

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

21st July 2024 - SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“He came to bring the good news of peace, peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near at hand.”

Ephesians 2:17

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

PARISH OFFICE OPEN NEXT WEEK: Tuesday and Friday, 10:00 am – 3 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 21 July	SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	John Coffey RIP Sheila Goreham RIP
Mon 22 July	St Mary Magdalene		NO MASS	
Tues 23 July	St Bridget Of Sweden	9.00 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic adoration Mass	Susan Tomkins
Weds 24 July	St Sharbel Makhluf	10.00 am 6.00 pm	Mass Eucharistic adoration	
Thurs 25 July	St James	10.00 am	Mass	
Fri 26 July	Ss Joachim & Anne	9.00 9.30 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic adoration Rosary Eucharistic Service	A Special Intention
Sat 27 July	Our Lady on Saturday	10.00 am	Eucharistic Service	
Sun 28 July	SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Audrey Reid RIP Margaret Davis RIP



READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY

1st Reading: Jeremiah 23:1-6

Psalm: 22(23)

2nd Reading: Ephesians 2:13-18

Gospel: Mark 6:30-34

NEXT WEEK IN THE PARISH:

Tues 23rd - Tea & Coffee after 10 am Mass – church hall

Weds 24th - Adoration, 6.00 pm, Lady Chapel

Sun 28th - Children's Mass 10:30am

Choir Practice 11.30 am in the church.

Anyone welcome to join.

SECOND COLLECTIONS:

SUNDAY 21st JULY – No second collection

SUNDAY 28th JULY – No second collection

TODAY'S GOSPEL REFLECTION:

Zeal and Determination

When he disembarked and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, for they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things. Mark 6:34

Both Jesus and the Twelve Apostles had been working very hard. The Twelve had been out on mission to many of the neighboring towns preaching, healing the sick and casting out demons. Upon the completion of their mission, they returned to Jesus and reported all that they had done. Jesus, in turn, invited them to “Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while.” But the crowds heard about their departure by boat and quickly went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee so that they would arrive before Jesus and the Twelve.

The passage quoted above reveals the internal reaction that Jesus had toward the crowds as He and the Twelve disembarked from the boat. Though they had attempted to go away together to a quiet place for rest, the crowds were intent on being with them. Jesus, of course, was not upset that the crowds had spoiled His attempt to find some quiet time with the Twelve. Instead, His heart was moved with compassion. He could see that the people were hungry for more and were “like sheep without a shepherd.” For that reason, Jesus immediately began to feed them with His teachings.

A helpful point to ponder in this passage is that the people who gathered were described as a “vast crowd.” From the subsequent passage in Mark’s Gospel, we learn that when Jesus finished teaching them many things, He performed the miracle of the multiplication of fish and bread and fed 5,000 men, not counting the women and children. Given the fact that the estimated ratio at that time of adult men to women and children was at least 5:1, the crowd could have been as large as 25,000 people. For a spontaneous gathering of people in a remote area by the Sea of Galilee, that is a huge number. This is especially the case, since it is estimated that there were only about 1,500 people living in Capernaum at that time. People had flocked to our Lord from very far away.

This vast and spontaneous gathering reveals to us the hunger that Jesus instilled in the hearts of very many people. Some of these people had already heard Jesus speak and had witnessed His miracles. Others were those to whom the Twelve had just preached in the surrounding villages. The Twelve had spoken clearly and convincingly by the power of the Holy Spirit about Jesus, and many people responded, wanting to know more about our Lord.

As you ponder the enthusiasm of so many people, try to compare that with your own enthusiasm for Jesus. Are you driven to seek Him out with the same passion and zeal that consumed these first followers? Or do you find that your zeal and enthusiasm are lacking at times? This vast crowd, with their zeal and determination to seek out our Lord, should be a source of inspiration and self-examination for us all.

Reflect, today, upon this vast crowd. Try to see yourself joining them. Ponder yourself being so moved by the preaching of the Apostles that you become single-focused in your determination to be fed by Jesus’ holy teaching. If it is hard to imagine yourself acting this way, then humbly acknowledge that you may need more zeal for Jesus in your life. Pray that these holy desires become stirred up within you, and do all that you can to foster such zeal.

A reflection for the Sixteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year 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.

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE: PRAYER INTENTIONS

Bishop Philip is attending the Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes at the end of this month. If you would like him to offer a prayer for your intention at the Grotto in Lourdes please email your petition in confidence to lourdespetition@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

HELLO FROM CECILIA



After Rachel’s goodbye last week, I wanted to say hello, and introduce myself to everyone. I am Cecilia Kovacs the new parish secretary.

