October - Month dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

Therefore, render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.'- Matthew 22:15-21

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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:
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 on our website or www.churchservices.tv/portswoodchur

Solemnities, Feast days & Memorials	Times & Liturgies		Mass Intentions
Sun 18 October *TWENTY- NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME*	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Fr Paul Spellman RIP Ian Warwick RIP
Mon 19 October *Ss John de Brébeuf, Isaac Jogues & Companions*	***-NO MASS-***		
Tue 20 October *Feria*	10.00 am	Service of the Word	--
Wed 21 October *Feria*	10 am 6pm	Service of the Word Rosary	--
Thu 22 October *St John Paul II*	10 am	Service of the Word	--
Fri 23 October *Diocesan Day of Prayer & Reparation for Life*	9.00 am 9.30 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration Rosary Mass	Pat Saunders (RIP)
Sat 24 October *St Anthony Claret,*	10 am	Mass (Confessions after Mass)	--
Sun 25 October *THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME*	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Gretta Andrews RIP Dunn McCarthy RIP

Second Collection: Sunday 18 October – World Mission Sunday: *Today, parishes worldwide celebrate World Mission Sunday. By supporting Missio – the Pope's charity for world mission – we stand united as God's global family, in prayer, solidarity and action. The Holy Father has chosen the theme 'One in Christ, united in mission' to celebrate 100 years of World Mission Sunday and encourages us to unite with missionaries as they strive to reach out with God's love to communities in need. Please pray for the work of mission and give what you can to this vital collection.*
Visit Home - Missio for more information.

missio
Today. Tomorrow. Together.

SUNDAY READINGS

1st Reading: Isaiah 45:1, 4-6
I am the Lord, and there is no other.

Psalm: Ps 96(95):1, 3. 4-5. 7-8. 9-10a, c. ℟7b
Ascribe to the Lord glory and power.

2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b
Remembering your faith, love and hope.

Gospel: Matthew 22:15-21
..render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's

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

Come along, meet new people, and enjoy being part of our parish community.

Gospel Reflection: 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time (October 18, 2026) - Year A

The Shocking Power of the Holy Spirit

Just as we rely on power to sustain our daily lives, so too we need the power of the Holy Spirit, God's own life within us, to renew our hearts and energise us for the mission of the Gospel.

There is something about exploring unfamiliar hills and valleys, breathing fresh air, and discovering the beauty of creation that reconnects me with the Creator. Time spent in nature has a way of renewing both body and soul.

It was not always so. I have always loved sport, but the idea of going for a long walk purely for its own sake once seemed like hard work. Looking back, it is something of a miracle that I completed my Chief Scout's Award. One memory from those days remains particularly vivid: a night hike that was long, cold, confusing, and, unsurprisingly, very dark. It was during that expedition that I had my first encounter with an electric fence.

Unaware that such things existed, I attempted to climb over it and received an unforgettable shock. The experience was startling, painful, and memorable. More importantly, it taught me something about power.

Power is a remarkable gift. It keeps wandering sheep where they belong and adventurous scouts where they do not. More significantly, it enables countless things that would be impossible through our own strength alone. Most of us hardly notice how dependent we are on power until it disappears. From our homes and vehicles to our phones and countless other technologies, modern life relies upon energy from sources beyond ourselves. ***It is no surprise that humanity continues to search for reliable and renewable sources of power.***

The same principle is true in spiritual life. *Too often, we approach discipleship as if it depends entirely upon our own efforts. We strive to be patient, loving, generous and holy through willpower alone. Yet the Christian life was never intended to be lived solely by human strength. We cannot save ourselves, nor can we become the people God calls us to be without his grace. What we need is the power of the Holy Spirit.*

Throughout the Gospel, people were struck by the power and authority of Jesus. They witnessed lives transformed, the sick healed, captives set free, storms calmed, and hearts renewed. The source of that power was the Holy Spirit, who rested upon Jesus and animated his mission.

At Pentecost, often described as the birthday of the Church, that same Spirit was poured out upon the disciples. The signs accompanying this outpouring were wind and fire. The biblical word for spirit, 'ruah' also means 'wind' and 'breath'. Wind can be gentle or overwhelming. It can move ships across oceans or uproot mighty trees. Breath is intimate and life-giving. In the same way, the Holy Spirit is both infinitely powerful and deeply personal.

The Spirit changes hearts, renews minds, strengthens the weary and breathes life into places within us that have grown cold or wounded. The Holy Spirit is, at one and the same time, unstoppable power and infinite tenderness.

The image of fire is equally rich. Just as the sun radiates light, warmth and energy, so the Holy Spirit communicates the very life of God to us. The Spirit energises and empowers the Church for mission.

The question for each of us is simple: where do we look for the strength we need? Do we rely solely on our own resources, intelligence and determination? Or do we look beyond ourselves and draw upon the power that comes from God?

In baptism and confirmation, each of us has been anointed and sealed with the Holy Spirit. The same Spirit who empowered Jesus has been given to us. We are called not merely to possess that gift but to release it into the world through our words, actions and witness.

St Paul reminds us that the Gospel came "not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction." The Church's mission cannot be sustained by words alone. We need to encounter again and again the living and powerful presence of the Holy Spirit, allowing God to strengthen our faith and renew our hearts.
When that happens, something extraordinary occurs. Like that unexpected jolt from an electric fence, the power of God can awaken us from complacency, dissolve our fears and transform our lives. Filled with the fire of the Holy Spirit, we become capable of helping others encounter the risen Christ and join Thomas in proclaiming with joyful conviction: "My Lord and my God!"

