

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

18th August 2024 - TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

*“Anyone who does eat my flesh and drink my blood has eternal life,
and I shall raise him up on the last day.”*

John 6:54

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

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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 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 Tuesday 10:00 am-3 pm, Wednesday 1pm-5pm Closed on Thursday and Friday, then return to normal hours from 27th August: Tuesday and Friday, 10:00 am – 3 pm, Wednesday and Thursday 1pm-5pm

**ALL MASSES ADVERTISED BELOW ARE AVAILABLE TO JOIN LIVE, ONLINE AT
www.churchservices.tv/portswoodchur**

Date	Solemnities & Feast days	Times & Liturgies		Mass Intentions
Sun 18 August	TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Isabella Nica RIP Mona Halford RIP
Mon 19 August	St John Eudes, Priest		NO MASS	
Tues 20 August	St Bernard	10.00 am	Eucharistic Service	
Wed 21 August	St Pius X, Pope	10.00 am	Eucharistic Service	
Thurs 22 August	The Queenship of Mary	10.00 am	Eucharistic Service	
Fri 23 August	St Rose of Lima	10.00 am	Eucharistic Service	
Sat 24 August	St Bartholomew	10.00 am	Eucharistic Service	
Sun 25 August	TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Mgr Patrick Murphy O'Connor RIP Tina Leng
Mon 26 August	Blessed Dominic Barberi		NO MASS	
Tues 27 August	St Monica	10.00 am	Eucharistic Service	
Wed 28 August	St Augustine of Hippo	10.00 am	Mass	Edmund Durkin RIP
Thurs 29 August	The Passion of St John the Baptist	10.00 am	Mass	John Laurent RIP
Fri 30 August	Ss Margaret Clitherow, Anne Line & Margaret Ward	9.00 am 9.30am 10.00 am	Morning prayer Rosary Mass	A Special Intention
Sat 31 August	St Aidan & All Saints of Lindisfarne	10.00 am	Mass	
Sun 1 September	TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass (Children's)	Lawrence & Luigiana Clegg RIP Fr George Lyons RIP



READINGS FOR SUNDAY 18TH August

1st Reading: Proverbs 9:1-6
Psalm: 33(34):2-3,10-15
2nd Reading: Ephesians 5:15-20
Gospel: John 6:51-58

READINGS FOR SUNDAY 25TH August

1st Reading: Joshua 24:1-2,15-18
Psalm: 33(34):2-3,16-23
2nd Reading: Ephesians 5:21-32
Gospel: John 6:60-69

NEXT TWO WEEKS IN THE PARISH:

Sun 18th - Tea & coffee after 10.30 am mass
Tues 20th - Tea & Coffee after 10 am service – church hall
Sun 25th - Tea & coffee after 10.30 am mass
Tues 27th - Tea & Coffee after 10 am service – church hall
Confirmation group meeting – 4pm parish hall
Thurs 29th **Caritas summer fun group – 10.30 – 12:30**
Chinese ink drawings and Calligraphy – parish hall
Sun 1st - Tea & coffee after 10.30 am mass

NO SECOND COLLECTIONS UNTIL SEPTEMBER

TODAY'S GOSPEL REFLECTION:

Changed by the Eucharist

Jesus said to the crowds: "I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world." [John 6:51](#)

It must have been somewhat shocking to the people who heard Jesus say this for the first time. Immediately after Jesus said this, we read that "The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying, 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?'" Jesus addressed their confusion even more directly by saying, "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you." Those who were confused must have become even more confused, and those who believed must have deepened their faith as they heard Jesus teach so clearly and profoundly.

Of course, Jesus was speaking about the Eucharist. The Eucharist is truly His Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity. We know that. We believe it. But from time to time, it is a helpful spiritual practice to revisit our Lord's very direct and definitive teaching. On the deepest level, the Eucharist will always remain a profound mystery of faith. How can we eat His flesh and drink His blood? To someone without faith and without a basic understanding of the Eucharist, this teaching seems shocking and unbelievable. In fact, it's easy to understand how some of the first hearers of this teaching quarreled among themselves in confusion. For that reason, we must listen to Jesus' words with the spiritual gift of understanding so that we are not among those who are confused. Understanding is a gift of the Holy Spirit that opens our minds to the deep spiritual truths Jesus is revealing. If we attempt to listen to this teaching using our human reason alone, we will never understand.

