

# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

22<sup>nd</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024 – TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

*'Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name, welcomes me; and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'*

Mark 9,37

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

**Address:** 346 Portswood Road, Southampton, SO17 3SB  
**Tel:** (023) 8055 5470  
**Website:** www.immaculateconception.church  
**Email:** [office@immaculateconception.church](mailto: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 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 NEXT WEEK: Tuesday 10:30-3.30 pm, Wednesday and Thursday 1pm-5pm, Friday, 10:00 am – 3 pm**

**ALL MASSES ADVERTISED BELOW ARE AVAILABLE TO JOIN LIVE, ONLINE AT  
[www.churchservices.tv/portswoodchur](http://www.churchservices.tv/portswoodchur)**

Date	Solemnities & Feast days	Times & Liturgies		Mass Intentions
Sun 22 September	<b>TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass (Childrens)	Denis & Naomi Philpot Richardson family RIP
Mon 23 September	St Pius of Pietrelcina, (Padre Pio)		NO MASS	
Tues 24 September	Our Lady of Walsingham	9.00 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration Mass	Luis Nunes Greaves RIP birthday in memoriam
Weds 25 September	Feria	10.00 am 6pm	Mass Eucharistic Adoration	
Thurs 26 September	Ss Cosmas & Damian	10.00 am	Mass	
Fri 27 September	St Vincent de Paul, Founder	9.00 am 9.30 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic adoration Rosary Mass	Lydie & Oscar Tchuisseu
Sat 28 September	St Wenceslaus, Martyr	10.00 am	Mass	Krystyna and Adam Madej RIP
Sun 29 September	<b>TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass (Childrens)	Steve White RIP



**READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Wisdom 2:12,17-20  
**Psalm:** 53(54):3-6,8  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** James 3:16-4:3  
**Gospel:** Mark 9:30-37

**SECOND COLLECTIONS:**

SUNDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> September – No 2<sup>nd</sup> collection  
 SUNDAY 29<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER – SVP (non GA)

**NEXT WEEK IN THE PARISH:**

Tues 24<sup>th</sup> Tea & Coffee after 10 am Mass – church hall  
 Wed 25<sup>th</sup> Adoration for students and anyone else who would like to join us – 6-7 pm in the Lady Chapel  
 Thur 26<sup>th</sup> Caritas activity group– 10.30am  
 Sat 28<sup>th</sup> First Holy Communion – Session 3 The Prodigal Son  
 Sun 29<sup>th</sup> Refreshments after mass  
 Choir Practice 11.30 am in the church. Anyone welcome to join.

**TODAY'S GOSPEL REFLECTION:**

***The Greatness of Holiness***

*They came to Capernaum and, once inside the house, he began to ask them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" But they remained silent. They had been discussing among themselves on the way who was the greatest. [Mark 9:33-34](#)*

One of the desires that we all have is for greatness. This is a good and natural desire. This desire is manifested in competitiveness in sports and games. It becomes a driving force in business and politics. It drives us to do better in life, such as in school, artistic endeavors, and hobbies, working hard to perfect various skills and talents so as to excel. The problem is that every good and natural desire we have is now disordered to a certain degree because of original sin. As a result, the desire we have for greatness

can become an obsession, a cause of discouragement when we fail, a source of jealousy when others appear to do better, and can lead us to pursue empty and fleeting goals in life.

Even within the life of faith, we can be affected by both the natural desire for greatness and the fallenness of that desire. The natural desire for greatness, when mingled with faith, will lead us to the desire to be a saint and to do great things for the Kingdom of God. But as a fallen natural quality, we can also fall into the trap of seeing ourselves in competition with others within the Church, and we can become jealous of those who appear to be holy and who are recognized for their good work for Christ.

Just prior to the passage quoted above in which the disciples were discovered to have been arguing among themselves about who was the greatest, Jesus predicted to them, for the second time, that He would suffer and die. Recall that after the first prediction of His passion, Jesus took Peter, James and John up a high mountain and was transfigured before them. Perhaps some of the other disciples became jealous of this apparent special treatment. Then, after Jesus predicted His passion to them for the second time, they might have wondered if some of them would likewise share in a similar experience as the Transfiguration.

Regardless of what motivated the disciples to argue among themselves about who was the greatest, the fact remains that they did so. This was not the result of a holy and purified desire. It was the result of a good desire for greatness that became distorted and turned into an unholy competition based on jealousy and selfishness.

