



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

15th February 2026 - SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME



*"Be reconciled with your brother, then
come and offer your gift." -Matthew 5:17-37*

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

Address: 346 Portswood Road, Southampton, SO17 3SB

Tel: (023) 8055 5470

Website: www.immaculateconception.church

Email: office@immaculateconception.church

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

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 ADVERTISED BELOW ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE TO JOIN LIVE AT www.churchservices.tv/portswoodchur

Ash
Wednesday

Day of Fast & Abstinence

18 February 2026

Mass: 10am & 7:30pm

*"Remember
that you are dust,
and
to dust
you shall return"*

Genesis 3:19

Solemnities & Feast days	Times & Liturgies		Mass Intentions
Sun 15 February <i>6th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Rem Treacy RIP Krystyna & Adam Madej RIP
Mon 16 February <i>6th Week in Ordinary Time</i>	-NO MASS-		
Tue 17 February <i>6th Week in Ordinary Time</i>	9.00 am 10.00 am	Adoration Mass	--
Wed 18 February <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	10.00 am 7:30pm	Mass Evening Mass	DCI Global Solutions
Thu 19 February <i>Thursday after Ash Wednesday</i>	10.00 am	Mass	--
Fri 20 February <i>Friday after Ash Wednesday</i>	9.30 am 10.00 am 10.30 am 11.00 am 12 noon	Adoration Rosary Stations of the Cross Mass Lenten Lunches	--
Sat 21 February <i>Saturday after Ash Wednesday</i>	10.00am	Mass	Hugh Slevin – 30th Anniversary RIP
Sun 22 February <i>1st Sunday of Lent</i>	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Deceased members of Dunn Mccathy Family RIP Hugh Slevin RIP

SUNDAY READINGS



1st Reading: Sirach 15:15-20

Psalm: Ps 119(118):1-2. 4-5. 17-18. 33-34. R1b

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:6-10

Gospel: Matthew 5:17-37

OTHER REGULAR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES IN THE PARISH

All Welcome to join..... (**No sessions this week**)

Mon - **Cooking with Confidence** – 10 am – 1 pm – Church hall kitchen

Tues - **Tea & Coffee after 10 am Mass** – Church hall
- **RCIA** – 7:15 pm – 8.45 pm in the Church hall

Weds - **Parent & Toddler Group (term time only)**
10.30am – 12 noon, 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
- **Choir Practice** 11:30am-12:30pm in the Church.

TODAY'S GOSPEL REFLECTION

The Law and the Prophets

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. Amen, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter will pass from the law, until all things have taken place” [Matthew 5:17-18](#)



For many, the Old Testament can be confusing, filled with laws, rituals, and prophecies that seem difficult to connect with the New Testament. Yet, Jesus' words remind us that the Old Testament is not merely a relic of the past but an essential part of God's divine plan. Furthermore, every law, prophecy, and detail, down to “the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter,” finds its deepest meaning and completion in Christ.

In a simplified way, the “Law and the Prophets” in the Old Testament can be summarized as moral laws, ceremonial laws, and prophetic teaching. The moral laws reflect God's eternal truths of right and wrong, the ceremonial laws govern Israel's worship and rituals, and the prophetic teaching calls the people to repentance, pointing to the coming Messiah. Together, these form the foundation of the Old Covenant, which is fulfilled in Christ, Who established the New and Eternal Covenant. Additionally, the Psalms and Wisdom literature enrich the Law and the Prophets, offering inspired prayers, meditations on God's faithfulness, and practical guidance for virtuous living. Though it might be an arduous task to read through the entire Old Testament, those who do so with understanding discover the truth that everything finds its fulfillment in Christ. “Fulfillment” does not mean that Jesus altered or discarded the Old Testament; rather, He revealed its true and hidden meaning, bringing it to perfection. What the Old Testament could only foreshadow, Jesus accomplished, achieving the fullness of God's plan.

By analogy, consider an artist's sketch that depicts a beautiful mountain range and sunset. The Old Testament is like that sketch—it provides the framework, details, and foreshadowing of something greater. In Christ, the sketch is brought to life, becoming reality through God's creative act. While the sketch and the actual mountain range are the same scene, the reality is the perfect and complete expression of what the sketch anticipated. God, as the Divine Artist, first “sketched” what would come to be through the Law, Prophets, and Wisdom literature, and then brought it to fulfillment through Jesus' Incarnation, Life, Death, and Resurrection.

