

# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

15<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024 – TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

*‘For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.’*  
Mark 8,35

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

**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

**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:** Cecilia Kovacs (023 8055 5470)  
**Confessions:** After 10 am Mass on Saturdays  
**Hall Bookings:** contact the parish secretary

**PARISH OFFICE OPEN NEXT WEEK: Tuesday 10:30 3.30 pm, Wednesday and Thursday 1pm-5pm, Friday, 10:00 am – 3 pm**

**ALL MASSES ADVERTISED BELOW ARE AVAILABLE TO JOIN LIVE, ONLINE AT**  
[www.churchservices.tv/portswoodchur](http://www.churchservices.tv/portswoodchur)

Date	Solemnities & Feast days	Times & Liturgies		Mass Intentions
Sun 15 September	<b>24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass (Childrens)	Peter and Leanore Fernando RIP Jim & Kathleen Earl
Mon 16 September	St Cornelius, Pope, and St Cyprian, Bishop		NO MASS	
Tue 17 September	St Hildegard of Bingen	9.00 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration Mass	Joanne - health
Wed 18 September	Feria	10.00 am 6pm	Mass Eucharistic Adoration	
Thurs 19 September	St Januarius Bishop, Martyr	10.00 am	Mass	
Fri 20 September	St Andrew Kim Taegon, Priest, St Paul Chong Hasang & Companions	9.00 am 9.30 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic adoration Rosary <b>Eucharistic service</b>	
Sat 21 September	St Matthew, Apostle, Evangelist	10.00 am	Mass	Krystyna and Adam Madej RIP
Sun 22 September	<b>TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Catechist Sunday)</b>	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass (Childrens)	8.30 Denis & Naomi Philpot 10:30 Richardson family RIP

 <p><b>READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY</b>  <b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b> Isaiah 50:5-9  <b>Psalm:</b> 114(116):1-6,8-9  <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b> James 2:14-18  <b>Gospel:</b> Mark 8:27-35</p>	<p><b>NEXT WEEK IN THE PARISH:</b>  <b>Tues 17<sup>th</sup></b> Tea &amp; Coffee after 10 am Mass – church hall  <b>Wed 18<sup>th</sup></b> Adoration for students and anyone else who would like to join us – 6-7 pm in the Lady Chapel  <b>Thur 19<sup>th</sup></b> Caritas activity group– 10.30am  <b>Sun 22<sup>nd</sup></b> Refreshments after mass  <b>Choir Practice</b> 11.30 am in the church. Anyone welcome to join.</p>
<p><b>SECOND COLLECTIONS:</b>  <b>SUNDAY 15<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER</b> – Home missions</p>	

## EVANGELII GAUDIUM SUNDAY - Living out the Joy of the Gospel

*A few years ago, the Bishops of England and Wales gave the day of prayer for home mission a new title, Evangelii Gaudium Sunday. This was to reflect the changing focus of evangelisation presented by Pope Francis in the Apostolic Exhortation of the same name. This 2013 letter is seen by many as the way in which the new Pope launched some of the important themes of his pontificate, but it found its basis as the summary document of the previous year’s Synod of Bishops on the theme of The New Evangelisation for the Transmission of the Christian Faith.*

*The threshold of a Jubilee year seems to me to be a good time to remind ourselves of what Pope Francis wrote about in Evangelii Gaudium – themes which still resonate in the life of the Church and have had their influence on our current synodal process. I feel sure that as we deepen our appreciation of Evangelii Gaudium we can find a good way of entering our Jubilee Year 2025 as “Pilgrims of Hope.”*

*At the very beginning of the letter Pope Francis sets out the trajectory when he states that ‘the joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness.’ He goes on to say that in this exhortation he hopes to ‘encourage the Christian faithful to embark upon a new chapter of evangelisation marked by this joy, while pointing out the new paths for the Church’s journey in years to come.’*

### **Called to serve**

*It is very clear that Pope Francis is inviting us to know the joy that we can feel when we enter a personal relationship with the Lord. Our desire to learn more about Jesus as we encounter him in the Scriptures and through our prayers provides us with the opportunity to experience the true joy of the Gospel and what it means to be a disciple. Pope Francis encourages us to live out the joy of the Gospel not only in our prayer and when we are in Church, but also by the way that we are called to serve each other especially the most vulnerable and those who feel themselves on the periphery of society.*

*This way of reaching out to others has also been a way in which we have come to understand the synodal journey with its emphasis on walking with each other and learning how to share with each other the joys and challenges of being a disciple.*

*Cardinal Nichols in the introduction to the recent synodal synthesis for England and Wales summarised it by saying that “we are called to continue the mission of Christ, to be the living presence of Christ’s love, mercy and compassion in our world, proclaiming the truths about our humanity and our world as established by the Creator and fully expressed in Christ.” He tells us that we can only achieve this “through a profound communion of life in Christ and by a release of our gifts and talents given by the Lord to all the baptised for this very purpose.”*