I have already been welcomed warmly by some members of the congregation and I am looking forward to get to know and help everyone. I spent two days doing handover with Rachel before taking on the role, so I know I have big shoes to fill. Thank you for the trust and patience while I am getting familiar with things, please feel free to pop by the office and say hello.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2025 REGISTRATION

Registration for FHC in 2025 is now open and will close at the start of September in all our Southampton parishes. The programme will start in Autumn 2024.

If you would like your child to make their First Holy Communion, they should be over the age of 8 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.

SIGNIFICANT WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

Sat 7th September, 2pm, St Bede’s Church, Basingstoke

Are you celebrating a 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, 60th or anniversary over 60 years? If so, Bishop Philip would like to invite you to a Mass of celebration. It is a wonderful occasion to celebrate and witness to Marriage.

If you would like to attend, please email:
anniversaries@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

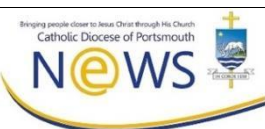
FUNERAL – Joan Dunleavy RIP

Joan's funeral mass will be held at Immaculate Conception Church on Tuesday 30th July 11 am.

NEW SEAFARERS CENTRE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Stella Maris are continuing to build a team of volunteers from the parishes in the Southampton Deanery, to act as welcomers in the new Seafarers Club at St Joseph's Church in St Michael's Square, Southampton. If you would like to volunteer or learn more please pick up a leaflet at the back of the church or contact Stella Maris Port Chaplain: Charles Stuart, 07843 739 570

charles.stuart@stellamarismail.org



PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE E NEWS & JOB VACANCIES

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

<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue452?e=34c55ac6ce>

FANNING THE FLAME SUMMER CAMP 2024 KINTBURY -19th - 23rd AUGUST FOR AGES 11-21

**FAITH - FUN – FELLOWSHIP - MASS - TEACHING – CRAFTS
WORKSHOPS - SPORTS - Q&A - PRAISE & WORSHIP – TALKS
DRAMAS - TEAM ACTIVITIES - GREAT FOOD - ADORATION**



Dates: 19th - 23rd August 2024

Location: St Cassian's Centre, Kintbury.

Start Time: 3pm, Monday 19th August

Finish Time: 5pm, Friday 23rd August

Age range: 11 - 21 years

Cost: 11-18s: £140 19-21s: £160

Catering: Fully catered, please bring your own flask.

Do NOT bring snacks, they make a mess of tents and encourage inquisitive creatures! Plenty of food is provided.

Accommodation: Camping - please bring your own tent or arrange to share with friends/family.

Facilities: Showers, toilets, and additional facilities provided in main building.

Music Ministry: Led by Theo Farrell from One Hope Project.

Once a booking has been received the attendee will receive an information pack outlining more details about the camp and what to bring.

Please book online, booking forms are available at

<https://www.fanningtheflame.co.uk/summer-camp-2024>

BOOKINGS WILL CLOSE 12/8/24

WEEK SILENT RETREAT Pilgrims of Hope

finding hope in times of trouble
23 - 30 AUG. 2024

For more info: verbumdei.iow@gmail.com

largest youth gathering of Catholics, Flame is once more taking place at the OVO Arena, Wembley on **Saturday 15th March 2025**, with the theme Unstoppable.

This is an opportunity to join with other young Catholics at Flame, to enjoy modern inspirational faith filled music, to hear motivational speakers, to share the faith and to spend time in prayer. There will be loud music, together with bright lights and moments of stillness.

The event is aimed at anyone from aged 14 (year 9) to about 35! A coach will run from Portsmouth Cathedral directly to the OVO Arena. Flame 2025 early bird tickets are available now at £29 per person until the 30th September, after which the full price of a ticket is £35.

If you would like to book a ticket and a space on the coach or have any questions, please contact youth@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or phone 07780 221686

VOCATIONS NEWSLETTER FOR JULY

<https://www.portsmouthvocations.org/so/1aP1UKVrp?languageTag=en&cid=8eeb309f-dcf5-4938-a4a3-1108ca4991af>

BBQ AND NIGHT PRAYER WITH BISHOP PHILIP AND OUR PORTSMOUTH SEMINARIANS

Tuesday 30th July

The vocation team are hosting the annual gathering of all the Seminarians and Seekers/Discerners in a few weeks' time. If you are interested in joining the evening yourself as a new enquirer - or you know of a man/men in your parish who you may think could be interested in joining the evening, please pass news of this opportunity on to them. For full details please email by Friday 20th July.

vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk