



# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

*“Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden,  
and I will give you rest.” - Matthew 11:25-30*

**Address:** 346 Portswood Road, Southampton, SO17 3SB

**Tel:** (023) 8055 5470

**Email:** [office@immaculateconception.church](mailto:office@immaculateconception.church)

**Website:** [www.immaculateconception.church](http://www.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](mailto: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 LISTED BELOW ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE TO JOIN LIVE on our website or [www.churchservices.tv/portswoodchur](http://www.churchservices.tv/portswoodchur)

Solemnities, Feast days & Memorials	Times & Liturgies		Mass Intentions
Sun 5 July FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.30 am	Mass	Lawrence & Luigiana Clegg RIP
	10.30 am	Mass	Remembrance Mass for Mr & Mrs Francis and Helen Afodume
Mon 6 July St Maria Goretti	<b>-NO MASS-</b>		
Tue 7 July Feria	9.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration	Trevor Delves RIP
	10.00 am	Mass	
Wed 8 July Feria	10 am	Service of the Word (No Mass)	--
	6 pm	Eucharistic Adoration	
Thu 9 July St Augustine Zhao Rong	10 am	Mass	--
Fri 10 July Feria	9.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration	Mr Kenneth Waters RIP
	9.30 am	Rosary	
	10.00 am	Mass	
	1.00 pm	Funeral Mass for Mr Kenneth Waters	
Sat 11 July ST BENEDICT	10 am	Mass	Maureen Howard RIP
Sun 12 July FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Sea Sunday – Stella Maris	8.30 am	Mass	Joao & Angela Azavedo - 25 <sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary, Jenice Azavedo - Birthday
	10.30 am	Mass	Arthur Maxfield Death anniversary RIP



**Thought for the Week:** *"Today, we are witnessing a real paradigm shift in public discourse and in decisions regarding re-armament, with a troubling revival of war as an instrument of international politics, while the very ethical principles that had previously limited its use are being eroded." (Pope Leo: Magnifica Humanitas 190)*

## SUNDAY READINGS



1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Zechariah 9:9-10

Psalm: Ps 145(144):1-2. 8-9. 10-11. 13C-14. R cf. 1

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Romans 8:9, 11-13

Gospel: Matthew 11:25-30

## OTHER REGULAR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

All are welcome to join!

- Mon- Cooking with Confidence 11 am – 1 pm, Church Hall kitchen
- Tues- Tea & Coffee after 10 am Mass – Church Hall
- Thurs- Maintaining the parish gardens – from 10:30 am Multicultural group – 10:30 am in the Church Hall
- Sun- Refreshments after 10.30 am Mass-Church Hall

## TODAY'S GOSPEL REFLECTION: *Praying to the Father in the Son* Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

At that time Jesus exclaimed:

*"I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to little ones. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him."* [Matthew 11:25-27](#)

This passage beautifully summarizes the entire Christian life—the life to which we are called and in which we find our purpose, meaning, and ultimate fulfillment. Jesus begins by offering praise to the "Father, Lord of heaven and earth." Though Jesus Himself is fully God, "one in being with the Father"—co-eternal and consubstantial—He nevertheless offers praise to the Father.

In the original Greek, the phrase "I give praise to you..." (exomologoumai) indicates an open, public, and full acknowledgment by the Son of the Father's sovereignty and gracious will. The Father is the All-Powerful Lord of all that exists—everything in the heavens and on earth. Jesus expresses this fundamental stance toward the Father for two reasons: first, because it is eternally true; and second, so that we might humble ourselves and join Him in praying the same prayer—through, with, and in Jesus.

This prayer closely parallels the opening of the Lord's Prayer (the "Our Father"), because both begin with a direct acknowledgment and praise of the Father's holiness and sovereignty. The Lord's Prayer is the perfect prayer precisely because it was given to us by Jesus Himself. After addressing the Father, it presents seven petitions. According to Saints Thomas Aquinas and Augustine, the first two petitions—"hallowed be Thy name" and "Thy Kingdom come"—reveal the central purpose of our lives: to glorify God eternally and to be caught up in, and actively participate in that glory by becoming full members of His Kingdom. In today's prayer, Jesus says "these things" have been revealed "to little ones" and that the Son can choose to reveal the Father to whom He wishes.

We are drawn into Jesus' prayer and intimate relationship with the Father precisely when Jesus reveals the Father to us: "No one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him." Because Jesus deeply desires that we come to know and love the Father with the same love He has for Him, His prayer continues by gently inviting us—especially when burdened by weariness, weakness, or sin—to lay our burdens down before His merciful power and glory: "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest" ([Matthew 11:28](#)).

This tender invitation reveals Jesus' deepest desire for us: that we would enter into His love for the Father, share intimately in the union between Father and Son, and thus magnify and glorify the Most Holy Trinity—not only in our earthly journey but eternally in Heaven. Indeed, what a sublime and glorious calling we have received!

Reflect today upon this beautiful prayer, knowing in your heart that Jesus Himself invites you to pray it with Him, through Him, and in Him. He longs for His voice to resonate within your voice, His love to beat within your heart, and His holy desires to shape your own. Turn your gaze toward the Father—He who is both the Source and ultimate goal of your existence—and strive lovingly and humbly to accomplish all things according to His gracious and holy will.