In Heaven, we will all know who is the greatest. Interestingly, the Scriptures, the official Church teachings, and many of the saints reveal to us that there will be levels of glory in Heaven. This is why Jesus said elsewhere, "Store up treasure in Heaven" (Matthew 6:20). In Heaven, each of us will be perfectly happy. But each of us will also share in God's glory in varying degrees, based upon the merit of our charity on earth. The classic example of this is that if every soul is like a glass of water in Heaven, then every glass will be full. But some glasses will be larger than others and will be able to contain more water (glory). For this reason, we must remember that the natural desire for greatness is good, but it must be properly ordered by grace. That desire must not become as it was among the disciples who saw each other as competitors. Instead, it must be directed to the deepest desire for holiness and charity. In Heaven, we will all be in awe of those holy souls who are filled with the greatest depths of glory forever. Most likely, they will be widely unknown on earth, but loved and admired in Heaven for the greatness of their holiness.

Reflect, today, upon the desire within your own soul for greatness. Pray that this desire will not fall into selfishness or lead you to see others as competitors. Instead, pray that your desire for greatness will lead you to holiness so that you will be able to store up for yourself the most abundant treasures in Heaven and radiate that glory forever.

*A reflection for the Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)*

[www.mycatholic.life](http://www.mycatholic.life)

## PARISH NOTICES

### ADVANCE NOTICE

Next week's newsletter will cover two weeks. Please send any newsletter items by Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September 1 pm to Cecilia via email: [office@immaculateconception.church](mailto:office@immaculateconception.church)

### CAFOD Family Fast Day – Harvest Appeal Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October

With your help, CAFOD funds training, tools, equipment and safe spaces so **disadvantaged young people in the third world** can learn new skills and fulfil their God-given potential. Use the envelope in church or give online.



In preparation for the Family Fast Day Steve Deadman will be talking about CAFOD in a presentation on 6<sup>th</sup> October .

### STUDENTS WELCOME!

As a Parish Community we would like to extend a very warm welcome to all new and returning students.

We would really appreciate it if you could make yourselves known to either Fr. Anthony or Deacon Gerard allowing us to introduce you to others. There is **Tea and Coffee** available after 10:30 Mass in the Parish Hall.

We would also like to extend an invitation to our upcoming **Students Welcome Meal currently planned for Saturday 12 October** with more details to follow in the coming weeks.

We would also invite to you to connect with the Parish Students WhatsApp Group run by fellow students.

### UPCOMING DATES FOR YOUR DIARY FROM FR ANTHONY:

- **RCIA Begins (registration ongoing):** 8th Oct 8-9:30PM
- **Welcome Party for University Students:** 12th Oct
- **St Luke's Mass for Medical Workers:** 18<sup>th</sup> Oct 6.30pm
- **Bamenda Sunday:** 27th Oct
- **Mass of Remembrance:** 2nd Nov
- **Blessing of Graves:** 3rd Nov
- **Remembrance Sunday:** 10th Nov
- **Christmas Fair:** 16th Nov
- **Parish Retreat:** 30th Nov, 10 AM - 2 PM
- **Novena to the Immaculate Conception:** 29th Nov-7th Dec
- **Patronal Feast Day:** 7th Dec (joined by the Marion Group, CWA)
- **Night of Light:** 13th Dec

Please mark your calendars and join us for these events!

### CARITAS AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

The new Autumn newsletter can be found here:  
<https://mailchi.mp/5f83b022d4f5/autumn-newsletter>

### RCIA COURSE

We will be starting our new **RCIA course** on **Tuesday 8 October'24 (8 - 9:30pm) each week**

The RCIA (or "Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults") is a process of Christian formation – based on ancient tradition – offered to those who seek to become Catholic. The initiation of new members is a gradual process, allowing enquirers time to grow in faith and become full participants of the Catholic community.

**If you are interested please speak to Fr. Anthony or Dcn Gerard in the first instance.**

### Parish Consultation and Hall Renovations

Over the last few months, the parish was engaged in a consultation process as to what was required by the parish. The suggestions tabled have been analysed to create a plan for how we can take the parish forwards. Earlier this week the Finance Team met to review some financial proposals and are now looking to connect with the Diocesan Estates Team to help progress the plan. This process is not the fastest (!! ) so we would ask for your patience with us as we move forward, and we will continue to share updates when we are able to do so. If there are any queries, please ask Gerard.

### CHRISTMAS SHOE BOX APPEAL

**DEADLINE: 13<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER**

*Christmas presents are still collected for disadvantaged and displaced children in Eastern-Europe. Boxes are available to take away and fill with presents. Please also take a leaflet to guide you.*



**PLEASE RETURN YOUR FILLED BOX (TOGETHER WITH £2 ATTACHED) BY SUNDAY 13<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER AT THE LATEST, TO HELP THE ROTARY CLUB IN PREPARING THEIR DELIVERIES. Contact Norman and Mary for any queries.**

### SVP AWARENESS MONTH

There will be a brief update on the activities of the SVP Conference in the Parish followed by the annual monetary appeal.

