



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

8th March 2026 – 3rd SUNDAY OF LENT



“My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work.”- John 4:5-42

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



Sunday Readings

1st Reading:

Exodus 17:3-7

Psalm:

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

2nd Reading:

Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

Gospel:

John 4:5-42



SECOND COLLECTION

Sun 15 March

Diocesan Clergy Assistance Fund

Solemnities & Feast days	Times & Liturgies		Mass Intentions
Sun 8 March 3 rd Sunday of Lent	8.30 am	Mass	For priests suffering illness of any kind
	10.30 am	Mass	Gorham family RIP
Mon 9 March of 3 rd Week of Lent	-NO MASS-		
Tue 10 March of 3 rd Week of Lent	9.00 am	Adoration	Mary Roddan RIP
	10.00 am	Mass	
Wed 11 March of 3 rd Week of Lent	10.00 am	Mass	Bill Chandler RIP
Thu 12 March of 3 rd Week of Lent	10.00 am	Mass	Maria Ferrao RIP
Fri 13 March of 3 rd Week of Lent	9.30 am	Adoration	For Yong Wen Fang PhD application and for success in her journey in the UK
	10.00 am	Rosary	
	10.30 am	Stations of the Cross	
	11.00 am	Mass	
Sat 14 March of 3 rd Week of Lent	10.00am	Mass	Stanislaw Darlak RIP
Sun 15 March 4 th Sunday of Lent	8.30 am	Mass	--
	10.30 am	Mass	Terry GURD RIP

If you wish to book a Mass intention, please use the Mass Intention envelopes in the porch or contact the Parish Office.

TODAY'S GOSPEL REFLECTION

Facing the Horror of My Sins

Jesus said to her, "Go call your husband and come back." The woman answered and said to him, "I do not have a husband." Jesus answered her, "You are right in saying, 'I do not have a husband.' For you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true." [John 4:16-18](#)



Today, we are given the beautiful story of Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman at Jacob's Well. The story begins with Jesus resting by the well, for He was "tired from his journey." A Samaritan woman approaches the well at noon, during the heat of the day, most likely to avoid the scorn of the other women

who looked down on her. Jesus then does something that greatly surprises her: He asks her for a drink of water. Jews used nothing in common with Samaritans, yet Jesus was willing to drink from her utensil. When she questioned Him about this, Jesus responded, "If you knew the gift of God and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

The "living water" Jesus desired to give her was the spiritual gift of grace to renew and refresh her soul. His divine eyes enabled Him to see her spiritual hunger, and His compassion filled Him with a desire to free her from her many burdens. The passage above might sound harsh at first: "For you have had five husbands..." Why would Jesus bring up this woman's humiliating situation? Because she had clearly been searching for fulfillment throughout her life, engaging in one failed marriage after another. Now, she was living with a man who was not her husband, a reality that left her dry and thirsty.

By speaking this way to the woman, Jesus lets her know that He knows all about her, loves her, and longs to fill her with the satiation she has been searching for throughout her life. He does not judge or condemn her; He invites her to experience the freedom He longed to bestow upon her. After the encounter, the woman left the well overjoyed and even left her water jar behind, symbolizing that she was no longer thirsty—spiritually speaking. She then confidently went to the people of the town and said, "Come see a man who told me everything I have done. Could he possibly be the Christ?"

Each of us needs to see ourselves in this woman. Our sins fill us with shame. The guilt of our hidden sins weighs us down, leaving us thirsty. If we can identify with this sinful woman, then we can also expect the same depth of compassion from Jesus. Too often, we hide our sins, even from ourselves, justifying our actions, downplaying them, or ignoring them. That is not the path to freedom. Freedom only comes by allowing our Lord to reveal our sins to us, facing them, and encountering God's abundant mercy.

Reflect today on the importance of opening your eyes to see the reality of your sins. Don't run from your past—confront it, understand it, confess it, and receive the living water of mercy. The holier you become, the more clearly you will see even the smallest sins you have committed. That is good. It is necessary if we want to be healed and refreshed by God. Imitate this sinful woman today. God is never ashamed of us. Let the shame and guilt dissipate within God's abundant mercy so that like this woman, you will know that God knows you through and through and loves you despite your sin.

OTHER REGULAR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES IN THE PARISH

We offer a variety of weekly parish activities throughout the week, and you are warmly invited to join us. Whether you're new to the parish or have been with us for years, there's always a place for you. Come along, meet others, and share in our parish life.