*Essentially this is what it means to live out the joy of the Gospel, that our personal encounter with Jesus in personal prayer, in the sacraments and in our reading of the Scriptures helps us to discern the unique gift that we have received from the Lord and that we can put at his service and the service of the Church and of others. Having recognised our gifts and talents we can release them for service within the life of the Church, in this way building up the Body of Christ.*

*When we do this, we soon realise that we depend wholly on the Lord who shows us the true meaning of our lives and how to live in this world. The One we contemplate in prayer becomes the face of the other whom we serve in the world. The conversation of love in prayer helps us to put our gifts and talents at his service and so we become missionary disciples, or disciples of joy offering to each other the possibility of a profound relationship with the Lord. This sense of offering what we have received to others, is for me the real meaning of Evangelii Gaudium Sunday which sets us free from sorrow and shame to truly be hearers and sharers in the Lord’s saving mission to the world. In this way we proclaim to others what we already know to be true – that they are special in the eyes of the Lord.*

### **Support each other to grow in faith**

*On Evangelii Gaudium Sunday the bishops of England and Wales ask parishes to firstly pray for the work of evangelisation across our countries and to see ways in which Catholics within their parish settings may be more involved in this work. Much is already happening, and this may be through our catechesis programmes for the sacraments, or our courses which help those who are becoming Catholics to understand the teaching of the Church. Many are already involved in baptismal and marriage preparation and so this Sunday highlights the good work that goes on across our dioceses and parishes. It is also a moment for us to see if there is anything more that we could be doing to support each other to grow in a living faith.*

### **Mission team**

*The Bishops’ Conference also has a mission team which is based at their secretariat in Eccleston Square in London. This office supports the bishops in their work to promote evangelisation activities across England and Wales, recently the focus has been on implementing the ministry of Catechist for the dioceses of England and Wales. The team is also involved in projects promoting Christian Unity and Interreligious dialogue. Alongside this work of outreach, the mission team is also involved in providing prayer resources and catechetical advice. In the lead up to the Jubilee year, the team has been very busy helping the bishops to provide materials for the year of Jubilee. There is a [collection taken in each parish](#) which supports this work, and we are very grateful for the help which this gives us to continue our work.*

*At the heart of the work which the mission team engages in are the pathways offered to us by Pope Francis in Evangelii Gaudium creating the opportunities for all to find the space to encounter the Lord in personal prayer and to be confident in both proclaiming and living the faith. This work is the golden thread which runs through the national activities of the bishops and helps to point out these new pathways in the journey to come as Pope Francis said in 2013.*

*The invitation to know the Joy of the Gospel is open to all of us and my prayer is that as you read my reflection this month and the daily reflections that make up Bible Alive you will take up the call to be a pilgrim of hope and joyfully trust in what the Lord is offering to you day by day as you come to know him more deeply in your life of prayer and service.*

**This reflection, by Director of Mission at the Bishops’ Conference,, Fr Jan Nowotnik, was first published in [Bible Alive](#).**

# PARISH NOTICES

## REFLECTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

Fr Gaston Afah, Episcopal Vicar for Evangelisation, draws our attention to two important initiatives from the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales:

**Evangelii Gaudium Sunday** (the Joy of the Gospel) is celebrated each year on the third Sunday in September, which is this coming Sunday, 15th September. We proclaim the unique message of the Gospel that brings joy to all people who receive it with an open heart. Read the reflection and find out more [here](#).



**Holy Hours** As we approach Adoremus at Oscott this weekend, these resources have been produced by the Bishops' Conference to draw people to a deeper encounter with Jesus through Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament. A set of Holy hours produced in PDF downloadable format to provide guided prayer and reflection, with moments of silence in the presence of the Lord, to encourage people to be open to how Jesus is speaking to each of us. The themes are: Creation, Eucharist, Forgiveness, Jubilee, Justice, Marriage and Family, Risen Jesus and Vocation and are all available [here](#).

## PARISH EVANGELISATION CELL SYSTEM (PECS)



As we proceed with the implementation of the 10-Year Plan for our Diocese here in Southampton, we are invited to dream of how Catholic life in the city might look in the future and what is needed to make that a reality.

Most importantly we need committed disciples of the Lord, people and priests, with a heart for making disciples of everyone with whom they come into contact. In short, we need people possessed of a deep love for Our Lord and desiring to grow in that love.

