

# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

10 March 2024

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that  
Everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life”  
John 3:16

**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](http://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](mailto:safeguarding@immaculateconception.church))  
**Parish Secretary:** Rachel Brady (023 8055 5470)  
**Confessions:** After 10 am Mass on Saturdays  
**Hall Bookings:** contact the parish secretary

**PARISH OFFICE OPEN: Tuesday – Friday, 9.30 am – 2.30 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 10 Mar	<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT</b>	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Janine Spencer Bill Chandler RIP
Mon 11 Mar	of the 4 <sup>th</sup> week of Lent	-	-	
Tues 12 Mar	of the 4 <sup>th</sup> week of Lent	10.00 am	Eucharistic Service	
Weds 13 Mar	of the 4 <sup>th</sup> week of Lent	10.00 am	Mass	Maria Ferrao RIP
Thurs 14 Mar	of the 4 <sup>th</sup> week of Lent	10.00 am	Mass	Annabelle Dailly RIP
Fri 15 Mar	of the 4 <sup>th</sup> week of Lent	9.00 am 9.30 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration Stations of the Cross Mass	
Sat 16 Mar	of the 4 <sup>th</sup> week of Lent	10.00 am	Mass	Sriya Lenore Maria Fernando RIP
Sun 17 Mar	<b>FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT</b>	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	- Terry Gurd RIP

 <p><b>READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY</b>  <b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b> 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23  <b>Psalm:</b> 137:1-6  <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b> Ephesians 2:4-10  <b>Gospel:</b> John 3:14-21</p>	<p><b>NEXT WEEK IN THE PARISH:</b>  <b>Tues 12<sup>th</sup> - Confirmation session</b> – 6 pm in the hall          - RCIA 7.30 pm in the hall  <b>Thurs 14<sup>th</sup> - Choir Practice.</b> Anyone is welcome to join          7.30 pm in the Church  <b>Sun 17<sup>th</sup> - Welcome to Fr Antony Gatt</b> – to celebrate          Masses this Sunday</p>
	<p><b>SECOND COLLECTIONS:</b>  <b>THIS SUNDAY – 10 March</b> – Clergy Assistance  <b>NEXT SUNDAY – 17<sup>th</sup> March</b> – Flowers for the Church for Easter  <b>(CARD MACHINE NOW WORKING RELIABLY AGAIN)</b></p>

### TODAY'S GOSPEL REFLECTION: Seeking the Full Truth

Jesus said to Nicodemus: “Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.” [John 3:14-15](#)

The line quoted above concludes a dialogue that Jesus had with Nicodemus, a Pharisee and a member of the Sanhedrin. This is the first of three times Nicodemus is mentioned in the Gospel of John. The second time he appears is when he reminds the other members of the Sanhedrin that a man must be first heard before he is condemned. The third time was when Jesus was killed and Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes to prepare Jesus’ body for burial. Jesus was not accepted by most of the Pharisees and within the Sanhedrin. For that reason, Nicodemus was taking a risk by going to him at night to talk. But Jesus clearly senses faith in the heart of Nicodemus, which is why when Nicodemus asks Jesus about His teaching, Jesus answers him. Unlike the other Pharisees, Nicodemus was not trying to trap our Lord; he sincerely wanted to understand.

At the beginning of this dialogue between Jesus and Nicodemus, Nicodemus professes the beginning of faith in Jesus when he says, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you are doing unless God is with him” ([John 3:2](#)). Interestingly, Jesus then speaks to Nicodemus in figures of speech, saying

that one can only enter the Kingdom of God when they are “born from above” and “born from water and the Spirit.” Nicodemus tries to understand but fails. Jesus then gently rebukes him by saying, “You are the teacher of Israel and you do not understand this?” ([John 3:10](#)). Jesus then goes on to speak further in symbolic language and figures of speech, concluding with the beginning of today’s Gospel quoted above when He speaks in a veiled way about His coming crucifixion.

