



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sixth Sunday of Easter - Sunday 10th May 2026



'I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper.'

John 14:15-21

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

Email: office@immaculateconception.church

Website: 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

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

Solemnities, Feast days & Memorials	Times & Liturgies		Mass Intentions
Sun 10 May 6 th Sunday of Easter	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	-- For all the deceased of Loko and Houedikin families
Mon 11 May of the 6th Week of Easter	-NO MASS-		
Tue 12 May St Pancras, Martyr	9.00 am 10.00 am	Adoration Mass	Irene Matthews RIP
Wed 13 May Our Lady of Fatima	10.00 am 6 pm	Mass Adoration	Emelda Che RIP
Thu 14 May The Ascension of the Lord	10 am 7:30pm	Mass Mass	For the People of the Parish
Fri 15 May of the 6th Week after Ascension	9.00 am 9.30 am 10.00 am	Adoration Rosary No Mass; Service of the Word	--
Sat 16 May of the 6th Week after Ascension	10 am	No Mass; Service of the Word	--
Sun 17 May 7 th Sunday of Easter	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Family Mass	For the People of the Parish For the People of the Parish

SUNDAY READINGS



1st Reading: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

Psalm: Ps 66(65):1-3a. 4-5. 6-7a. 16,

20. R1

2nd Reading: 1 Peter 3:15-18

Gospel: John 14:15-21

OTHER REGULAR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

- Mon- Cooking with Confidence – 10 am – 1 pm – Church Hall kitchen (not running until further notice)
- Tues- Tea & Coffee after 10 am Mass – Church Hall (not running on 12th May)
- Weds- Alpha 7pm, 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

SECOND COLLECTION

Sunday 17th May marks the 60th World Day of Social Communications.

This year's theme is *Preserving Human Voices and Faces*.

The second collection on this day supports the work of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, particularly its websites, publications and social media channels. The Bishops' Conference works hard to foster positive relationships with media outlets to communicate the Good News of the Gospel.

For more information, and to read Pope Leo's message for World Communications Day 2026, please visit: cbcew.org.uk/wcd/

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/campaign/catholic-communications-network-second-collection>



TODAY'S GOSPEL REFLECTION

Members of God's Family

"I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me, because I live and you will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father and you are in me and I in you." [John 14:18-20](#)

The feeling of being an orphan—of longing for belonging—reflects a deeper spiritual reality Jesus addressed with His disciples in today's Gospel. Those with close families are truly blessed, as a supportive family fosters personal growth and a sense of identity. When one is orphaned, the absence of these natural bonds can leave a lasting sense of loss. Yet even the strongest earthly family relationships point to a greater truth: our ultimate belonging is found in God's family.

Jesus understood the sense of loss His disciples would feel after His Passion, Resurrection, and Ascension. When He said, "In a little while the world will no longer see me..." He was preparing them for His physical departure through the Ascension. But He reassures them: "I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you... you will see me, because I live and you will live."

Initially, the disciples struggled to grasp the meaning of these words. Only after the outpouring of the Holy Spirit did they begin to understand. The same promise Jesus made to them applies to us today. Though we were not among those who witnessed His earthly presence, we too have a longing for His nearness—a longing to belong, to be loved, and to find our place within a family. This longing is fulfilled supernaturally through the gift of faith and our incorporation into God's divine family, the Church.

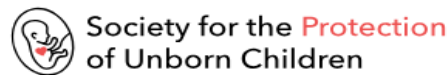
Faith is the key to this relationship. It is more than intellectual belief; it is the acceptance of a personal revelation from God and a choice to live according to that revelation. Jesus promises that those who love Him and obey His commandments will experience His presence and that of the Father. This experience begins through faith, which is a gift by which God communicates Himself to us, revealing His love and will. It is both certain and mysterious, a knowledge that leads us to divine hope and sustains us in the pursuit of God's will.

