	Tues 11th	Tea & Coffee after 10 am service – parish hall Baptism preparation course – 7pm in the parish hall
Wed 5th	Adoration for students and anyone else who would like to join us – 6-7 pm in the Lady Chapel Ash Wednesday Evening mass – 7.30pm	Wed 12th	Adoration for students and anyone else who would like to join us – 6-7 pm in the Lady Chapel
Thurs 6th	Caritas activity group – 10.30am Parish hall	Thurs 13th	Caritas activity group – 10.30am
Fri 7th	Lent soup lunch – after mass (12pm) Parish hall	Fri 14th	Lent soup lunch – after mass (12pm) Parish hall
Sun 9th	Refreshments and Cake Sale after mass – Choir Practice-11.30 am in the church. All welcome.	Sat 15th	FHC Session 12
		Sun 16th	Refreshments after mass – Choir Practice - 11.30 am in the church. All welcome. St Patrick Day's Dinner – 1pm in the Parish hall

FULLY TRAINED

Jesus told his disciples a parable, “Can a blind person guide a blind person? Will not both fall into a pit? No disciple is superior to the teacher; but when fully trained, every disciple will be like his teacher.” Luke 6:39-40

Are you “fully trained?” What does it mean to be fully trained? Jesus makes it clear that those who are fully trained will be like their teacher. Of course, we must become like our Lord, who is the one and only Teacher. So are you like Him in every way?

Being fully trained as a Christian is different than being fully trained in an occupation. For example, a doctor is fully trained when all the necessary lessons are learned and the practical aspects of medicine are put into practice. That is why that person becomes a doctor, just like the doctors who were their teachers. But the Christian life is not something we master by learning many teachings of the faith so that, by our expertise, we can then put them into practice using our natural talents. For a Christian to be fully trained, it is necessary that the Divine Physician fully possess them, live within them, and act through them. Thus, Christian training is the practice of allowing God to become one with you so that it is God Who acts in and through you.

This form of “training” first takes on the goal of freeing us from spiritual blindness. We must see Christ and come to know Him. Again, this is not a matter of simply learning various truths about God in an intellectual way. It’s a matter of coming to know the Truth Himself. We must see and know the Person Who is Christ Jesus. This is true sight. Blindness, however, can always set in again when we take the eyes of our soul off the Savior.

Seeing Christ, however, is not enough. Seeing must be followed by doing. That is why our Lord goes on to say in today’s Gospel that “every tree is known by its own fruit” and that a “good person out of the store of goodness in his heart produces good.” Seeing Christ Himself, within your soul, will produce that “store of goodness,” and this will make you more “fully trained.” Only then can you produce good fruit, for it will be Christ Himself producing the good fruit in and through you.

So back to our original question: “Are you fully trained?” Do you daily keep your eyes on a Person, Jesus Himself? And if so, do You allow Him to act in your life and, through you, in the lives of others? If you cannot answer these questions with a confident “Yes,” then you might have more blindness in the spiritual life than you realize.

Reflect, today, upon your mission to become a fully trained soldier of Christ. God wants to use you, to live within you, and to act through you. He wants you to be like Him in every way. This is only possible when you admit the blindness with which you struggle, turn your eyes to Him, and allow Him to become one with you. Start by turning to Him as He dwells within you. Search for Him, seek Him, and love Him. If you keep your eyes upon Him, He will carefully take care of the rest, leading you to a fully trained and fruitful life.

A reflection for the Eighth Sunday In Ordinary Time (Year C)
www.mycatholic.life

PARISH NOTICES

THE EASTER STORY – PAGEANT

30th March 2025



WE STILL NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS, DON'T BE SHY!

This re-imagined version of the Easter story using reporters, crowd scenes and important moments from the story shown in frozen images will take approximately 20 minutes to perform at the start of Mass on the 30th March 10.30am.

Rehearsal and Performance dates:

Sat 1st March 11.30am – 12.15 - Performers – hall/church

Sat 15th March 11.30am – 12.15 - Performers – hall/church

Sat 29th March 11.00am – 12.30 Performers, Management, Narrators, Lighting & Sound – church

Sun 30th March arrive by 10.00am for 10.30am Mass and Performance

Please note that you will need to be on time and at all your rehearsals to be in this pageant. If you cannot attend on time and at all the rehearsals or miss a rehearsal you will not be able to take part – time is too short.

Performers: Younger people, (min 25) for the scenes being shown. No words need to be learnt but you will need to learn where to move and be and when to do this.

Reporters/narrators: 5 adult narrators to take on the roles of the newscaster and the reports. You need to be very familiar with the script but can carry journalists note pads to refer to and read from if necessary. You will be using microphones but must be able to speak clearly so that all can hear and understand.

In addition, we need;

- I. **Lighting:** several adults to take charge of collecting and running some stage lighting
- II. **Sound:** someone to take charge and make sure that we have mics etc. for sound
- III. **Stage Management:** several adults to help me during the rehearsals

To become involved please let us know as soon as possible by speaking to either David or Maria Maddocks, Mary Gobbi, Deacon Gerard or Fr Anthony

To further information please speak to any of the above and they will explain more

COMING SOON - LENTEN REFLECTION PROGRAMME

Monday evenings 6:30pm to 7:45pm starting on 10th March

Please join us this Lent for weekly reflections and discussions, using material from The Living Faith series led by Fr Columba Jordan, CFR. Fr Columba is a Franciscan Friar of the Renewal. The teaching is simple yet rich and challenging, the activities individual and communal.