One thing that is important to understand from this dialogue between Jesus and Nicodemus is that Jesus’ language is veiled in symbolic language because, even though Nicodemus was on the right path, he was not yet ready for the full revelation of the Gospel. He could not yet fully comprehend all that our Lord came to reveal. Thus, Jesus spoke in veiled language and invited Nicodemus to keep seeking its hidden meaning.

In our own lives, we can come to God and want Him to speak clearly and definitively to us, revealing His perfect will for our lives. But often He doesn’t. Why? Because God knows we are not yet ready for the full truth. When He speaks to us and when we gain insight in one way or another, this is good and reveals we are on the right path. But the Gospel, in its fullness, is so radical and so demanding that most people are not yet ready for the full truth. Therefore, in His compassion, God gives us only what we can handle at the moment. But this humble truth should encourage us, as it did Nicodemus, to not give up and to continue opening ourselves to the fullness of the Word of God.

Reflect, today, upon how open you are to the fullness of God’s Word. What would happen if God were to reveal to you, by an immediate personal revelation of divine knowledge, all that was in His sacred mind? Would it be too much for you to handle? Yes, it would be. But that humble admission is an important step toward that very goal. Humble yourself, today, more fully before the mysterious Word of God and pray that you will continue to be changed and open so that the clarity of God’s truth will more fully penetrate your soul.


A reflection for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent, Yr B  
[www.mycatholic.life](http://www.mycatholic.life)

## PARISH NOTICES

**AFTER 10.30 AM MASS TODAY .....**  
**Tea & coffee, cake sale and a special blessing of our new kitchen** Please join us!

**‘BRING & SHARE’ LUNCH IN THE HALL AFTER MASS**  
**Next Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March – (St Patricks Day!)**  
Please bring along a food contribution if you can!  
All Welcome

**OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE HALL KITCHEN**  
**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March, 11.45 am**  
Our new kitchen will be officially opened by the Lord Mayor, Valerie Laurent, after 10.30 am Mass, along with tea and cake. Save the date!

Bringing people closer to Jesus Christ through His Church  
Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth  
  
**PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE**  
**E NEWS & JOB VACANCIES**  
Activities, events, news and job vacancies from around the Diocese.  
<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue437?e=34c55ac6ce>

**RECENTLY DIED**  
Jeanine Hunt RIP – Funeral to take place on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024, 11.30 am.  
Annabelle Dailly (Mother of Deacon Gerard). Funeral on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March at her parish in Scotland. Please also remember her and all the family in your prayers at this time.

**STELLA MARIS EASTER EGG APPEAL.** Stella Maris, the Catholic charity that supports Seafarers, is planning to give chocolates to the many crew aboard ships in port along the south coast over Easter, who are passing through our ports, far away from home. It can be a very lonely time for them. The Port Chaplains are asking for any chocolate Easter Egg donations. Please leave your donations in the church porch or bring to the parish office by Monday 18 March.

**CHRISM MASS** – Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March, 11 am at St John’s Catholic Cathedral Portsmouth. Anyone is welcome to attend.

**SOUTHAMPTON PHILHARMONIC CHOIR AND THE  
SOUTHAMPTON UNIVERSITY PHILHARMONIC CHOIR**  
**Saturday 16th March at O2Guildhall**

From the dreamy melodies of Eric Whitacre, which bookend a selection of George Shearing’s settings of Shakespeare’s poetry, to Will Todd’s Mass in Blue. The composer Will Todd and his Ensemble will be on stage too!  
Tickets available online c/o the O2Guildhall Southampton website. Further information and tickets are also available through Mags via [boxoffice@southamptonphil.org](mailto:boxoffice@southamptonphil.org)

<b>INCOME – FEBRUARY 2024</b>	
Candles	104.29
Card Machine	110.15
From Gift Aid Envelopes	295.00
Online Giving	299.00
Main Collection	2,231.85
Standing Orders & Direct Debits	3,100.00
Sunday Tea/Coffee	220.00
Cake Sale	195.00
Roof Fund Donation	125.00
Special Donation	200.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>6,880.29</b>
<b>Special Collections</b>	
CAFOD	751.02
CARITAS	188.38
Emerg Relief Fund	10
CRIB	22.16
<b>Total</b>	<b>971.56</b>