**CARITAS OUTREACH GROUP-26th September:  
THURSDAY MORNING 10.30am to 12:30pm**

Chinese calligraphy and painting skills and practice  
**PLEASE COME AND JOIN IN! No costs. Parents need to accompany and be responsible for their children.**

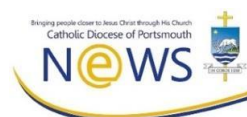
### NEW LECTIONARY

After consultation with a number of English-speaking Conferences of Bishops, the Bishops of England and Wales studied the translation of the Catholic Edition of the English Standard Version (ESV) of the Bible produced by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India. From this text they have produced a Lectionary for the Church in India which has received 'confirmatio' by the Holy See. The new edition of the Lectionary will come into use in England and Wales from the First Sunday of Advent 2024. "The new edition of the Lectionary will be a gift to the Church in England and Wales. It will deepen the understanding and love of the scriptures by the People of God. In the words of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, it is indispensable that the Word of God 'be ever more fully understood at the heart of every ecclesial activity'" (Post Synodal Apostolic Exhortation Verbum Domini). The text of the new Lectionary using the English Standard Version: Catholic Edition, together with the Abbey Psalms and Canticles.

We are still waiting the release of the new Lectionaries for Church and Missals for individual use; we would ask for your continued patience. The intention is to have samples of the New Missals available for review; ordering and purchasing as soon as we possibly can.

**A wonderful opportunity to gain an insight into what is coming would be to consider attending the Diocesan Formation Day for Readers as per the details below**

Fr Anthony Fyk, Director of Liturgy Formation, is running a formation day for readers on Saturday 19th October from 10.30 am to 2 pm at St Bede's Church/Hall in Basingstoke. Registration in email: [liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)



**PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE  
E NEWS & JOB VACANCIES**  
Activities, events, news and job vacancies from around the Diocese.

<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue458?e=34c55ac6ce>

## SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

Safeguarding training for all those working with children or vulnerable adults is necessary unless you already have a relevant certificate no more than 3 years old.

**A training session is organised for 26th October, 11am – 4pm in the parish hall, please contact Cecilia to sign up.**

## NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER & FASTING FOR LIFE

*A great prayer for Life is urgently needed. Pope St. John Paul II*

On Saturday 28th September please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia. Last year this country saw the largest number of abortions ever. Your prayer and fasting is urgently needed.

### For information on the day of Prayer and Fasting contact:

The Good Counsel Network on 020 7723 1740

[www.goodcounselnetwork.com](http://www.goodcounselnetwork.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1584168772229831/>

## A DAY OF REFLECTION WITH FR ANTONY GATT MYSTICAL PATHS: TERESA OF AVILA, RUMI AND THOMAS MERTON

**Date: 19th October 2024, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm**

**Location: Wisdom Centre, Romsey**

To book this event call 01794830206 (leave a message if we are unable to take the call).

Or email: [reception@wisdomhouseromsey.co.uk](mailto:reception@wisdomhouseromsey.co.uk)

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

## St Anne's Catholic School

Year 4, 5, 6 Open events  
Wednesday 25th September

Open morning 9-11am

Open evening 6-8pm



Scan to book Open Morning



Scan to book Open Evening

The open morning gives parents the opportunity to see the school on a normal working day and talk to their student guides as they tour the school.

The open evening gives families the opportunity to talk to a range of staff, hear a talk from the Headteacher, Head girls and some Year 7 pupils and to tour the school with student guides. **We look forward to seeing parents at St Anne's to find out why St Anne's is hard to beat!**

**Ofsted**  
Outstanding  
Provider

**SAINT GEORGE**  
CATHOLIC COLLEGE

# Open Evening

Thursday  
**3<sup>rd</sup> October**  
5pm - 8pm

ACHIEVEMENT  
SPIRITUALITY  
RESPECT  
INDEPENDENCE  
RELATIONSHIPS  
ENJOYMENT



Online Prospectus



[www.stgcc.co.uk](http://www.stgcc.co.uk)

## ST PATRICK'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



### OPEN DAYS AUTUMN 2024

07 Oct 2024, 13:30 – 15:00 BST  
12 Nov 2024, 09:30 – 11:00 GMT  
18 Nov 2024, 13:30 – 15:00 GMT  
26 Nov 2024, 09:30 – 11:00 GMT

To book and for more information about admissions  
please visit our website:

[Admissions | St Patrick's School \(spcps.co.uk\)](http://Admissions | St Patrick's School (spcps.co.uk))

## SPRINGHILL CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

### 'PROSPECTIVE PARENT' TOURS

If your child will be starting school in September 2025, we'd love to welcome you to Springhill Catholic Primary School. We advise that you don't bring children with you so you can concentrate on the presentation and tour which will last around an hour. They will all start at 9:30am on the following dates:

**Wednesday 25th September 2024**

**Wednesday 16th October 2024**

**Tuesday 26th November 2024**

Please arrive at the school reception at around 9:25am and enjoy getting to know our school. Please use the link below to let us know you are coming.

<https://forms.office.com/e/tnZ6bJmh5a>