A commentary by Canon Mark Hogan from The Liturgy Project

PARISH NOTICES

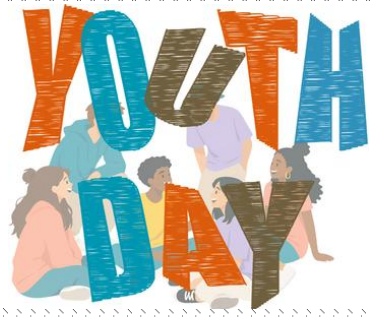
Second Collection: Bamenda Sunday - 1st November

The Diocese of Portsmouth has been twinned with Bamenda since 1974, making this one of the longest and most fruitful international partnerships in the Church. A special collection will be held to support of Bamenda. Through prayer, friendship, and financial assistance, we help support pastoral, educational, and community projects serving those in need. Thank you for your generosity and prayers for the people of Bamenda. Read more:
[Donate to Bamenda - Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth]

Parish Youth Day – Autumn half term Activity Day

Looking for something fun to do during the half-term break? Come and join us for a day of friendship, activities, games, music, and fun! All children and young people aged 5 to 16 years are welcome. Possibly please bring a packed lunch.

Wednesday 28 October, 10**:00am - 3:00pm, Parish Hall.** Free of charge



Welcome Home: A Supper for Our University Students
Friday 23 October, 6.00pm, Parish Hall

As is our tradition, we warmly invite all students who worship with us to join us for a simple shared meal in the parish hall. It will be a relaxed evening to meet one another, enjoy some food and friendship, and plan together the activities you would like to see during the year ahead. Your ideas are very welcome.
Please do come, and feel free to bring a friend who might be looking for a spiritual home. To our parishioners, I would ask you to make a special effort to greet our students at Mass and to make them feel at home among us. We look forward to welcoming you on the 23rd.

Thank you for supporting CAFOD's Family Fast Day!

Thank you for putting your faith into action this Family Fast Day. Your generous donations will help more children stay in school. Children like Tayla in Zimbabwe, where CAFOD's local partners worked with her community to install a solar-powered water supply. Now Tayla has access to safe water and nutritious food at school, helping her to keep learning and develop her God-given talents. To find out more about the work that your generosity at Fast Day makes possible visit: ***cafod.org.uk/parishthankyou***

Shoebox Morning – Thank You

A big thank you to everyone who helped at our Shoebox Morning. Thanks to your generosity and hard work, we successfully packed 31 shoeboxes for those in need.

It was a very enjoyable and rewarding morning, with a wonderful spirit of friendship and community. We are grateful to all who gave their time and support to make it such a success. Thank you once again for helping to bring joy and hope to others.



Time to Return Your Wessex Rotary Shoeboxes!

Thank you to everyone who has taken a shoebox and is supporting this year's appeal. Please return your filled shoeboxes and leave them either in the church porch or at the parish office. The final date for returning shoeboxes is **Sunday 18 October**. Please do your best to bring them in by this date so they can be collected and prepared for dispatch. 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

Energy Action Month
October 2026

You are warmly invited to an evening hosted by our church, taking place in the Parish Hall from **7.30-9pm on Friday 30th October.** It is part of Southampton's Energy Action Month organised by Transition Southampton (TS, also behind the Repair café) and the Environment Centre, tEC. The evening will be a relaxed talk and panel discussion on the new opportunities to save energy and cost, make your home more comfortable and help support wider climate & nature goals (taking action on Laudato si)– and where and how to get good free advice (tEC). Linked to that, over the **whole of October, is Green Open Homes** when you have an opportunity to visit a home and hear from ordinary householders the reality of heat pump, solar panels, insulation and other energy saving measures as well as domestic water-saving, food growing, low impact travel … you get the picture, but you need to book in to the TS web site, http://www.greenopenhomes.org . You'll see what each home has to offer, the approximate location & the type of property.

GREEN OPEN HOMES SOUTHAMPTON

RCIA – Tuesday 3 November, 7:15pm, Parish Hall

Interested in becoming a Catholic, or simply curious? Come along and find out more. Past candidates, especially last year's, are warmly invited to the first session: your story could encourage someone new. Bring a friend! Contact Dudley, Dcn Gerard or Fr Anthony. We will also leave a sheet at the porch.

Alpha Reunion Social – Wednesday 11 November, 7pm, Parish Hall

Our first Alpha course was a huge success! Everyone who took part is warmly invited back for an evening of food, friendship and reconnecting. Please sign the sheet in the porch so we can cater. Details of the next Alpha course will be announced soon.

Remembering Our Loved Ones This November

November is the month in which the Church prays in a special way for the Holy Souls, and as a parish family we hold close all those we have loved and lost.

- ***Bereavement Mass* – Saturday 7 November at the 10am Saturday mass.**
  We will celebrate a Mass for all parishioners who have died since November last year. We warmly invite their families and friends to join us. During the Mass, anyone who has lost a loved one, whether recently or some time ago, is welcome to come forward and light a candle in their memory. You do not need to have lost someone this year to take part; all who wish to remember someone dear to them are most welcome.

- ***Remembrance Sunday* – Sunday 8 November**
  On Remembrance Sunday we pray for all who have died in war and conflict, and for peace in our world.

- ***Blessing of Graves* – Stoneham Cemetery, Sunday 8 November at 12:30 pm**
  Following Remembrance Sunday, Fr Anthony will go to Stoneham Cemetery to bless the graves. Please join us there and accompany us to the graves of your loved ones so that we can pray with you and bless their resting place.



Grief can be a lonely road, and these occasions are a chance to walk it together, supported by prayer and by one another. Please do come, and feel free to bring family and friends.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.