



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

"Again, I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven.."- Matthew 18:15-20

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



8th September
Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

"Today we celebrate that happy day on which the glorious and immaculate Mother of God appeared in the world like a shining star."

-Ancient Preface

Wishing everyone a very Happy Feast

Solemnities, Feast days & Memorials	Times & Liturgies		Mass Intentions
Sun 6 September TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.30 am	Mass	Wilfred Perera 87 Birthday RIP
	10.30 am	Mass	Bryan Rosario RIP & Nicholas 49 Birthday RIP
Mon 7 September Feria	-NO MASS-		
Tue 8 September THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, feast	10.00 am	Mass	Nora Savage RIP
Wed 9 September St Peter Claver	10 am	Mass	Peter & Kaite McDermott & Family RIP
Thu 10 September Feria	10 am	Mass	--
Fri 11 September Feria	9.30 am 10.00 am	Rosary Mass	Hugh Roddan RIP
Sat 12 September The Most Holy Name of Mary	10 am	Mass	--
Sun 13 September 24 th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	-- Remembrance service Godfroy Houedikin & Neal Cookson

Second Collection – 13 September - Catholic Education Service



Education Sunday falls on the second Sunday of September just as the new academic year starts and is one of the oldest Days of Special Prayer in England and Wales, established 176 years ago in 1848. It provides an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks to all involved in making Catholic schools places of enlightenment, as well as to look forward in anticipation of the year ahead.

SUNDAY READINGS

1st Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-9

'If you do not speak to warn the wicked'

Psalms: Ps 95(94):1-2. 6-7b. 7c-9. R7c, 8a

2nd Reading: Romans 13:8-10

'Love is the fulfilling of the law.'

Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20

'If he listens to you, you have gained your brother.'

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

TODAY'S GOSPEL REFLECTION: *The Joy of Reconciliation*

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

Jesus said to his disciples: "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have won over your brother." [Matthew 18:15](#)

When someone sins against us, especially in a grievous way, anger and condemnation can quickly arise as strong temptations. Our natural sense of justice often takes over, and we may find ourselves rationalizing a response rooted in judgment rather than compassion. In today's Gospel, however, Jesus offers the much better path—to seek reconciliation, not division. The ultimate goal is to win the sinner back to God and restore the bond of communion. Sin touches every human relationship, with the sole exception of the one shared between Jesus and His Blessed Mother. Their mutual and perfect charity rendered sin and division entirely absent from their union. What a sublime and singular gift they shared!

But we are not perfect. Even the most loving and holy relationships are affected by human weakness, and sin inevitably creeps in. We sin against others, and others sin against us. Sometimes the sin is deliberate and deeply wounding. Other times, it stems from weakness or the absence of fully formed virtue. Regardless of its source, every sin inflicts harm and weakens the communion we are called to share and deeply desire.

In today's Gospel, while Jesus appears to be addressing serious sin that severs a person from sanctifying grace—mortal sin—the same principles apply to all offenses, even venial sins and spiritual imperfections. The Christian response to sin must always be grounded in mercy. Whether we are correcting or being corrected, the goal must always be to heal, to restore, and to deepen our unity in Christ.

To begin applying these spiritual principles, call to mind those toward whom you may harbor resentment. Start with your family, since familial bonds—due to their natural closeness—are especially vulnerable to sin. Resentment born of sin is often present in close relationships. While some wounds may have caused deep fractures, even the most loving bonds can suffer subtle injuries. Prayerfully examine these relationships in your life.

If the wounds are deep and hostilities strong, the path forward is usually clear: Seek to win over your brother, sister, parent, or spouse. And if you are the one who has caused the wound, then humbly acknowledge your sin without excuses. That is always the better path. Always.

To aid this process, it is helpful to recognize a hidden dynamic: Holding onto resentment or anger can bring a certain emotional satisfaction. Though it may seem surprising, this is often the case. Anger energizes the emotions and creates a charged feeling that, while disordered, can feel gratifying—like a drug that fuels addiction.

The first step is to recognize this disordered emotional pattern for what it is. The next step is to realize that a healed and reconciled relationship offers a deeper and more lasting fulfillment that is far superior to the fleeting satisfaction of

resentment or hostility. Winning over another—or being won over by one we have wronged—is profoundly rewarding. It transcends emotion and enters the realm of grace, producing true peace and spiritual joy. Reflect today on the first step of reconciliation outlined by Jesus in the Gospel: “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone.” Take sin seriously. Acknowledge its presence in your relationships, especially the close ones. See yourself both as one who is sinned against and as one who sins. Identify the offenses that diminish love. Confront those sins with courage and humility. Reject the false comfort of resentment, and seek instead the true consolation that comes from unity and charity. This is the path that leads to a share in the holy love between Jesus and His Blessed Mother—a love they desire us to know and live.

