

9th and 16th APRIL 2023
EASTER SUNDAY
& SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

“He saw and he believed”
 John 20:8

WEEKLY
INFORMATION
& UPDATES

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

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 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)

Parish Priest: Fr Anthony Chiatu

Parish Deacon: Dcn Gerard Dailly

Hospital Chaplaincy: (023 8120 8517)

University Chaplain: Sr Emelliana Silva (07426 000213)

Safeguarding Officer: Pat Saunders

Parish Secretary: Rachel Brady (023 8055 5470)

Confessions: After 10 am Mass on Saturdays

Hall Bookings: contact the parish secretary

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

Date	Solemnities & Feast days	Times & Liturgies		Mass Intentions
Sun 09 Apr	EASTER SUNDAY of the Resurrection of the Lord	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	- Sabina Ayoka
Mon 10 Apr	within the Octave of Easter	-	No Mass	
Tues 11 Apr	within the Octave of Easter	9.00 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration Mass	-
Wed 12 Apr	within the Octave of Easter	10.00 am	Mass	-
Thur 13 Apr	within the Octave of Easter	10.00 am	Mass	-
Fri 14 Apr	within the Octave of Easter	9.00 am 9.30 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration Rosary Mass	-
Sat 15 Apr	within the Octave of Easter	10.00 am	Mass	-
Sun 16 Apr	SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (Divine Mercy)	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Shay & Jane Fenton RIP
Mon 17 Apr	of the 2 nd week of Easter	-	No Mass	
Tues 18 Apr	of the 2 nd week of Easter	9.00 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration Mass	-
Wed 19 Apr	of the 2 nd week of Easter	10.00 am	Mass	-
Thur 20 Apr	of the 2 nd week of Easter	10.00 am	Mass	-
Fri 21 Apr	St Anselm	9.00 am 9.30 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration Rosary Mass	-
Sat 22 Apr	of the 2 nd week of Easter	10.00 am	Mass	-
Sun 23 Apr	THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	- Ariana Paredes RIP



READINGS FOR EASTER SUNDAY

1st Reading: Acts 10:34,37-43

Psalm: 117:1-2,16-17,22-23

2nd Reading: Colossians 3:1-4

Gospel: John 20:1-9

READINGS FOR SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

1st Reading: Acts 2:42-47

Psalm: 117:2-4,13-15,22-24

2nd Reading: Peter 1:3-9

Gospel: John 20:19-31

TEA AND COFFEE AFTER MASSES

Please join us in the hall on **Sundays after the 10.30 am Mass** for tea and coffee. **And also after Mass on TUESDAYS** – A friendly welcome awaits you.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED NEXT WEEK

Re-opens Tues 18th April (Tues - Fri, 9.30 am – 2.00 pm)

COLLECTIONS

EASTER VIGIL & EASTER SUNDAY COLLECTIONS

The collections at the Easter Masses are all donated to the parish priest. Parish priests rely on these offerings to support them personally throughout the year. This is an important part of their income. Apart from your donations, they depend on a limited stipend from the Diocese. So please do be generous in return for the dedicated service which Fr Anthony gives to the Church.

Any donations can be made in cash or by cheque via the collection baskets in the church or using our card payment machine in the church porch.

The Parish Bank Account details are:

Name: CDP, Immaculate Conception Church,
 Sort Code: 30-93-04, Account No: 00887995

2nd COLLECTION NEXT SUNDAY 16th April 2023 –
 No second collection

The Resurrection of the Body

On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him." So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb. [John 20:1-3](#)

Happy Easter! Our Lord has risen, He has overcome death and He has opened the gates of Heaven to all who believe and receive the gift of salvation. Alleluia! What a glorious day we celebrate!

Today's Gospel concludes by saying, "For they did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead." This is evident by the initial reaction of Mary of Magdala, Simon Peter and the Apostle John. Mary first thought that someone had taken the body of Jesus and moved it from the tomb. Peter was confused and ran to see for himself. John also went and when he saw the empty tomb, he believed. Eventually, all of the Apostles would come to understand and believe.