Monday
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cooking with Confidence 10 am - 1 pm, Church hall kitchen

Tuesday
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tea & Coffee After 10 am Mass, Church hall ▪ RCIA 7:15 pm – 8.45 pm, Church hall

Wednesday
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parent & Toddler Group 10:30am – 12 noon, Church hall ▪ Alpha Course 7pm, Church hall

Thursday
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Multicultural group 10:30 am, Church hall  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintaining the parish gardens from 10:30 am

Sunday
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Refreshments After 10.30 am Mass, Church hall 

<p>All Welcome to join.....</p>
--

PARISH NOTICES

CAFOD Lent Appeal – Family Fast Day collection

This Lent, live out the Gospel call to love your neighbour. By fasting and giving what you save, you join in Christ's compassion and help another family put food on the table. Your donation can help families around the world grow food in difficult conditions – such as on flood-resistant floating gardens or using solar-powered water pumps in times of drought. Collect a CAFOD envelope to bless others with your support, donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope or call 0303 303 3030. Text CAFODLENT to 70085 to donate £10.



Good News! Every donation counts twice!

Sponsors will **match all contributions**, so please give as best you can, your support truly matters.

Children's Way of the Cross – Good Friday

There will be a Children's Way of the Cross on **Good Friday at 9.30am** in our church.

This is a special service prepared for all families to attend.



BIG LENT WALK - Saturday 14 March

The St Edmund's CAFOD Group is running a Big Lent Walk at St Edmund's, beginning at 10.00am on Saturday 14th March. The walk will finish back at their church hall with soup lunch, drinks, and snacks.

All parishioners across Southampton are warmly invited to join

Lenten Soup Lunches

You are all invited to the 12 noon lunches. 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.



Springhill Catholic Primary School need governors



The water that I will give them will become a spring of water within, welling up to eternal life.
JOHN 4:14

We are looking to recruit two foundation governors for our wonderful primary school. A foundation governor needs to be someone who attends mass regularly and can give some time to the school through monthly meetings which take place on a Monday evening (5:30-7:30pm) and are able to come into school for an hour or two - three to four times a year. If you would like to find out some more information, please send an email to our info@springhillcatholic.net email for the attention of Mrs Ashworth. Our governors do an amazing job and they find the role so rewarding. Training is provided.

Income For February 2026

Income	Feb 2026
Candles	29.19
Cake Sale	91.37
Donations	100.00
Repair Café	56.20
DONA	173.17
Envelopes	280.50
Online Giving	239.00
Offertory	1,327.64
Standing Orders & DDs	3,073.50
Total Income	5,370.57
Special Collections	
Cathedral	4.92

Thank you for your continued generosity.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2026

Bishop Philip warmly invites you to join the 2026 diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes, taking place from Monday 6th July to Friday 10th July, departing from London Heathrow. Pilgrims will stay at the Hotel La Solitude, just moments from the Sanctuary, offering comfortable ensuite rooms, shared meals, and a welcoming base for this special journey.

The pilgrimage includes visiting places connected with St Bernadette, taking part in the main pilgrimage celebrations, moments of quiet reflection, and opportunities to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick. It is a beautiful opportunity to grow in faith, encounter God, and share in prayer with others.

This pilgrimage is a chance to grow in faith, encounter God, and share a journey with fellow pilgrims.

Email: lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk Booking Form: [Click here \(2026-Lourdes-Booking-Form-Portsmouth-v17.pdf\)](#)

Parish Youth Activities – Spring & Summer

We are pleased to begin building our parish youth community with several upcoming events for young people.

■ Youth Day – Easter Holidays (Ages 5–16)



A Youth Day for will take place on **Tuesday 8 April, 10:00am–3:00pm in the Parish Hall**, led by Sue and Steve with support from other volunteers.

■ Junior Youth Group (Ages 7–10)

The Junior Youth Group will meet **6:00–8:00pm** on the following Fridays:
24 April, 5 June, and 3 July.
Leaders: Sue, Steve and David

■ Older Teenage Group (Ages 11–16)

The Teenage Group will meet **6:30–8:30pm** on the following Fridays:
15 May, 26 June, and 17 July.
Leaders: Bwalya, Mweetwa and Night

These gatherings aim to help young people build friendships, grow in community, and deepen their faith in a welcoming and supportive environment. Parents and young people are warmly encouraged to take part.



Cake Sale - Appeal for Bakers!

Sunday 8th March is the 2nd Sunday of the month, so the usual cake sale will take place after 10.30 mass. We are appealing again for more bakers and cake donations. At the moment we only have 2 regular bakers, so any contributions would be gratefully accepted. The proceeds of the sales go to our parish charities, so please help.