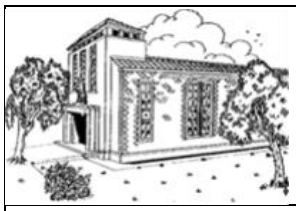

30TH APRIL 2023
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

"I am the gate. Anyone who enters through me will be safe: he will go freely in and out and be sure of finding pasture."
John 10:9

WEEKLY INFORMATION & UPDATES

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

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)

Parish Priest: Fr Anthony Chiatu
Parish Deacon: Dcn Gerard Dailly
Hospital Chaplaincy: (023 8120 8517)
University Chaplain: Sr Emelliana Silva (07426 000213)
Safeguarding Officer: Pat Saunders
Parish Secretary: Rachel Brady (023 8055 5470)
Confessions: After 10 am Mass on Saturdays
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	Times & Liturgies		Mass Intentions
Sun 30 Apr	**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	- Iain Rylands RIP
Mon 01 May	of the 4th week of Easter	-	No Mass	-
Tues 02 May	St Athanasius	10.00 am	Mass	Nellie Hardy RIP
Wed 03 May	Ss Philip & James	10.00 am	Mass	Kate Paler RIP
Thur 04 May	The English Martyrs	11.00 am	FUNERAL	Henryk Rutkowski RIP
Fri 05 May	of the 4th week of Easter	9.30 am 10.00 am	Rosary Mass	
Sat 06 May	of the 4th week of Easter	-	No Mass	-
Sun 07 May	**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Winifred McDonell RIP -

READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY
1st Reading: Acts 2:14,36-41
Psalm: 23
2nd Reading: 1 Peter 2:20-25
Gospel: John 10:1-10

TEA AND COFFEE AFTER MASSES
Please join us in the hall on **Sundays after the 10.30 am Mass** for tea and coffee. **And also after Mass on TUESDAYS –**A friendly welcome awaits you.

NOTE:
NO MASS NEXT SATURDAY, CORONATION DAY

YOU ARE INVITED TO A RIGHT ROYAL PICNIC
AT BASSETT VILLAGE GREEN
Sunday 7th May, 2 pm onwards
(weather permitting!)

A relaxing afternoon to celebrate a "crowning" moment in our history. Take a picnic and whatever you need to sit on. Please see Maria Maddocks if you have any queries

LOST – BROACH - Recently lost on the premises, most likely in the church. Very sentimental – have you seen it? If so, please hand in to the parish office asap. THANKS!

PARISH OFFICE OPEN NEXT WEEK:
Tues, Weds, Thurs & Fri, 9.30 am – 2.00 pm

THIS WEEK'S PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE E NEWS
Activities, events, news and job vacancies from around the Diocese, locally and further afield.
https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue406?e=34c55ac6ce

BOOKSHOP OPEN AFTER MASSES TODAY
Our bookshop will be open after Masses today including a stall in the hall after the 10.30 am Mass. There is a lot of brand new stock at very good prices so please come and visit the shop/stall and do remember to come back if you are looking for religious gifts or cards, bibles, prayer books etc in the future.

Hearing and Following His Voice

Jesus said: "Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever does not enter a sheepfold through the gate but climbs over elsewhere is a thief and a robber. But whoever enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice, as the shepherd calls his own sheep by name and leads them out." John 10:1–3

The people of Jesus' time would have easily understood this story. It was common practice for shepherds to talk to their sheep throughout the day so that the sheep became familiar with the shepherd's voice as he led them through various pastures for grazing. At night, several shepherds would bring their sheep together within secured gates for safety. In the morning, each shepherd would then call to his sheep and, because they knew their shepherd's voice, the sheep would follow their own shepherd and not the others.

The first question for each of us to ask ourselves today is this: Do I know the voice of the Shepherd? Have I become so familiar with His voice that I can clearly distinguish His voice from others? Try to imagine the image of several shepherds all calling their sheep at once. This is an image of the competing voices we encounter in our lives. But only one of those voices is the voice of God. Do you know His voice? Or do you become confused with the many other impulses, desires and attractions that vie for your attention?

Jesus continued his teaching by saying that He is not only the Shepherd whose voice is known by the sheep, but He is also the gate. "I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture." What does our Lord mean when He calls Himself the gate?

As the Gate, He is the Word of God, revealed to us through the Scriptures. Fidelity to the Word of God is one of the surest ways to the life of grace. He is the Word of Truth as it is handed down and expounded upon by the Magisterium, the teaching authority of the Church. Fidelity to the authentic teaching of the Magisterium, especially when the Holy Father speaks in union with the bishops, will help us navigate the many errors of our age. Jesus is made present to us through the Sacraments, which are the door to His grace and the entryway to the food for our spiritual lives. Furthermore, any time our Lord comes to us, through holy preaching, the witness and teaching of the saints, and the life of prayer within the Church, or in any other way, we enter the gate and are admitted into His verdant pastures.

Jesus is the gate, not only for the sheep but for each of the shepherds who lead the sheep in His name. These are the pastors of the Church who have been entrusted with the mission of Christ to lead God's people. Today, if a shepherd of the Church fails to preach Jesus Christ, then that shepherd "comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy." Pastors of the Church must humbly listen carefully to these words so that they never fail to shepherd God's people by leading them through the Gate, Who is Christ Himself. They must all be faithful to the whole Tradition of our Church, handed on throughout the ages, and not deviate from the pure and holy deposit of faith. If they preach their own gospel, or are negligent or misleading in their preaching, then they are not true shepherds. God's true sheep will not recognize them. But if they are faithful to all that Jesus has taught, then they will lead the sheep through the gate and become shepherds in union with the Heart of the Good Shepherd.

Reflect, today, upon the image of Christ the Good Shepherd, calling to us in a variety of ways. We must learn His true voice through faith and prayer. Once we recognize His voice, we will more easily discover Him ministering to us, inspiring us, and inviting us to the life of grace by encountering Him as the source and way to this new life.

A reflection for the 4th Sunday of Easter, Year A
My Catholic Life, www.mycatholic.life.com

FUNERALS:

HENRYK RUTKOWSKI –, died 5th April, aged 87. Henryk's funeral will be held here on 4th May, 11 am

MARIA BIBBO – died on 2nd April at home, aged 83, Maria's funeral will be held here on Wednesday 10th May, 11 am

Please remember all of the above and their families in your prayers
MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

SECOND COLLECTIONS:–

TODAY SUNDAY 30th April – Clergy Training Fund
NEXT SUNDAY 7th April – No second Collection

There are currently 10 seminarians training for the priesthood for the Portsmouth Diocese. These priests will baptise and catechize the next generation and care for our future church and they rely on your generosity to support them in their work towards this. **Any donations can be made in cash or by cheque via the collection baskets in the church or using our card payment machine in the church porch. The Parish Bank Account details are:** Name: CDP, Immaculate Conception Church, Sort Code: 30-93-04, Account No: 00887995

MONTHLY "FIRST FRIDAY LUNCHES"
Starting on Friday 2nd June

Our weekly Lent Soup Lunches were a great success socially and for charity fundraising, and so on an on going basis we will be running lunches on the first Friday of each month.

A notice is at the back of the Church, inviting those who are willing to lead the lunch to sign up, with another column for those who cannot help but are willing to provide a soup or a simple cake on one of the dates. The 'extras'; bread, butter etc are now expensive so these will be paid for". A charity of your own choice can be chosen or the parish fund for the poor."