



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

22nd March 2026 – 5th SUNDAY OF LENT

“But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.” John 11:1-45



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

Address: 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)
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
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 SCHEDULED BELOW ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE TO JOIN LIVE AT www.churchservices.tv/portswoodchur



Palm Sunday

29 March 2026

Procession of Palms at
8:30am & 10:30am,
followed by Mass



Solemnities & Feast days	Times & Liturgies		Mass Intentions
Sun 22 March 5 th Sunday of Lent	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Maureen Slevin RIP --
Mon 23 March of 5 th Week of Lent	-NO MASS-		
Tue 24 March of 5 th Week of Lent	9.00 am 10.00 am 7.00 pm	Adoration Mass Parish Lenten Reconciliation Service	For Visa application
Wed 25 March <i>The Annunciation of the Lord</i>	10.00 am	Mass	Emelda Che RIP
Thu 26 March of 5 th Week of Lent	10.00 am	Mass	Charles Eric Robertson RIP
Fri 27 March of 5 th Week of Lent	9.30 am 10.00 am 10.30 am 11.00 am	Adoration Rosary Stations of the Cross Mass	--
Sat 28 March of 5 th Week of Lent	10.00am	Mass	Mercy Yeboah RIP
Sun 29 March Palm Sunday	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Special Intention Ann Queen For the repose of the soul of Houedikin Godfroy

If you wish to book a Mass intention, please use the Mass Intention envelopes in the porch or contact the Parish Office.



TODAY'S GOSPEL REFLECTION : Jesus' Human and Divine Love

When Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who had come with her weeping, he became perturbed and deeply troubled, and said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Sir, come and see." And Jesus wept. [John 11:32-35](#)



Jesus' humanity shines clearly in today's Gospel. In the face of Lazarus' death, Jesus is deeply moved by the grief around Him. The Gospel says He "became

deeply distressed and troubled" and eventually "wept." The Greek word for "deeply distressed," *embrimaomai*, suggests a strong emotional disturbance, even indignation or anger. It could be translated as "He snorted in spirit," indicating an involuntary, visceral response from the depth of His soul. Some commentators suggest Jesus' anger wasn't directed at the people weeping but at the reality of death itself, caused by sin. As God, Jesus knew death was never part of the Father's original plan for humanity. From a divine perspective, He saw death as a consequence of sin. From this point of view, death provoked righteous indignation and deeply troubled His human heart.

As the passage continues, Jesus' humanity is powerfully portrayed in the shortest verse in the Bible: "And Jesus wept." Why did He weep? Saint Paul reminds us in Hebrews: "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has similarly been tested in every way, yet without sin" ([Hebrews 4:15](#)). Jesus' tears show us that the Holy Trinity knows human pain firsthand. The Incarnate Son allowed Himself to experience sorrow, and the Father and the Holy Spirit shared in this sorrow through Him.

It's important to note that Jesus' sorrow was different from the weeping of Lazarus' sisters and the others present. Jesus' weeping uses the Greek word *edakrysen*, which means "to shed tears" or "weep silently." His tears were personal, controlled, intimate, heartfelt, and full of divine compassion. In contrast, the weeping of the others is described by the Greek word *klaió*, meaning loud wailing, a typical expression of communal and ritualistic mourning at the time. Jesus' grief was neither ritualistic nor excessive; it was intimate and heartfelt, born from personal sorrow and divine compassion. We must never forget Jesus' deep compassion, empathy, and sorrow. His human heart feels the same emotions we do—He grieves when we grieve, shares in our pain, and is moved by the hold sin has on us. After feeling these emotions at Lazarus' death, Jesus stood outside the tomb and "cried out in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!'" ([John 11:43](#)). We can imagine the passion behind His command. In our lives, when we are trapped in sin or burdened by human weakness, we must hear Jesus calling us to freedom with the same divine authority and human passion. Reflect today on Jesus' humanity and how He perfectly understands everything we experience. His deep empathy for our suffering and His joy when we rise with His grace show us how intimately He knows us. God became one of us in every way, sharing in our human condition—though without sin—so that we might share in His divinity. Ponder His humanity and let His closeness draw you to Him, giving you a share in His divine life.

OTHER REGULAR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES IN THE PARISH

We offer a variety of weekly parish activities throughout the week, and you are warmly invited to join us. Whether you're new to the parish or have been with us for years, there's always a place for you. Come along, meet others, and share in our parish life.