When you consider Jesus' teaching on the Holy Eucharist, what do you understand and believe? Especially consider what goes through your mind when you attend the Holy Mass and go forward to receive Communion. What normally takes place within you at that moment? Some come forward distracted or even disinterested, paying more attention to the others around them than to the Eucharist. Others simply go forward out of habit because that's what they have always done. Some see the Eucharist more as a symbol of our sharing in God's banquet. But some come forward with a deep spiritual hunger and thirst for God, receive Him in faith, love Him deeply as they consume Him, and are filled with hopeful anticipation that their reception of this holy gift will transform them interiorly and set them more firmly on the path to holiness. Which person are you most like?

Believing in the Holy Eucharist and receiving it with the utmost faith and devotion will only happen when we believe. But believing doesn't come automatically. It first requires understanding. And understanding will only come when we allow our minds to engage the mystery and teaching of Jesus, ponder it, contemplate it, penetrate it and open ourselves to God's gentle and revealing voice. Words do not suffice to explain this mystery. Prayer that opens oneself to the voice of God alone suffices.

Reflect, today, upon how you approach Holy Communion each week. Start by thinking about the last few times you went forward to receive our Lord in this way. From there, think about how deeply you understand that moment. Is it transforming for you? Are you among those who hunger and thirst for Jesus? Do you notice the spiritual effects that take place within you as a result of your reception of the Eucharist? If so, then deepen your faith by committing yourself to a more prayerful participation in the Mass the next time you attend. If not, then try to step back and examine that which you actually believe, are confused about or do not believe. There is no greater gift we will ever receive in life than the Eucharist. Believe it with all your heart, and the Eucharist will change your life.

A reflection for the Twentieth Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B
www.mycatholic.life

PARISH NOTICES

WELCOME TO FR ANTONY GATT – FR ANTHONY UPCOMING ANNUAL LEAVE

Fr Anthony is taking his annual leave between **6 – 27th August**.

Please note that during this period masses will be only held on Sundays and celebrated by Fr Antony Gatt.

PLEASE NOTE

This week's newsletter covers two weeks as Cecilia will be on annual leave. Please also note the change in office hours.

TEA & COFFEE

- ✦ After 10.30 am mass on Sundays
- ✦ After 10am mass or service on Tuesdays.



Please join us in the hall for refreshments after service.

CONFIRMATION GROUP MEETING

Please note the confirmation group is meeting on Tuesday 27th August at 4pm in the parish hall.

PARISH COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Under Fr Anthony's guidance, our parish has started to develop further OUTREACH EVENTS as part of our service as Jesus's apostles to the local community. We are linking this partly with our Portsmouth Diocese CARITAS initiative.

MORE INFO TO COME IN SEPTEMBER.

In the interim, we have a group meeting in our Parish Hall on **THURSDAY MORNINGS 10.30 to 2pm.**



We played board games and indulged in an ice cream party after Assumption Mass.

Next up:

29th August: Chinese ink drawings and calligraphy.



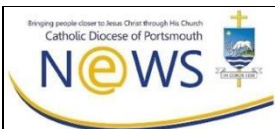
5th September: Gardening work (at the back of the hall) to create a kitchen garden.

PLEASE COME AND JOIN IN. No costs. Parents need to accompany and be responsible for their children.

PARISH HALL BOOKINGS

Our spacious parish hall with fully equipped kitchen is available for one-off or regular hire.

All details and booking forms are on our website:
<https://www.immaculateconception.church/hall-hire>



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

PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE E NEWS & JOB VACANCIES

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

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2025

The programme will start in Autumn 2024. Those already registered but not attended a welcome session please come along to our last welcome session at 6pm on 3rd September.

COMING SOON ON SUNDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER



2024
LEARNING TOGETHER:
EDUCATION IN OUR COMMUNITY

Watch out for our 1st September newsletter for more information!