- Video duration 13 – 15min long and can either be paused in the middle to look at some of the Qs or watched in one go then the Qs.
- Discussion guide will be made available

- **Session 1** Interior Life
- **Session 2** Mass and Confession
- **Session 3** Ongoing Formation
- **Session 4** Catholic Community
- **Session 5** Personal Apostolate



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH LITURGY GROUP

New Members Wanted

The Parish Liturgy Group is made up of a mixture of teams/subgroups working together to ensure that we meet our Parish Vision; to bring people closer to Christ by inviting, welcoming, nurturing and nourishing everyone.

The subgroups include:

- Children's Liturgy
- Bidding Prayer Writing
- Liturgy Reading
- Sacristans and Altar servers
- Music and Choir
- Welcome and Hospitality - porch welcome, ushers, refreshments after Mass, etc,
- Organisation and Planning - including liturgical calendar for the year, training and guidance for EMs, Readers, Bidding Prayer writing, OHP slide contents and editing, regular Special Events - Cultural Diversity Sunday, etc

We are seeking new members to join any of the above subgroups to lessen the burden of our currently limited membership. We are keen to attract diverse age groups (particularly under 30s and students from our parish community).

If you are interested in joining any of our dynamic and friendly subgroups, please contact the Parish Office office@immaculateconception.church Tel: -023 8055470 or Chris (mor204@yahoo.co.uk). Tel: 07780 117 811, or use the sign-up sheets in the church porch.

DONATION ENVELOPES

The counting team and the office are kindly asking everyone who uses the small donation envelopes to fully complete them, with your name and gift aid number, indicating which collection you wish to give for.

POITIERS CARE

Please don't forget Poitier – the project delivers food every week to those in need all over Southampton. We have a bin at the back of the church for foodstuffs, please leave your donations there.

LENT LUNCHES -2025

Our weekly Friday soup lunches will take place again this year. A selection of delicious soups will be provided by our volunteers. Please come and support this effort which is not only a social opportunity to meet but raises money for worthy causes. The first three dates are as follows:

- 7th March – Christian Aid
- 14th March – SVP (Work in Sudan)
- 21st March – MacMillan



The lunches are available from 12pm.

If you would like to come and need a lift please contact Anne Dempsey on 02380552064

A TASTE OF IRELAND

16th March 2025

Members of the Irish community in the parish are organising a St Patrick's Day meal and quiz on 16th March 2025 after mass in the parish hall from 1pm.



There will be traditional Irish dishes to try and a fun quiz about everything Irish, with great prizes to win.

This event is open to anyone, you don't have to be Irish to attend, in fact, we would like to showcase our culture to everyone in our parish.

The event will be ticketed due to the limited space, tickets are free and are available from Anne Work annempwork@gmail.com on a first come first served basis. We will welcome donations towards the cost (recommended donation of £5.00).

CARITAS GROUP

Programme for the upcoming next few months:

- 6/3/25 Pancake Day
- 13/3/25 Stretching exercise. 14 Mar St. Patrick's Day
- 20/3/25 Board Game Day
- 27/3/25 Calligraphy
- 3/4/25 Ching Ming festival / cold food festival
- 10/4/25 stretching exercise
- 17/4/25 Easter sport Game day
- 24/4/25 Easter Game day

JOIN CAFOD'S BIG LENT WALK IN THE JUBILEE YEAR

You are invited to join CAFOD's Big Lent Walk and journey together with Catholics in England, Wales and Scotland as Pilgrims of Hope in this Jubilee Year - walking 200km over 40 days during Lent. Journey to one of the churches or shrines designated as places of pilgrimage in our diocese as part of your Big Lent Walk.

Every £1 you raise will support communities like Lokho's in Kenya, experiencing the worst impact of the climate crisis, to rebuild their lives in hope. Sign up here:

<https://walk.cafod.org.uk/>

CAFOD LENT APPEAL

FAMILY FAST DAY COLLECTION – 16th MARCH



Please donate to our Family Fast Day parish collection and be a pilgrim of hope with CAFOD this Jubilee Year. You'll be supporting communities experiencing the impacts of war, poverty and climate change to find solutions and hope.

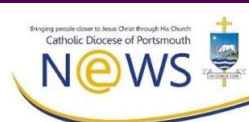
Use the CAFOD envelope in church, donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope or call us on 0303 303 3030. You can also text CAFODLENT to 70085 to donate £10.



VOLUNTEER WITH SOUTHAMPTON STREET PASTORS

Applications are open now for the next training programme this Spring, taking place on the weekends of 14-16 March, 28-30 March and 11-13 April.

Call 02380333387 or visit www.southamptonstreetpastors.org



PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE E NEWS & JOB VACANCIES

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

<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue480>

(For the next issue please change the number to 481 in the URL.)

FORMATION DAY FOR RCIA CATECHISTS

24th May 2025, 10am-4pm

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH,
SOUTHAMPTON, SO17 3SB

Led by the Dominican Sisters of St Joseph:
www.lightoftruth.uk



To find out more and to book your place, email:
OFFICE@SOUTHAMPTONCITYCENTRECATHOLICS.ORG

NEW HOME FOR MILLIE AND HER FAMILY

Our new cleaner, Millie is still looking for their next home. The family urgently needs to find a two bedroom rented flat, ideally downstairs, or a house. Please contact the office if you can help.