

22ND MAY 2022

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR C

"Peace I bequeath to you, my own peace I give you, a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you."

John 14:27

Immaculate Conception Church

Within the Pastoral Area of Southampton East
346 Portswood Road, Southampton, SO17 3SB

Tel: (023) 8055 5470

Website: www.immaculateconception.church

Email: office@immaculateconception.church

Facebook: Immaculate Conception Church, Portswood

Parish Priest: Fr Antony Gatt

Hospital Chaplaincy: (023 8120 8517)

University Chaplain: Sr Emelliana Silva (07426 000213)

Safeguarding Officer: Pat Saunders

Parish Secretary: Rachel Brady (023 8055 5470)

Confessions: See notice below

Hall Bookings: contact the parish secretary

ALL MASSES ADVERTISED BELOW ARE AVAILABLE TO JOIN LIVE, ONLINE AT
www.churchservices.tv/portswoodchur

Date	Solemnities & Feast days	Mass Times	Mass details & intentions	 THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS 1st Reading: Acts 15:1-2,22-29 Psalm: 66:2-3,5-6,8 2nd Reading: Appoc. 21:10-14,22-23 Gospel: John 14:23-29
Sun 22 May	SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	8.30 am 10.30 am	A Special Intention -	
Mon 23 May	of the 6 th week of Easter	-	No Mass	
Tues 24 May	of the 6 th week of Easter	10.00 am	Deceased members of the Cole & Ravenhill families	
Wed 25 May	St Bede the Venerable	-	No Mass	
Thur 26 May	THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD (Holy Day of Obligation)	10.00 am 7.30 pm	- -	
Fri 27 May	St Augustine of Canterbury	9.30 am	Rosary	
Sat 28 May	of the 6 th week of Easter	10.00 am	-	
Sun 29 May	SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	8.30 am 10.30 am	Una Collings RIP Clementina Adebayo RIP	

TEA AND COFFEE AFTER MASSES

Please join us in the hall for refreshments after the Sunday 10.30 am Mass this weekend.



TUESDAY COFFEE MORNING

EVERY WEEK AFTER 10 AM Mass

Please join us in the hall for coffee on Tuesday mornings. A friendly welcome awaits you. If you have any queries, please see either Susie Warwick or Fiona Thompson after Mass at the weekends. Otherwise, just turn up!



NOTE TAKER NEEDED FOR PPC MEETINGS

Could you spare 2-3 hours a month to help the parish council in taking notes of the meeting and writing up brief minutes with action points afterwards? The PPC normally meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7.30 pm. Please contact the parish office if you could help. Thank you.

READERS NEEDED FOR ASCENSION DAY MASSES

This Thursday is the feast of the Ascension, a Holy day of Obligation, so we have Mass at 10 am and 7.30 pm. Please let Mary Gobbi know this weekend if you would be willing to read at either of these Masses. Thankyou

RETURN OF SUNDAY MASS OBLIGATION

Please note that as of the weekend of 28/29 May the Mass on Saturday will no longer be an early Sunday Mass. As the pressing challenges of the pandemic have lessened significantly and most people have resumed normal activities, the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales believe that the reasons which have prevented Catholics from attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation no longer apply. However, it is also worth noting the following view that the church has always held and will continue to hold which they quote as follows:

"We understand there will still be some members of our congregations who, for reasons of health, do not feel safe enough to return to Mass. It has always been the understanding of the Church that when the freedom of any Catholic to attend Mass in person is impeded for a serious reason, because of the situations such as ill health, care for the sick or legitimate fear, this is not a breach of the Sunday Obligation".... "Virtual viewing, although not fulfilling the Sunday Obligation, may be a source of continual spiritual comfort to those who cannot attend Mass in person, for the above reasons, for whom the obligation does not apply".

PARISH OFFICE OPENING HOURS THIS WEEK:

Tuesday 9.30 am – 4.30 pm

Thursday 9.30 am – 4.30 pm

The Love of God

Jesus said to his disciples: "Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him." [John 14:23](#)

Do you want our Lord to come to you and dwell within the depths of your soul? Presumably the answer is an easy "Yes." The way to make this happen is to love God and keep His word. When you do that, the Blessed Trinity will come and dwell within you.

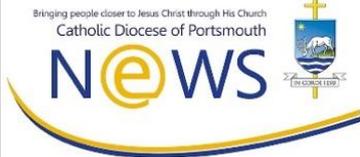
It's interesting that the love of God appears to be contingent upon our love of Him. In other words, does God only love us when we love Him first? Strictly speaking, God loves us with a perfect love regardless of whether we love Him or not. But with that said, love takes on a whole new form when it is received and reciprocated. Therefore, when we choose to love God we suddenly realize that our love of Him opens the door for Him to come and dwell within us, transforming us and making our heart His holy sanctuary. What a glorious gift!

It's also interesting to note that love of God means, in part, that we are obedient to Him. But that's the nature of God. He is Love itself and, therefore, loving Him necessarily involves a complete submission of your will to His. Perfect obedience to Him in all things is a powerful way of loving Him. It's a way of allowing Him to dwell within you and, in that act, to take over your will. Only then can you love Him even more fully with your whole being.

Reflect, today, especially upon your desire to have the Most Holy Trinity come and dwell within your soul. This should be the primary goal of our lives. If God lives within us then all else in life will fall into place. All things will work for the good and God will be glorified in and through us. Make the choice to love Him through your obedience, this day, and your relationship of love will grow by leaps and bounds.