Faith also unites us with one another. Through faith, we are no longer orphans but brothers and sisters in Christ. Our natural longing to belong finds its ultimate fulfillment in God's glorious family, which begins on earth and is perfected in Heaven.

Reflect today on the desire in your heart to belong, to be loved, and to be part of a family. Recognize that this longing finds its ultimate fulfillment in the family of God. Though we await the fullness of this communion in Heaven, we can experience it even now. Commit yourself to respond to Jesus' invitation by embracing your place in His family through prayer, the sacraments, and daily acts of love. Recognize that He is in the Father, we are in Him, and He is in us. Embrace this reality, allowing the gift of faith to draw you more deeply into the divine family to which we are called.

A reflection for the Sixth Sunday of Easter (Year A)
www.mycatholic.life

PARISH NOTICES



SPUC Branch Launch Meeting: SPUC The Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child is hoping to launch a new Southampton branch of the organisation. Supporters of SPUC will have received a letter about this meeting but there will be others who will want to become involved. The unborn child has no voice but ours. The inaugural meeting will be held on Saturday, 23 May 10.30-12.30, Eastleigh Parish Church, All Saints, Desborough Road, Eastleigh SO50 5NH. The meeting will be held in the Small Hall, immediately to the left of the main church building on the corner of Derby Road and Desborough Road. We were encouraged by the recent defeat of the Assisted Suicide Bill in Holyrood, but unfortunately the following day we saw the abortion decriminalisation vote passed in the House of Lords in Westminster. There is still much work to be done. If you have questions about this meeting, please email julievivienne@spuc.org.uk, or call her anytime on 07533 632160.

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 our prayers.

Obituary

We are saddened to inform the parish of the death of Brian Physick on Wednesday, 6th May. Let us keep Brian and his family in our prayers.



ICC Income - April 2026

<u>Income</u>	<u>Apr 2026</u>
Candles	357.64
Cake Sale	139.48
Repair Café	90.81
Tea & coffee	26.65
Raffle - taste of Isles	85.60
DONA	317.81
Envelopes	181.50
On Line Giving	288.25
Offertory	1,038.29
Standing Orders & DDs	3,021.50
Total Income	5,547.53
Special Collections	
CAFOD	83.64
Clergy Assistance Fund	49.20
Clergy Training	421.14
Holy Places	5.00
Holy Souls	11.00
St Anthony's Box	2.10
Street Pastors	20.00
Total	592.08

Thank you for your continued generosity and support

SACRAMENTAL LIFE IN THE PARISH

Take the Next Step in Faith – Sacramental Preparation Now Open

Is the Lord inviting you or your loved ones to take a deeper step in faith? Our parish warmly welcomes you to consider the following opportunities for growth in the sacramental life of the Church:



First Holy Communion (2027)

Registration is now open for children aged 9 years and above who wish to prepare to receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist for the first time in 2027. This is a sacred milestone in the life of a child, opening them more fully to Christ's presence. Registration deadline: 15th June.



Confirmation Programme

Young people aged 14 to 17 years are invited to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation, through which they are strengthened by the Holy Spirit and sent forth as committed witnesses of Christ. Preparation sessions will begin in October. We kindly encourage parishioners to share this invitation with family members and friends who may be eligible. Registration deadline: 15th June.



Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Our RCIA programme, beginning in November, is open to adults (18 years and above) who:

- have not yet been baptised,
- have been baptised but have not yet received the Eucharist and/or Confirmation, or
- wish to be received into full communion with the Catholic Church.

This is a welcoming journey of faith, formation, and community life within the Church.



Marriage in the Church

If you are married civilly or in another context but have not yet had your marriage sacramentalised (convalidated) in the Catholic Church, and would like to regularise your union, we warmly invite you to speak with us.



A Call to Vocation

If you feel the Lord may be calling you to the priesthood or to a deeper commitment in His service, we encourage you to take that step in faith and begin a conversation.



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](#)