URGENT APPEAL!

A Parish family with three children urgently need a new home. They are being evicted from their house .



Can you offer them a new home or know someone who could help?

Contact Steve 07540229973 or the Parish office please

VOCATIONS NEWSLETTER FOR AUGUST



<https://www.portsmouthvocations.org/so/13P47sBwl?languageTag=en&cid=8eeb309f-dcf5-4938-a4a3-1108ca4991af>

VOLUNTEER WITH SOUTHAMPTON STREET PASTORS

Applications are open now for the next training programme this Autumn, taking place on the weekends of 4-6 October, 18-20 October and 1-3 November.

Call 02380333387 or visit www.southamptonstreetpastors.org to find out more and submit your application.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE CARE OF CREATION

Pope Francis has established 1 September as the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, encouraging the Catholic community around the world to pray for our common home. This World Day of Prayer also falls at the beginning of the Season of Creation, which runs until 4 October, the feast of St Francis of Assisi.



This is an ecumenical season dedicated to prayer for the protection of creation and the promotion of sustainable lifestyles. The theme for 2024 is "Hope and Act with Creation" inspired by the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans (Romans 8:19-25). To find out more and pray go to: <https://cafod.org.uk/news/uk-news/celebrate-world-day-of-prayer>

SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN

There is a **petition** organised by SPUC to **abolish the two-child benefit cap**, which directly relates to one of the biggest drivers of abortion, poverty. If you want to support this cause please sign one of the petition postcards, which are available in the porch. Once signed, please leave them in the green basket labelled SPUC Petition, so we can post it back together via Freepost.

ADORE spiritual mini-retreat 31st August 10.00-1.00

“BEAR THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT – our transformed lives will help other people.”

Including Mass, Adoration, Praise, Prayer for the gifts of the Holy Spirit and inspiring guest speaker Maria Heath.

Please register for the Zoom meeting in advance at

bit.ly/ADOREAUG2024 More information at <http://www.altonrenewal.com>

WISDOM CENTRE ROMSEY

Wisdom Centre in Romsey has an inspiring programme of events for you this autumn. The first quiet day of the season will be 'The Gospel of Thomas - A Day of Reflection' facilitated by Martin Handy. It is booking up quite quickly but places are still available. We look forward to also welcoming Fr Antony Gatt who will be leading our October quiet day. And Sr Marie Turner will be sharing her wisdom for November's quiet day. We hope you will be able to join us.

Check their website for more info:

<https://www.wisdomhouseromsey.org.uk>

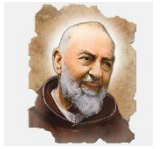
Italian Pilgrimage 8-13th September

Guided by Father Francesco Broccio and Friar Pio Corvino

Visiting:

Pietralcina – Birthplace of Saint Pio
Sanctuary of Saint Pio - San Giovanni
Rotondo

The Grotto Church of Saint Michael
Pompei – Shrine of the Virgin of the Rosary



Anyone interested in booking this pilgrimage please speak to Rosanna Orlando - 07585 799852 - or - Bernie Farrell – 07792 961036

Flyers with more information are available in the porch.

8 DAYS PILGRIMAGE TO ROME IN SUPPORT OF LIFE

“Pilgrim’s Progress to Rome, an eight-day trek in Autumn 2025, is a charity fundraising challenge organised by the charity Life. Life supports women in unexpected and crisis pregnancies and those experiencing pregnancy loss.

Life are calling all those with “an adventurous spirit and a compassionate heart”, to email emilytraynor@lifecharity.org.uk to receive more information.”

SECULAR ORDER OF DISCALCED CARMELITES



Would you like to ‘Go Deeper’ in your faith, grow in prayer and develop your spiritual life? Why not join our Carmelite group that meets on third Saturday monthly for mutual support in spiritual growth.

We have times of liturgical prayer and silent prayer, discussion of a Carmelite text and social time.

We meet from 10:30 to 3pm at the St Joseph Catholic Church Parish Centre, 26A Abbey Waters, Romsey.

For more information contact Samantha Harris on 07840 756078 or email samanthaharris218@gmail.com

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