A reflection for the 6th Sunday of Easter, Year C
My Catholic Life, www.mycatholic.life.com

Bringing people closer to Jesus Christ through His Church
Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth



PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE
E NEWS
Activities, events, news
and job vacancies from
around the Diocese,
locally and further afield.

<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue364?e=34c55ac6ce>

SECOND COLLECTIONS:-

TODAY, SUNDAY 22nd May - Homeless & Poor

NEXT SUNDAY 29th MAY – Catholic Communications Network

Our Second Collection next Sunday is for the Catholic Communications Network, as we mark World Communications Day. In his message for the Fifty-Sixth World Day of Social Communications, Pope Francis has encouraged us to foster the ability to listen – to God, to one another, to the cry of those in need and to those from whom we may differ. Today's appeal assists the Church to cultivate an attitude of attentiveness, and to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with people throughout the world.

Donations can be made in cash, by cheque or using our card payment machine in the church porch.

For all donations given in ANY envelope – purple, yellow, brown or your own, PLEASE MAKE IT CLEAR WHAT YOUR DONATION IS FOR, so that we can ensure it goes to the fund to which it was intended, ie General Fund (Offertory collection) or the name of the second collection you are donating to. **If you are registered with the parish for gift aid, please also ensure your gift aid number is given on the envelope.**

The Parish Bank Account details are:

Name: PRC DTR Immaculate Conception Church,
Sort Code: 30-93-04, Account No: 00887995



PAYMENTS & DONATIONS CAN NOW BE MADE BY CARD!

Donations to any of the collections each week can now be made using our new card payment system. The card machine is located in the porch by the door and can be used either by chip and pin or contactless. It is extremely simple to use and takes just seconds to make a donation. The preferred method of donating to the parish continues to be by regular standing order but for anyone who prefers to donate while at the church, this is an easy alternative which also allows you to easily gift aid any donations.

MONEY COUNTING TEAMS

We still need volunteers to help on our weekly collection counting teams on a rota basis. Please let us know if you could help in this way. The more help we have the less of a commitment it is for all involved!

PARISH FUN DAY – THANKYOU

A big thank you to all who came to support our parish fun day. A grand total of £516 was raised towards the general running of our parish.

BAPTISM

This weekend, we welcome into our faith community Hugo, son of Gregory and Beverly. He will be baptised on Sunday after the 10.30 am Mass. Please remember Hugo and his family at this significant point in their journey in faith.



CONFIRMATION NEXT SESSION

28TH May, 3.30 pm in the Church

PRESENTATION OF CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES

On Pentecost Sunday, 5th June, all Confirmation Candidates are asked to attend the 10.30 am Mass to join a short presentation rite. Please remember our young people in your prayers at this time as they take this next step in their faith journeys. Confirmation of these candidates will take place at the Cathedral on Sunday 26th June.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PARTY SUNDAY 19TH JUNE, 12 NOON

Following Mass on Sunday 19th June there will be a procession and shared lunch and games for children who made their First Holy Communion during 2021 and 2022. This is a delayed party as we were unable to celebrate together during the restrictions of the pandemic. We look forward to seeing as many as possible of these children and their families!

LADY CHAPEL FOR USE BY FAMILIES AT MASS

Please note that the Lady Chapel is now available again for families with young children to use during Mass on Sundays. Any toys used should however, be cleaned using the wipes provided after use please!

CAKE SALE

On Sunday 5th June after the 10.30 am Mass

Volunteers are needed to make cakes. Please bring any cakes to the church hall at least 15 minutes for Mass starts. **Please bring cash to buy cakes!** All proceeds to the general parish funds. We also **need volunteers to help sell the cakes.** If you are able to help in any way, please contact Maria Maddocks on 07835121496 or speak to her or Gemma Siddons after Mass. All support very much appreciated.



A BOOKLET FOR THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

Do you have memories or photos of celebrations of the Queen's Coronation day or of the celebrations of another Jubilee year (1977, 2002, 2012)? We are putting together a booklet of parishioners memories and photos (similar to the one produced for VE day during lockdown) to make available to all. If you have anything you could contribute in writing or any photos, please give them to Mary Gobbi after Mass or leave them in the orange post box in the church porch for her to collect. Alternatively you can e mail them to Mary at worship@immaculateconception.church. As the Jubilee weekend is not far off, all items need to be in by Sunday 29th May. We look forward to receiving your stories!

CARE ASSISTANTS NEEDED

The Catholic Home Care is expanding! Due to increased demand, we need more home care assistants to join our team. If you, or someone you know, likes elderly people & would like a part-time job, is this something that would suit? Good rate of pay (£9.80 ph.), paid holidays & flexible working through Mon – Friday time. Core business domestic support (cleaning & shopping) to help elderly people to stay in their own homes for longer. Car driver an advantage, but not essential. For more details & application pack call Anne Monaghan or Marina Joyce on 023 8017 0498

FABULOUS 40'S GARDEN PARTY

Run by Southampton Rotary Club
in aid of

Countess Mountbatten Hospice
(now called Mountbatten Hampshire)

Singing, dancing and various stalls

Sunday 26th June, 12 noon, at Concorde Club, Eastleigh
Tickets £15

For further details: See poster/flyers in the church porch or please speak to Norman Fairchild after 10.30 am Mass.



MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS DAY

Saturday 25th June, 11 am – 3 pm

At Victory Gospel Church, Portswood

Come and find out more about Mental Health services and support, and the drop-in facilities for help in the city.

Stalls with lots of information. Free refreshments & lunch. All Welcome. More details and registration forms are available on the poster in the church porch.