

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

25 February 2024
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

"This is my beloved Son. Listen to him"
 Mark 9:7

**WEEKLY
 INFORMATION
 & UPDATES**


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

<p>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</p>	<p>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</p>
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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 25 Feb	SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Sr Mary de Sales RIP Krystyna & Adam Madej RIP
Mon 26 Feb	of the 2 nd week of Lent	-	-	
Tues 27 Feb	of the 2 nd week of Lent	9.00 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration Mass	-
Weds 28 Feb	of the 2 nd week of Lent	10.00 am	Eucharistic Service	
Thurs 29 Feb	of the 2 nd week of Lent	10.00 am	Mass	-
Fri 01 Mar	St David	9.00 am 9.30 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration Stations of the Cross Mass	-
Sat 02 Mar	of the 2 nd week of Lent	10.00 am	Mass	Fr Shaun Budden
Sun 03 Mar	THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	The Goreham Family RIP

 <p>READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY 1st Reading: Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18 Psalm: 116:10, 15-19 2nd Reading: Romans 8:31b -34 Gospel: Mark 9:2-10</p>	<p>NEXT WEEK IN THE PARISH: Tues 27th - Confirmation session 2 – 6 pm in the hall - RCIA 7 pm in the hall Thurs 29th - Choir Practice. Anyone is welcome to join 7.30 pm in the Church Sat 2nd - First Holy Communion session – 11 am in the Hall Sun 3rd - Vocations promotion visit at both Masses</p>
<p>SECOND COLLECTIONS: THIS SUNDAY – 18th Feb – CAFOD – envelopes in porch or at this link: https://cafod.org.uk/give/appeals/lent-appeal NEXT SUNDAY – No second Collection</p>	

TODAY'S GOSPEL REFLECTION: Glory Overshadowing the Cross

Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them. [Mark 9:2-3](#)

Just six days prior to this glorious event of the Transfiguration, Jesus spoke for the first time to His disciples about His pending crucifixion and death. He taught them that “the Son of Man must suffer greatly and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and rise after three days” ([Mark 8:31](#)). Recall that Peter had a difficult time accepting this teaching. Jesus went on to rebuke Peter for his refusal to accept this prophetic teaching and further explained that “Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me” ([Mark 8:34](#)). These disciples then had six days to ponder this prophecy of our Lord before witnessing the Transfiguration.

In your life, is there something that God is trying to say to you that you have difficulty accepting? If so, it will most likely be related to God’s call to you to take up your cross and follow Him. The Cross of Christ comes in many forms throughout life. It might be experienced when we allow the passion of anger to die so that pure mercy can be offered to one who has hurt us.

Or it might be that God is calling you to step out in faith to embrace some endeavor that requires courage and trust. Or it might be that God is calling you to accept some hardship in life that is difficult to accept, such as the loss of a loved one, an illness, the loss of a job or any other difficulty that you struggle to accept with love and trust. Bitterness, resentment, anger, fear and the like are often the most difficult crosses we are called to embrace and let die.

If this resonates with you, then this story of the Transfiguration is for you. After giving these disciples six days to ponder the difficult news of His coming Cross, Jesus gives them hope and inspiration through this sacred encounter. Though it lasted for only a short time, this manifestation of Jesus' glory was all that these disciples needed to begin to accept Jesus' prediction of His passion. On one hand, they feared what Jesus said was going to happen. But on the other hand, they saw His glory and majesty. By combining these two experiences, these disciples were given a new hope and strength to trust that whatever was to happen in the future, God was in control.

We also need the consoling revelation of our Lord's glory to help us navigate the difficulties we will endure. For some, life is good, very good, and they walk with joy and ease with our Lord. But for others, life has taken a difficult turn and confusion has set in. If life is good for you right now, then rejoice that you are currently sharing a taste of the glory of the Transfiguration. Give thanks to God and tell Him with Saint Peter, "Rabbi, it is good that we are here!" Give thanks to him for the joy and consolation you currently experience. But if life is difficult for you right now, ponder those six days during which the disciples struggled with the prediction of the Lord's passion. Think about their confusion, doubts and fear. As you do, turn your eyes up the mountain. Know that the glory of God awaits you and that He wants to free you from all fear and anxiety. The mountain is climbed by a firm faith that is grounded in prayer. Make that journey with our Lord through prayer.

