



14th MAY 2023
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

“If you love me you will keep my commandments.”
John 14:15

WEEKLY
INFORMATION
& UPDATES

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

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)

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 14 May	SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Elizabeth Clearkin RIP Thanksgiving for Nariah's healing
Mon 15 May	of the 6 th week of Easter	-	No Mass	
Tues 16 May	of the 6 th week of Easter	10.00 am	Mass	David Brooks RIP
Wed 17 May	of the 6 th week of Easter	11.00 am	Mass	Fransquina Vales & John Diniz (25 th wedding anniversary)
Thur 18 May	The Ascension of the Lord HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION	10.00 am 7.30 pm	Mass Mass	For Ukraine -
Fri 19 May	Dedication of the Cathedral of St John, Portsmouth	9.30 am 10.00 am	Rosary Mass	-
Sat 20 May	of the 6 th week of Easter after Ascension	10.00 am	Mass	Irena Darlak RIP
Sun 21 May	SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Irene Matthews RIP -



READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY

1st Reading: Acts 8:5-8,14-17

Psalm: 66:1-7,16,20

2nd Reading: 1 Peter 3:15-18

Gospel: John 14:15-21

WE ARE REALLY IN NEED OF SOME PRACTICAL HELP AROUND THE PARISH....

Do you have the expertise to help the parish with any of the following jobs – or do you know anyone who could help?

- A new Overhead Projector needs putting up in the church
- The bolt on the front door of the church needs repairing/replacing
- The lock on the sacristy toilet door needs repairing or replacing.
- We have a few problems with the microphones in the church
- Painting & decorating
- A couple of minor plumbing repairs
- Hedge cutting
- The wooden name plaque on the church wall by the sacristy door of previous parish priests needs to be taken to an engraver to be updated

You help with any of these will be very much appreciated. Please contact Rachel in the parish office if you can help in any way:

office@immaculateconception.church

****AFTER 10.30 AM MASS THIS SUNDAY****

BBQ & CAKE SALE



After 10.30 am Mass this Sunday 14th May we have a parish BBQ and cake sale with refreshments, in the church grounds. Please do stay and join this parish activity. All are welcome.

CLOSER TO CHRIST CAMPAIGN

Our parish is currently undertaking the Closer to Christ Campaign which aims to support our priests from formation through to retirement and rejuvenate our parishes. We will be hosting a number of small gatherings at the Church to explain this initiative and hope you are able to make one of the following dates:

- Wednesday, 7th June at 6.00pm
- Tuesday, 13th June at 10.30 am (after Mass)

To rsvp, please call the parish office on 023 80555470 or email office@immaculateconception.church

I appreciate you considering my invitation and I look forward to speaking with you soon.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Anthony

PARISH OFFICE OPEN NEXT WEEK:

Tues, Thurs & Fri, 9.30 am – 2.00 pm

Obedience, Truth and Freedom

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows him. But you know him, because he remains with you, and will be in you.” [John 14:15-17](#)

Imagine a spouse or a friend saying to you, “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.” Such a statement might cause you to react with surprise. Ordinarily, we do not see obedience to another as a sign that we love them. However, what if a parent were to say to a child, “If you love me, you will be obedient.” That statement is easier to accept because of the unique role of a parent to their children. In regard to our love of God, obedience to His divine will is the greatest act of love we can offer. This is because God’s will is perfect. It’s exactly what we need in life. It’s what we were made for. And it is the one and only way to achieve the human fulfillment that we seek. Only God can say such a thing to us because only God is God.

Jesus followed up His call to obedience by saying that obedience to Him will result in Jesus and His Father bestowing the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth upon you. The Holy Spirit will remain “with you, and will be in you.” This is such a profound statement from our Lord. In fact, so much of what He says within this sermon given at the Last Supper is profound beyond comprehension.

One clear thing this tells us is that obedience to God leads to a discovery of the Truth. And as Jesus says elsewhere, “If you remain in my word, you will truly be my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free” ([John 8:31-32](#)). Obedience leads to Truth. Truth leads to freedom.

This begs the question: Do you want to be free? Clearly you do. We cannot not want to be free. Meaning, we are obliged to want freedom, just as we are obliged to want happiness. Why? Because the desire for freedom and happiness is written upon our very nature. It is a desire that we cannot escape. It’s how we are wired. However, it is quite possible to become confused about the way we achieve these desires. For many, obedience is not always understood as the pathway to that desired freedom and happiness.

Consider, again, a child. Imagine a parent telling that child not to eat a certain wild berry that grows behind their house because the parent knows the berry is poisonous and will cause the child to become sick. If the child disobeys and eats the berry anyway, he will learn the important lesson that he should have been obedient. Or if the child were to get in a fight with his brother and was angry and crying, the parent may tell him to say he’s sorry and reconcile with his brother. If the child refuses, he will remain angry and crying. But if he obeys, then he and his brother will once again be able to have fun together.

On a grand scale, this is what God does for us. He is the perfect Father Who always knows what is best for us. For that reason, we must not only conform to His will, we must desire it, seek it out and desire to be obedient to the greatest degree. This is the path to Truth. It is the path to freedom. It is the path to the happiness we desire.

Reflect, today, upon your own level of obedience to the will of God and your understanding of the importance of that obedience. Do you realize that God’s will is perfect? Perhaps you do intellectually, but how about practically? When you read through the Scriptures and hear Jesus’ commands of love, do you seek to follow them without hesitation? For example, do you forgive those who seem undeserving? Can you say, with our Lord from the Cross, “Father, forgive them, they know not what they do?” Reflect upon anything this past year that was difficult for you to embrace from God. Ponder it, pray over it and seek to obey whatever He has revealed to you. Doing so will be the first step toward the fulfillment of your deepest desires in life.

*A reflection for the 6th Sunday of Easter, Year A
My Catholic Life, www.mycatholic.life.com*



RECENTLY DIED

Rosalind Ellerington RIP

of Winn Road, died on 1st April, aged 97

Funeral on 22 May, 10.45 at Southampton
Crematorium

Iain Rylands RIP

Funeral on 23rd May, 1.30 pm at St Edmunds Church,
Southampton

SECOND COLLECTIONS:-

TODAY SUNDAY 14th May – Vocations

NEXT SUNDAY 21st May – No second collection

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

JOB VACANCIES WITHIN

THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PORTSMOUTH

- Estates Manager/Building Surveyor, Portsmouth
35 hours per week, closing date 23 May 2023
- Housekeeper, Christ the King Parish, Southampton
8 hours per week, closing date 2nd June 2023
- IT Manager, Portsmouth
Full time, closing date 31 May

For further details on the above posts please visit:

<https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/about-us/other/jobs/>

- Assistant Parish Administrator, St Edmunds, So'ton,
15 hours per week, closing date 29 May 2023
For a further details and an application, visit
<https://forms.office.com/e/VwQifWgVie>
- Vacancies at Springhill - Teacher positions available, see school website for details - www.springhillcatholic.co.uk