A reflection from [www.mycatholic.life](http://www.mycatholic.life)

## Second collection - 12 July 2026 - Sea Sunday – Stella Maris – The Apostleship of the Sea

Seafarers and fishers play a vital role in all of our lives, but they often work in difficult, hazardous conditions. Sea Sunday is Sunday 12th July. It is when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. Your support will make a big difference to seafarers and fishers in need. You can donate in church, by visiting [www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate](http://www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate), or by texting 'SEA' to 70460 to donate £5. This collection is vital to enable Stella Maris to continue its important work, so please give generously. Thank you.



## PARISH NOTICES

### A Word of Thanks

*To my beloved parish family,*

*This past Saturday, we gathered to commemorate ten years since I began this journey, a milestone we first marked back on March 30, but one that felt truly complete only when celebrated together with all of you. I am still trying to find the words for what that day meant to me. To see so many of you gather, to read the messages you took the time to write, each one a small window into your hearts, left me overwhelmed with gratitude.*

*Ten years ago, I could not have imagined how deeply this community would come to feel like home. Every note, every kind word, every smile shared on Saturday reminded me why this vocation is such a gift. You have made me proud to serve as your parish priest, and proud to walk alongside you, even in the moments when that means being present from afar.*

*I don't have the perfect words to capture what I feel, only this: thank you. Thank you for your faith, your warmth, and for making this parish a true home, not just for me, but for one another.*

*With a full and grateful heart,*

*Fr Anthony*

### Cleaner Vacancy - Parish of the Immaculate Conception, Portswood



We are looking for a reliable and dedicated Cleaner to help maintain our church premises and presbytery to a high standard, ensuring they remain clean, safe, and welcoming for worship and parish life.

This vital role supports the dignity of our spaces and the mission of the Parish by fostering a respectful and well-cared-for environment for all.

Interested applicants are warmly invited to contact the Parish Office for further details.

### CAFOD-DEC Venezuela Earthquake Appeal

You can help our neighbours affected by the 24 June earthquakes in Venezuela with emergency shelter, water and food. CAFOD is already working with local Church partners to support people who have lost their homes, but we need your support to help more survivors. Your donation will provide essential supplies and help families rebuild their lives. Donate to the CAFOD-DEC Venezuela Earthquake Appeal today: [cafod.org.uk/Venezuela](http://cafod.org.uk/Venezuela) or call 0300 999 0030 or scan the QR code. Please keep our neighbours in Venezuela in your prayers.



### Wedding Mass

Wedding Mass will be celebrated at the church on **25 July at 10 am** as Night & Emil join together in the Sacrament of Marriage.

Please note that there will be no regular 10 am Mass or Confessions on this day. We

kindly ask parishioners, where possible, to leave parking spaces available for the wedding guests and their families. Please keep the couple in your prayers that God will bless them with a lifetime of love and happiness together.



### Maintenance Morning – Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July

Our next Maintenance Morning will take place on Saturday 11th July, following the morning Mass. We would be very grateful for volunteers to help with a range of tasks, including cleaning the kitchen, clearing drains, light gardening, and cleaning the church.

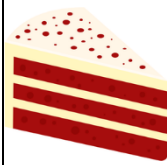
If you are able to lend a hand, even for a short time, your support would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for helping to care for our shared space.

### Parish upcoming events

- St Joseph's Men's Group initial meeting- Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July at 7:30pm in the Parish Hall
- Older Teenage Group (Ages 11–16) will meet 6:30–8:30 pm on Friday 17 July.  
Leaders: Bwalya, Mweetwa and Night.

### Cake Sale



Cake sale will take place after 10.30 mass on 12<sup>th</sup> July. We are appealing again for more bakers and cake donations. Following the Parish BBQ and Cake Sale on 10 May, some payments remain outstanding so please pay as soon as possible. The proceeds of the sales go to our parish charities, so please help.

### Funeral Notice for Wendy Whitcher

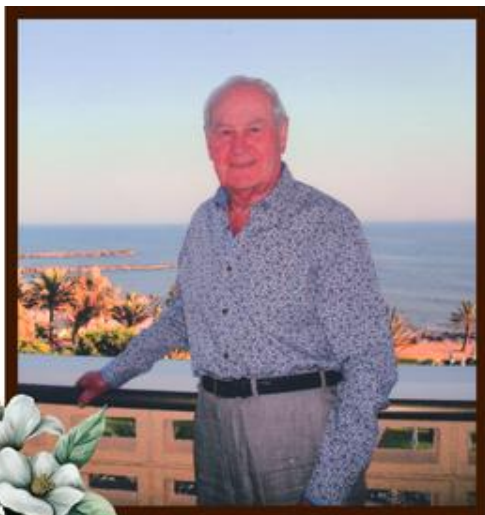
The family of Wendy Whitcher would like to announce that Wendy passed away peacefully at Winchester Hospice on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June aged 86.

Wendy was an active member of the parish. She will be remembered with great love as a devoted mother, grandmother and great grandmother. She will be sadly missed by her family, friends and all who knew her.

The funeral will be at St Edward the Confessor church in Chandlers Ford on Monday July 13<sup>th</sup> at 2pm.



### Funeral



### Mr Kenneth Waters

Requiem Mass:

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2026, 1 pm

At Immaculate Conception Church

Committal:

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2026, 2:30 pm

South Stoneham Cemetery