The initial reaction to the empty tomb teaches us an important lesson. Though the Resurrection of Christ is clearly known to us today, our knowledge of this glorious event must continually deepen. This is evidenced by the fact that the disciples of Jesus came to understand the Resurrection over time. They did not comprehend His Resurrection when Jesus first taught them about it. They did not fully understand it when they saw the empty tomb. They did not even fully comprehend it when they saw the risen Lord. It was only after they were given the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost that their minds were open to this incredible mystery of faith so that they could begin to penetrate and comprehend this mystery more clearly.

The Resurrection of Christ was a real historical event. But it is also an event that transcends time. It's an event that must permeate all time and transform every moment of our lives. When Jesus rose from the dead, it was much different than a simple return to life. He did not simply come back to the life He lived before He died. Instead, His resurrected state was a new beginning. He was now different. He was transformed. His body would now never age. It could not die. It could pass through closed doors. This resurrected body of our Lord, which is perfectly united to His divine soul, will remain with Him forever.

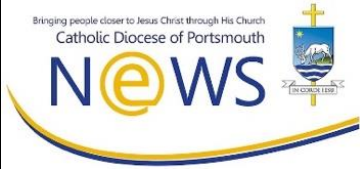
The resurrected body of our Lord also made it possible for us to share in His resurrected state. We now have hope that, if we share in His suffering and death, we will also share in His Resurrection. But what does that mean? Saint Thomas Aquinas believed that our resurrected bodies will be glorious beyond imagination. We will never age, require no food, never experience illness, be free from all disorders and will live this way forever. Somehow, through our bodies, we will also be able to share ourselves with others in a pure and holy way, communicating to others the love of God alive within our souls. We will have the gift of agility, being able to move

from place to place with immediacy simply by thinking it. Our new glorified bodies will manifest the ways that we loved and served God in this world. For example, Jesus' resurrected body had wounds in His hands, feet and side. But now those wounds radiate His glory and forever testify to His act of perfect love.

Reflect, today, upon the Resurrection of the Saviour of the World. As you do, reflect also upon His invitation to share in this new life. Though much of our understanding of the Resurrection of Jesus, as well as our hope of sharing in this resurrected state, will only be understood when we share in it, it is important to place these ideas in our minds so that we have something to anticipate. At the very least, we must know and understand that our sharing in the resurrected state of Jesus is glorious beyond what we can imagine. This is what we celebrate today. And this celebration must fill us with hopeful anticipation of our participation in this glorious new life to come.

*A reflection for Easter Sunday, Year A
My Catholic Life, www.mycatholic.life.com*

Bringing people closer to Jesus Christ through His Church
Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth



**THIS WEEK'S
PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE
E NEWS**

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

<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue404?e=34c55ac6ce>

THANK YOU

Our thanks to Fr Antony Gatt who we welcome back for a few weeks after Easter, whilst I am away in Bamenda. He will be saying all our usual Masses and looking after the presbytery whilst I am away, enabling the parish to continue running smoothly on a day to day basis. His support is much appreciated.

CONTINUATION OF SOUP LUNCHES

Following the successful soup- lunches during Lent we are continuing these after Mass on the first Friday of each month as a parish social and fundraising event. The time of Mass on these Fridays will be 11.30 am, preceded by Eucharistic Adoration and & the Litany of the Sacred Heart, followed by the Angelus as follows:

11.00 am –Eucharistic Adoration

11.30 am – Mass preceded by Litany of the sacred heart

12 noon – Angelus

12.05 pm – 2 pm – Monthly Soup Lunch

All other longer term notices are in our new monthly Bulletin which will be available in the porch on the first Sunday of each month and throughout the month. Please take a copy, or if you receive the newsletter on line, perhaps print off a copy to keep handy at home.