Reflect, today, upon this holy mountain to which you are called. Know that as you climb it with perseverance and determination, hope and joy will be given to you. Pray for the ability to trust in the God Who not only died a cruel death but also is radiant in glory for all eternity. Trust Him, turn to Him and commit to the journey ahead.

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

PARISH NOTICES

TEA & COFFEE AFTER MASSES Work continues on the hall kitchen but tea and coffee is still be available after the 10.30 am Mass on Sundays. Please join us.

FAITH DISCUSSION GROUP. Wednesdays in the Church Hall at 7 pm. All are invited. If you have suggestions of themes to discuss, please put them in the suggestion box in the church porch.

 **PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE
E NEWS & JOB VACANCIES**
Activities, events, news and job vacancies from around the Diocese.
<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue435?e=34c55ac6ce>

RECENTLY DIED
Jeanine Hunt RIP – Jeanine died on Tuesday this week aged 101. Although she more recently lived in Kent with her daughter, she was a parishioner here for 64 years. Her funeral will be held here. Details to follow when available.

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 chocolate treats to crew aboard ships in port along the south coast over Easter. There will be many hundreds of seafarers passing through our ports, far away from home and 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.

CONFIRMATION. Registration for our Confirmation Programme is now closed. We have 23 young people registered and sessions will take place every Tuesday at 6 pm in the hall, except during the Easter holidays

FROM CARITAS... ..Date for Your Diary: If you are interested working with your parish to live more simply, sustainably and in solidarity with the poor, come along to the Caritas Online Networking Lunch on **Tuesday 5th March from 12:30-1pm** where we will be joined by Jo Lewry from CAFOD to tell us more about the **LiveSimply Award**. Everyone welcome, please [register here](#).

OFFICE PHONE. The office phone has been very temperamental this week. If you can't get hold of the office by phone, please leave an answerphone message or email. We hope however, that problems should be resolved for this coming week!

RIGHT TO LIFE Please support an amendment to reduce our abortion law from 24 weeks to 22 weeks. Collect a postcard today from the back of the church and post it to your MP in support of this amendment.

**SOUTHAMPTON PHILHARMONIC CHOIR AND THE
SOUTHAMPTON UNIVERSITY PHILHARMONIC CHOIR**

Saturday 16th March at O2Guildhall

You are invited to join them on a musical journey...from the dreamy melodies of Eric Whitacre, which bookend a selection of George Shearing's sprightly settings of Shakespeare's poetry, to Will Todd's Mass in Blue, which blends the traditional Latin Mass text with the rhythmic energy of jazz. The composer Will Todd and his Ensemble will be on stage too!

Tickets available online c/o the O2Guildhall Southampton website but further information and tickets are also available through Mags (Moules) 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 jbonavia@stgcc.co.uk or call 023 8067 0104 to book a place by Friday, 26th April, so we know the numbers attending. All welcome.

POITIERS CARE FOOD BANK

Following on from last week's newsletter word of thanks from Poitiers for your donations, below is some more information....

Poitiers Care is a Catholic organisation based at St Joseph's Ashurst. It is a registered charity that works closely with Social Services and other agencies, who refer clients for short-term help. It is staffed by volunteers who make 60 – 75 deliveries of food each week to people who live in and around the wider Southampton area, and who would otherwise go hungry. Sadly, there is a never-ending demand from the local community and, our donations are much-needed, so please keep them coming in.

Typical items that can be left in the box in the porch for collection include:

- Canned soups/tomatoes/beans/meat/fruit/veg
- Pasta & rice
- Tea & Coffee
- Breakfast cereals
- Biscuits
- UHT milk
- Fruit juice
- Baby food

Thank you for your donations.

FANNING THE FLAME CATHOLIC MISSION

FOR AGES 14 - 21

DIGNIFIED

2nd MARCH 2024

10:00am - 5:30pm

HOLY FAMILY, SOUTHAMPTON

£10*

A day exploring the current ethical issues we encounter in our lives, armed with the knowledge that our dignity comes from Christ. It is an opportunity to discover the beautiful and positive response the Church has to the many problems society faces.

There will be plenty of opportunity to ask questions and to get help in talking to others about tricky topics!

For more information, and to book, please go to:

www.FanningTheFlame.co.uk

*Please bring your own pack lunch. Other refreshments will be provided.

The dignity of the human person is rooted in his creation in the image and likeness of God...With the help of grace they grow in virtue...In this way they attain to the perfection of charity.

Catechism of the Catholic Church - 1700

