



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

3 March 2024

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

*"I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt,
out of the house of slavery."*

Exodus 20:1

**WEEKLY
INFORMATION
& UPDATES**

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

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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: 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**

Date	Solemnities & Feast days	Times & Liturgies		Mass Intentions
Sun 03 Mar	THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Janine Spencer The Goreham family RIP
Mon 04 Mar	of the 3 rd week of Lent	-	-	
Tues 05 Mar	of the 3 rd week of Lent	9.00 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration Mass	-
Weds 06 Mar	of the 3 rd week of Lent	10.00 am	Mass	Stanislaw Darlak RIP
Thurs 07 Mar	of the 3 rd week of Lent	10.00 am	Mass	
Fri 08 Mar	of the 3 rd week of Lent	9.00 am 9.30 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration Stations of the Cross Mass	-
Sat 09 Mar	of the 3 rd week of Lent	10.00 am	Mass	Mary Roddan RIP
Sun 10 Mar	FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	- -

	READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY 1st Reading: Exodus 20:1-17 Psalm: 18:8-11 2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:22-25 Gospel: John 2:13-25	NEXT WEEK IN THE PARISH: Tues 5th - Confirmation session 2 – 6 pm in the hall - RCIA 7 pm in the hall Thurs 6th - Choir Practice. Anyone is welcome to join 7.30 pm in the Church Sat 9th - First Holy Communion session – 11 am in the Hall Sun 10th - Cake Sale in the hall after 10.30 am Mass
	SECOND COLLECTIONS: THIS SUNDAY – 03 March - No Second Collection NEXT SUNDAY – 10th March – Clergy Assistance	

TODAY'S GOSPEL REFLECTION: A Dual Cleansing

He made a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the temple area, with the sheep and oxen, and spilled the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables, and to those who sold doves he said, "Take these out of here, and stop making my Father's house a marketplace." [John 2:15-16](#)

All four Gospels speak of Jesus' cleansing of the Temple. However, there is a difference between the way this event is portrayed in the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke) and in the way it is portrayed in John's Gospel. John's Gospel places this event at the very beginning of Jesus' public ministry during the first of His three annual trips to Jerusalem for the Passover. This was His first attempt at cleansing the Temple. Jesus was also less severe in John's version of the story, stating only that the moneychangers had turned His Father's House into a "marketplace." In the three Synoptic Gospels, this event takes place at the very end of Jesus' public ministry, less than a week before Jesus' death when He returned to Jerusalem for the last time. In those versions, Jesus was more severe, stating that the moneychangers had turned His Father's House into a "den of thieves" and not just a "marketplace." In commenting upon the differences between John's version and the Synoptics, Saint Augustine and Saint Thomas Aquinas believe that they are two different occasions when a similar act of cleansing of the Temple took place.

The Jewish Temple, at the time of Jesus' public ministry, was the place people traveled to each year for Passover to offer the sacrifice of a spotless male lamb in commemoration of the first Passover in Egypt when God set the Jews free from slavery. During this annual celebration, Jewish families who traveled to Jerusalem would purchase a lamb for sacrifice. At the appointed time, they slaughtered the animal in the courtyard of the Temple and then presented it to the priest who gathered some of the blood and sprinkled it on the altar, and then removed the skin, organs and fat to be burned in sacrifice. The meat was returned to the family and roasted on a pomegranate branch so that they could feast on it as they recalled the saving action God granted their ancestors in Egypt.

Today, we see the Jewish Temple as a symbol and prefiguration of Christ, the New Temple Who is also the priest and the Lamb of Sacrifice. Recall, also, that at Jesus' death, the veil of the Temple was torn in two, opening it up to the whole world so that all may share in the Sacrifice of the Lamb of God. We are now invited into this Holy of Holies to share in the new life of grace accomplished by His Sacrifice. Since the grace of this Sacrifice of our Lord enters into each and every heart that believes, to cleanse and purify, then every person receiving this grace becomes a new dwelling place of God, a member of His new Temple, the Body of Christ.

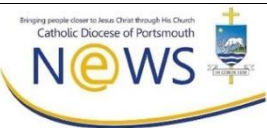
When Jesus came to the Passover feast and witnessed the buying and selling of these animals in the Temple, He drove them out with much zeal. It was clear that this holy celebration of the Passover had become less of a celebration of faith and more of a marketplace for profit. Jesus' action is also a symbol of the zeal with which He now seeks to cleanse the temple of your soul. At first, when sin and disorder pervade our souls, our Lord may take the approach of a gentle rebuke, as He did in His first cleansing of the Temple in John's Gospel. If we persist in our sins, then our Lord will become more zealous in His cleansing as He was in His final attempt to cleanse the Temple the week before He died.

Reflect, today, upon this twofold cleansing of the Temple in Jerusalem by our Lord and apply Jesus' sacred actions today to your own soul. Are there new sins that you have fallen into recently that require a gentle rebuke from our Lord? Are there sins that Jesus has been revealing to you for years now that you obstinately persist in? Allow Him to rebuke you in love and to cleanse you so that His saving Sacrifice as the Lamb of God will indeed purify you, and allow His judgment and wrath to "passover" you this Lent.

A reflection for the 2nd Sunday of Lent, Yr B
www.mycatholic.life

PARISH NOTICES

TEA & COFFEE AFTER 10.30 AM MASS Please join us
To include Cake Sale next week – **donations needed please!**



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

<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue436?e=34c55ac6ce>

RECENTLY DIED

Jeanine Hunt RIP – Funeral to take place on Monday 18th
March 2024, 11.30 am.

Deacon Gerard's Mother also died this week in Scotland.
Please also remember her and all the family in your prayers
at this time.

A BOOK.....AVAILABLE IN THE PORCH

American Bishop, Robert Barron, has written a booklet
entitled 'This is my Body', in response to a survey in USA
which revealed that 60% of Catholics did not believe that
the Eucharist was the Body and Blood of Christ - merely
symbolic of Jesus' Presence. Bishop Barron says
"My sincere prayer is that this book may help you understand
the sacrament of Jesus' Body and Blood more thoroughly,
precisely so that you may fall in love with the Lord more
completely."

Copies are available in the porch @ 50p

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.

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



ALUMNI REUNION ST GEORGE CATHOLIC COLLEGE SUNDAY 28TH APRIL 2024- 3-5 PM

Did you attend or work at St George Catholic
College in the 1960s, 70s or 80s? To celebrate
the school's recent outstanding Ofsted report, we are
inviting past pupils and staff in the 60s, 70s or 80s to join
us for a reunion afternoon tea and cakes and a tour of the
school. Please spread the word and save the date!

Email Jeanine Bonavia at jbnavia@stgcc.co.uk or call 023
8067 0104 to book a place by Friday, 26th April, so we know
the numbers attending. All welcome.