A reflection from www.mycatholic.life

PARISH NOTICES

Lourdes Pilgrimage 2026 group Meeting – 20 September, after 10:30 Mass

A meeting will be held for everyone going to Lourdes in October. It is advisable to attend this meeting to find out necessary information for the trip. Please e-mail the parish office to confirm your attendance. Include your name and contact details. Prepare questions you need answering and pray for a prayerful pilgrimage to visit our Blessed Mother Mary in Lourdes.

- **Cake Sale :** Our September Cake Sale will take place in the Parish Hall after the 10:30am Mass on Sunday, **20th September**. We would be most grateful for donations of cakes and other baked goods. Please bring your donations to the hall before Mass. Thank you for your support.
- **Bookshop:** Pre-Christmas sales on selected items will be taking place from the 6th Sep. Hamper, filled with mostly Christmas items, running start of Christmas. Entry is £2.00 per ticket.



RCIA - Autumn 2026

Curious about the Catholic Faith? Come and explore with us.

Have you ever wondered what Catholics believe, why we celebrate the Mass, or what it means to have a relationship with Jesus and His Church? Perhaps you have been thinking about becoming Catholic or simply feel drawn to find out more. **You are very welcome to come and explore.**

We are hoping to begin our **RCIA programme in early October 2026**, meeting each **Tuesday evening from 7:00pm–8:30pm in the Parish Hall.**

There is **no expectation and no pressure to make any commitment**. At this stage, it is simply an opportunity to ask questions, discover more about the Catholic Faith and begin a journey together. We will walk alongside you, listen, learn and explore, with the opportunity to discuss what the next steps might look like as the months go by. The programme is also open to **Catholics who may wish to prepare for a Sacrament they have not yet received.**

Interested in joining us?

If you would like to explore the Catholic Faith with us, or are interested in preparing for a Sacrament, please **complete the short sign-up form** - [SOUIC - RCIA - 2026/27](#) or **scan the QR Code.**

Alternatively, you can contact the **Parish Office**, leaving your name and contact details, and we will be in touch.

If you are curious, have questions, or simply wonder whether RCIA might be right for you, **we would love to hear from you.**

Please speak to **Fr Anthony or Deacon Gerard** if you would like an informal conversation or have any questions. You don't need to know all the answers. You don't even need to know exactly what you are looking for. **Just come and explore.**



ALPHA - Autumn 2026

What if there's more to life?

Have you ever found yourself asking the bigger questions about life, faith, purpose or God?

Or perhaps you simply want to explore what Christianity is all about, in a relaxed and welcoming environment where you can ask questions, share your thoughts and meet other people on the same journey.

Our next Alpha course begins in early October and runs through to mid-December 2026 — and you are warmly invited to join us. Alpha is a place to come as you are. You don't need to have all the answers, know much about Christianity or consider yourself "religious". Each week gives us an opportunity to explore a different aspect of the Christian faith, listen to one another and discover what faith might mean in our own lives. Most importantly, Alpha is a journey we make together. As friendships develop and conversations deepen, being able to join us each week makes a real difference — both to your own experience and to the experience of everyone else. So, if you decide to come, we would really encourage you to make a positive commitment to joining us each week wherever possible.

We understand that life happens, and there will inevitably be occasions when you cannot make it. There is no expectation of perfection — simply a genuine desire to make Alpha a priority. You are welcome to join us during the first three weeks of the course. After Week 3, we will invite anyone who has not yet joined to wait until our next Alpha course, which we hope to begin in early 2027. This helps everyone to experience the journey together from the beginning.

Interested in joining us?



If Alpha sounds like something you would like to explore, please sign up using the QR Code or complete the form here - [SQUIC - ALPHA - Autumn 2026](#).

Alternatively, contact the Parish Office, leaving your name and contact details, and we will be in touch.

If you would like to know more about Alpha or are simply wondering whether it might be right for you, please speak to Fr Anthony or Deacon Gerard. We would be very happy to have a conversation with you.

Why not come and see?

You may come with questions.

You may come with doubts.

You may come simply because you are curious.

Wherever you are on your journey, you are welcome. Come, meet us, share a meal, enjoy good conversation and give yourself the space to explore some of life's bigger questions. Perhaps Alpha could be the beginning of something new for you.



Obituary

Thérèse Paule Jacqueline Guillochon was a much-loved teacher for several years at Springhill Primary school, as many of our parishioners will remember. She then transferred to Charlton House and later to Portswood library. Throughout her life Therese was selfless, kind and giving. She supported many vulnerable people and was always warm and generous.

Therese died recently after a short illness. She will be sadly missed but fondly remembered.