Monday
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cooking with Confidence 10 am - 1 pm , Church hall kitchen

Tuesday
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tea & Coffee After 10 am Mass, Church hall ▪ RCIA 7:15 pm – 8.45 pm, Church hall

Wednesday
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Alpha Course 7pm, Church hall

Thursday
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Multicultural group 10:30 am, Church hall  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintaining the parish gardens from 10:30 am

Sunday
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Refreshments After 10.30 am Mass, Church hall 

<p>All Welcome to join.....</p>
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PARISH NOTICES

SUPPORT OUR PRIEST THIS EASTER

Easter is a time of hope, new life, and gratitude. It's also a moment to appreciate the people who quietly make a difference in our lives – especially Fr Anthony. Week after week, he guides us, prays for us, supports our families, and leads our parish with care, wisdom, and kindness. His work often happens behind the scenes, but it means so much to our whole community.

The Easter Offering is a special opportunity to give thanks and to support the life and ministry of the parish. Any contribution you can make will help sustain the work of the parish and its priest. If you cannot give financially, your prayers remain deeply valued and appreciated. Donations given on Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday, along with any applicable Gift Aid, will go towards supporting the priest of the parish. Every contribution over this weekend helps continue the mission and ministry of the Church.

This Easter, let's come together to show Fr Anthony how much he is appreciated. Thank you for your generosity, your kindness, and your support.

To help with the Easter Offering, you can make your donation in one of the following ways:

- **An envelope marked “Clergy Easter Offering”**
- **Using the contactless terminals in the Porch**
- **By bank transfer. Please remember to reference “Easter Offering.”**

Account Name - CDP Southampton Immaculate Conception

Sort code: 30-93-04

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Children's Way of the Cross – Good Friday

There will be a Children's Way of the Cross on **Good Friday at 9.30am** in our church.

This is a special service prepared for all families to attend.



Lenten Soup Lunches

You are all invited to the 12 noon lunches.

Please come and enjoy the freshly made soups, meet up with friends and help the charities who benefit from them. We

especially welcome anyone who has not been before.

Next Soup Lunch: 27 March (**the last lenten soup lunch**) – S.V.P (The Bigger Picture; Young Vincentians)



Let God's Mercy Renew You

As we prepare for the joy of Easter, Lent invites us to pause, reflect, and return to the heart of God. One of the greatest gifts we have as Catholics is the Sacrament of Reconciliation, a place of mercy, healing, and new beginnings.

You are warmly invited to our Parish Reconciliation Service on Tuesday 24 March at 7:00pm.

There will be several priests available, offering everyone the time and space to receive this sacrament prayerfully and without haste.

If you feel hesitant about coming to confession, know this: there is nothing to fear. This is not a place of judgment, but of peace. Here, burdens are lifted, hearts are renewed, and we are restored by God's love.

Whether you come regularly or it has been a long time, you are most welcome.

Come and experience God's mercy.

Come and be renewed.

Come and prepare your heart for Easter.

We look forward to welcoming you.



British Summer Time Begins!

**The Clocks Go Forward
by one hour on Sunday 29 March at 1 am**



Repository & Bookshop



We now have a lovely selection of **gifts**, as well as a range of **Easter items** available in the Church Bookshop. Do pop in and have a look!

We are also in need of **volunteers** to help in the Repository. If you can spare a little time, please let the Parish Office know, your help would be greatly appreciated.

Message of Thanks from Westover Children's Home

We are truly grateful and humbled by the warm welcome Reece, a young person from Westover Children's Home, received from your parish community. With the support of his worker, Deidre, your kindness and acceptance helped him feel fully part of the church family, and made his 18th birthday and farewell celebration in the church hall truly memorable.

This message is not just a personal thanks but a tribute to the wider parish community—welcoming both new and familiar faces reflects the spirit of your church. Partnerships like yours help young people access faith, friendship, and support, contributing to Westover's Stakeholders Award last November.

If you would like to nominate colleagues, teams, or services who make a positive difference to young people, nominations for the Aspris "Be Your Best" Awards are open here: www.aspris.com/aspris-award.

Holy Week & Easter Service Leaflet

Please refer to the Holy Week and Easter service leaflet to find all the service times. Copies are kept in the porch, and all service times will also be available on our parish website.

