



# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

*“My flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink.” John 6:51-58*

**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 AT [www.churchservices.tv/portswoodchur](http://www.churchservices.tv/portswoodchur)

Solemnities, Feast days & Memorials	Times & Liturgies		Mass Intentions
Sun 7 June CORPUS CHRISTI [ <i>The Body and Blood of Christ</i> ]	8.30 am	Mass	For the People of the Parish
	10.30 am	Mass	For the People of the Parish
Mon 8 June <i>of the 10<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time</i>	<b>-NO MASS-</b>		
Tue 9 June St Ephrem	9.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration	Margaret & Fred Fuller RIP (Deceased members of Cole family)
	10.00 am	Mass	
Wed 10 June <i>of the 10<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time</i>	10.00 am	Mass	Emelda Che RIP
	6 pm	Eucharistic Adoration	
Thu 11 June St Barnabas	10 am	Service of the Word (No Mass)	--
Fri 12 June THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS	9.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration	Mrs Susan Atkins RIP (Deceased members of Cole family)
	9.30 am	Rosary	
	10.00 am	Mass	
Sat 13 June St Anthony of Padua	10 am	Mass	--
Sun 14 June ELEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME	8.30 am	Mass	--
	10.30 am	Mass	Trevor Delves RIP

## SUNDAY READINGS



1<sup>st</sup> Reading:

Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14b-16a

Psalm: Ps 147: 12-13, 14-15, 19-20. R 12a

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:16-17

Gospel: John 6:51-58

## OTHER REGULAR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

- Mon- Cooking with Confidence – 10 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: *Pange Lingua*—Proclaim, O Tongue

#### **Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ—Corpus Christi (Year A)**

Jesus said to the Jewish crowds: “I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world.” The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” [John 6:51–52](#)

It must have been shocking to Jesus’ listeners the first time He boldly proclaimed that He would give His flesh as spiritual food. Their reaction makes this clear: “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” Jesus did not back down or soften what He had just proclaimed. Instead, He began a lengthy and direct discourse, starting with these words:

“Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him.” ([John 6:53–56](#))

What would you have thought had you been among the first hearers? We’re told the people quarreled, indicating division. Some, we later read, murmured among themselves, saying: “This saying is hard; who can accept it?” And tragically, many of Jesus’ disciples left Him and returned to their former way of life (cf. [John 6:60–66](#)).

Despite this apparent failure and loss of disciples, Jesus did not retract or revise His teaching. Instead, He turned to the Twelve and asked if they too wished to leave. Peter, with clarity and faith, responded with one of the most profound statements of discipleship in all of Scripture: “Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God” (cf. [John 6:67–69](#)).

In many ways, Peter’s words are as important for us today as Jesus’ own words introducing the Eucharist. Why? Because Peter shows us how to respond when we encounter divine mysteries beyond human understanding. The Eucharist is one of the most central of these mysteries.

Do you believe in the Eucharist? Do you believe that it is truly the flesh and blood of the Son of God—His Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity? Though many of us have learned this teaching from childhood and accept it on some level, few penetrate the depth of the mystery we behold at every Mass. Saint John Vianney spoke beautifully of the Eucharist, revealing his profound reverence for this Gift: “If we really understood the Mass, we would die of joy.” And: “There is nothing so great as the Eucharist. If God had something more precious, He would have given it to us.” He also said: “How beautiful it is! After the Consecration, the good God is there as He is in Heaven.”

It’s easy to approach the Holy Mass out of routine rather than with the depth of faith possessed by the saints. But that must be our goal. We must believe that we would truly “die of joy” if we understood the Mass.

The Solemnity of Corpus Christi is our annual invitation to step back and reflect on what we believe—and how devoutly we participate in the Mass and receive Holy Communion. We need this reminder so that our worship and faith do not grow lax.

Reflect today on Jesus’ unwavering clarity: “Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you.” Believe what He says. The Eucharist is not a symbol; it is the greatest Divine Mystery on earth. In the Eucharist, we kneel before God and consume Him—so that we may become what we eat: the Mystical Body of Christ.

Let us close by praying the opening verses of a hymn Saint Thomas Aquinas wrote at the request of Pope Urban IV for the newly instituted Feast of Corpus Christi in 1264—the *Pange Lingua*, meaning, “Proclaim, O Tongue.”