In today's Gospel, after declaring that He came to fulfill the Law and the Prophets, Jesus provided three examples of how He brings the Old Testament moral law to its fulfillment. The commandment “You shall not kill” is deepened to

include the interior sin of anger; “You shall not commit adultery” is expanded to include lust in the heart; and “Do not take a false oath” is elevated to a call for sincerity, honesty, and integrity in all one says and does. The Messiah then pours forth His grace, enabling the faithful to live in accord with this high calling.

Though not included in today’s Gospel, Jesus also brings the ceremonial laws to fulfillment by becoming the Lamb of God, offering Himself as the definitive High Priest on the new altar of the Cross. Furthermore, our Lord fulfills the prophets by establishing the New Covenant in His blood, as seen in Isaiah’s vision of the Suffering Servant Who bears the sins of many (Isaiah 53), Jeremiah’s promise of the new covenant written on hearts ([Jeremiah 31:31-34](#)), and Micah’s prophecy of a ruler born in Bethlehem ([Micah 5:2](#)).

Reflect today on God’s Eternal Law, established before the foundation of the world and brought to fulfillment in Christ. The human life of the Son of God is the center of time and eternity. Everything converges on Him, and new life flows from Him. Just as our Lord fulfills the Old Testament, He also is the only source of true fulfillment in our lives. Ponder His mission and renew your choice to accept His New Covenant, written on your heart by grace. Doing so is an exercise in Divine Wisdom, giving you a share in the new life of grace, made possible by His blood.

A reflection for the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

www.mycatholic.life

PARISH NOTICES

HALF-TERM YOUTH DAY - Cancelled

~~20th February, 10am – 2pm, Parish Hall~~

We are sorry to announce that the planned youth event has had to be cancelled.

However, everyone is warmly invited to come along for Soup in the Parish Hall from 12 noon onwards.

Can You Help? Will you help the Sunday Lunch Project

Name:

Email:

Phone:



The Sunday Lunch Project operates at two locations:

St Marks Institute in Woolston

St Denys Church & Centre each Sunday from 10:00 - 13:00

Please fill in the details and return to the parish office.

Lenten Soup Lunches

You are all invited to the lunches **with start on Friday 20th February** at 12 noon. Please come and enjoy the freshly made soups, meet up with friends and help the charities who benefit from them. We especially welcome anyone who has not been before.

Feb 20th - for the missions (MISSIO)

Feb 27th - Winchester and Southampton refugee group



Repair Café

Repair Cafe at Immaculate Conception church hall on **Saturday 21st February from 10.30am till 1pm.**

Bring your items for repair: clothing, jewellery, electric and electronic items, bikes etc and we’ll try to mend them for a donation.



Refreshments including homemade cakes available. Come and see what we do... friends also very welcome.

Alpha Course – Starting Tuesday 25th February

Have you ever wondered about the deeper meaning of life? Have you ever felt a quiet prompting to grow in faith, but weren't sure where to begin? Or perhaps you already believe, but would welcome the chance to explore your faith more personally and hear how God is at work in the lives of others.

The Alpha Course is a relaxed and welcoming series of sessions where we share a meal, watch a short talk, and have open and honest conversations about life, faith, and meaning. There is no pressure, no expectations, and no question is unwelcome.

I would especially encourage you to consider coming. Alpha has been, for me personally, a deeply enriching experience. It gave me the opportunity not only to share my own faith more naturally and confidently, but also to listen to the moving and often surprising ways God has been present and active in the lives of others. It reminded me that faith is not something we live alone, but something that grows through listening, sharing, and journeying together.

Even if you are unsure, curious, or simply willing to come and see, you would be most welcome. You do not need to commit to the whole course immediately, just come for the first evening and experience it for yourself.

The course begins on **Tuesday 25th February at 7pm in the parish hall.**

A meal will be provided, and all are welcome.

If you would like to attend, please sign up at the back of the church or contact Fr Anthony directly.

Come and discover something that could quietly change your life.

FUNERALS



A funeral notice for Doreen Ellen Gerrard. The notice features a central circular portrait of Doreen, an elderly woman with short grey hair, wearing a white jacket and holding a small bouquet of white flowers. The portrait is set against a background of pink orchids. The text is centered and reads: "Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving for Doreen Ellen Gerrard 13th October 1931 - 19th January 2026 Monday 16th February 2026 Immaculate Conception Catholic Church at 1.00 pm followed by a burial service at South Stoneham Cemetery at 2.15 pm".

Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving for

Doreen Ellen Gerrard

13th October 1931 - 19th January 2026

Monday 16th February 2026
Immaculate Conception Catholic Church at 1.00 pm
followed by a burial service at
South Stoneham Cemetery at 2.15 pm