On **Saturday, September 21st, at St. Joseph's, Ashurst**, beginning with **Mass at 10 am** we will host an information and vision day on Parish Evangelisation Cell System. PECS is not a programme but a change to our thinking about Catholic life. It seems an opportune and providential moment to develop these cells or groups as the six parishes of our Southampton Central and West Pastoral Area becomes a single parish. Everyone is warmly welcome to this day which will end with a **shared lunch at 1 pm**.

## CARITAS OUTREACH GROUP-19th September: THURSDAY MORNING 10.30am to 12:30pm

**INTERNET SKILLS:** Texts, e-mails, especially for dealing with Government depts.

**PLEASE COME AND JOIN IN! No costs. Parents need to accompany and be responsible for their children.**

## CAFOD Family Fast Day – Harvest Appeal



**Steve Deadman will be talking about CAFOD in a presentation on 29th September.**

Daniel, a young man in Democratic Republic of the Congo, is carving a better future for his family with carpentry skills he learned in a CAFOD-funded training centre. Give to CAFOD today and you'll fund training, tools, equipment and safe spaces so more people like Daniel can learn new skills and fulfil their God-given potential. Use the envelope in church or give online at [cafod.org.uk/envelope](http://cafod.org.uk/envelope).



## CARITAS AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

The new Autumn newsletter can be found here:  
<https://mailchi.mp/5f83b022d4f5/autumn-newsletter>

## CHRISTMAS SHOE BOX APPEAL

**IMPORTANT! DEADLINE CHANGE!**

**13<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER**



Christmas presents this year collected for disadvantaged and displaced children in Moldova, Montenegro, Romania and Ukraine via Poland. Boxes



are available to take away and fill with presents. Please also take a leaflet to guide you.

**PLEASE RETURN YOUR FILLED BOX (TOGETHER WITH £2 ATTACHED) AS SOON AS YOU CAN, AND BY SUNDAY 13<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER AT THE LATEST, TO HELP THE ROTARY CLUB IN PREPARING THEIR DELIVERIES.**

Contact Norman and Mary for any queries.

*Thank you*

## Diocesan Formation Day for Readers:

Fr Anthony Fyk, Director of Liturgy Formation, is running a formation day for readers on:

**Saturday 19th October from 10.30 am to 2 pm  
at St Bede's Church/Hall in Basingstoke.**

Registration in email: [liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**Welcome and Best Wishes to all Students, those leaving us to start the new academic year, and also to those new and or returning students to our parish.**

## St Anne's Catholic School

Year 4, 5, 6 Open events  
Wednesday 25th September  
Open morning 9-11am  
Open evening 6-8pm



Scan to book Open Morning



Scan to book Open Evening

The open morning gives parents the opportunity to see the school on a normal working day and talk to their student guides as they tour the school.

The open evening gives families the opportunity to talk to a range of staff, hear a talk from the Headteacher, Head girls and some Year 7 pupils and to tour the school with student guides. **We look forward to seeing parents at St Anne's to find out why St Anne's is hard to beat!**

### RCIA COURSE

We will be starting our new **RCIA course** on **Tuesday 8 October'24 (8:00 to 9:30pm) each week**

The RCIA (or "Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults") is a process of Christian formation – based on ancient tradition – offered to those who seek to become Catholic. The initiation of new members is a gradual process, allowing enquirers time to grow in faith and become full participants of the Catholic community.



If you are interested please speak to Fr. Anthony or Deacon Gerard in the first instance.

### VOCATIONS NEWSLETTER FOR SEPTEMBER

<https://portsmouthdiocese.sharepoint.com/:b:/r/sites/Intranet/Vocations/Vocations%20Newsletters%202024/Vocation%20Newsletter%20September.pdf?csf=1&web=1&e=ewHHUr>

**Ofsted**  
Outstanding  
Provider

**SAINT GEORGE**  
CATHOLIC COLLEGE

# Open Evening

Thursday  
**3<sup>rd</sup> October**  
5pm - 8pm

ACHIEVEMENT  
SPIRITUALITY  
RESPECT  
INDEPENDENCE  
RELATIONSHIPS  
ENJOYMENT



Online Prospectus



[www.stgcc.co.uk](http://www.stgcc.co.uk)

### PRAYER REQUEST FOR FR SHAUN BUDDEN

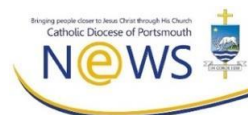
Many in the parish know Fr Shaun Budden, who is seriously ill and is in hospital. Please pray for his health and recovery.

### SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

If you volunteer and you are working with children or vulnerable adults you will already have had a DBS check. In addition, you will also need a safeguarding training certificate, no more than 3 years old.

**We have been offered a face-to-face training session on the 26th October, which will only go ahead if we have at least 10 people attending.**

Emails have been sent out to everyone but in case you missed it or you think you have been missed, please contact the parish office as soon as possible to sign up.



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

<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue457?e=34c55ac6ce>