*Down in adoration falling, Lo! the sacred Host we hail; Lo! o'er ancient forms departing, Newer rites of grace prevail;  
Faith for all defects supplying, Where the feeble senses fail. To the everlasting Father, And the Son who reigns on high,  
With the Holy Ghost proceeding Forth from each eternally, Be salvation, honor, blessing, Might, and endless majesty.  
Amen.*

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

## PARISH NOTICES

### First Holy Communion Congratulations!!

We warmly congratulate Aitana, An Minh, Anh May, Tsz Yau Angie, Constance, Gabriel, George David Nicholas, Igisa Lohure F., Mary Elizabeth, Loro, Kabang, Ohkule and Oliwia who have received their First Holy Communion in our parish. May the grace of this special day stay with you always, and may you continue to grow in love for Jesus in the Eucharist.



### Volunteer's Week 1 June - 7 June

We want to express our heartfelt thanks to our volunteers for your generosity, dedication, and willingness to give your time, which makes such a difference to our parish community.

Through your service, you reflect kindness, faith, and a true spirit of community. We are truly grateful for all that you do. Thank you for being such an important part of our parish.



### Sacramental life in the Parish - Deadline

Please note that the registration deadline is **15 June** for those interested in receiving **First Holy Communion 2027** (aged 9+), and **Confirmation** (aged 13–17). For all enquiries, please complete the form using the link or QR code below. Alternatively, feel free to contact the Parish Office or speak directly with Fr Anthony or Deacon Gerard.



[Sacramental Initial Interest Form](#)

### Housebound Parishioners

Our parish is currently updating our list of housebound parishioners. If you or a relative are unable to attend Mass due to poor health, illness or mobility challenges, please kindly contact the parish office. We would be very happy to arrange a visit and stay connected with you.

### RCIA – A New Beginning Together

We give thanks to God for the successful completion of this year's RCIA programme and warmly congratulate those who have recently been received into the Church. It has been a joy to journey with you. As faith continues to grow beyond reception, we would love to stay connected. We are therefore inviting all who have completed the RCIA programme over the past three years to a monthly gathering for ongoing support, fellowship, and formation. Our first reunion will take place on **Tuesday 16th June at 7:15pm**. This will be a wonderful opportunity to reconnect, share experiences, and continue growing together in faith.

### St Joseph's Men's Group – A Space for Faith and Fellowship

In response to a growing desire for mutual support and fraternity, we are pleased to launch a new Men's Group in the parish under the patronage of St Joseph. This group will meet once a month on a Tuesday, offering a relaxed and welcoming space where men can come together to explore topics of their choice, reflect on the life and virtues of St Joseph, and support one another in faith and daily life. If you are interested in being part of this new initiative, please add your name to the sign-up sheet available in the porch. The group will begin in June, and all men of the parish are warmly invited.

### Memorial Mass

On 4<sup>th</sup> July 2026, there will be a memorial mass for Fr Shaun Budden and Fr Kevin Bidgood at 10am followed by refreshments in the hall. Fr Shaun and Fr Kevin were both integral to our parish community. We give thanks for their lives and service, and all are warmly invited to join us in prayer and remembrance.

### ✦ Golden Jubilee Celebration ✦

Join us for **Fr. Antony Gatt's Golden Jubilee Mass** on Saturday 13 June 2026, as we give thanks for his many years of dedicated priestly service. The 10 am Mass will be followed by refreshments in the Parish Hall.



### Fr Anthony's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination

We joyfully celebrate our parish priest, Fr Anthony's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination on 27<sup>th</sup> June at 2pm, followed by refreshments in the parish hall. Fr Anthony will be joined by a classmate of his, Fr Gaston Afah, and a group from the Catholic Men Association and friends. All are warmly invited to join us for this happy occasion.

### Repair Cafe

The next Repair Cafe at Immaculate Conception church hall, will be held on Saturday 20 June from 10.30am till 12.30pm. We undertake to try fixing jewellery, sewing repairs, electric & electronic repairs, bike & scooter repairs and many other items for a donation of your choice. Whilst awaiting your turn, we have refreshments including delicious homemade cakes. Please tell your family and friends about this opportunity and we look forward to seeing you there. Eleanor and team.



### Healing Prayer Evening

All welcome (Faith, no Faith, need healing or just curious)  
**on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June @ 7:30 pm**

At Holy Saviour, Bitterne Church, Bursledon Rd,  
Southampton SO19 7LW

Praise & Worship, Music, Talk and Prayer  
Holy Spirit is alive & active, enabling us to heal in Jesus' name.

For more information, please contact Steve 07540229973

### Funeral



### Dr Trevor Delves

Requiem Mass:  
Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2026, 1 pm

At Immaculate Conception Church

Committal:  
Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2026, 2:30 pm  
at Hollybrook Cemetery

Refreshments will be served in the parish hall after Mass, and all are warmly welcome to join.

