



# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fifth Sunday of Easter - Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2026

*'I am the way, and the truth, and the life.'* John 14:1-12

*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](mailto:office@immaculateconception.church)  
**Website:** [www.immaculateconception.church](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.churchservices.tv/portswoodchur)

Solemnities, Feast days & Memorials	Times & Liturgies	Mass Intentions
Sun 3 May <i>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</i>	8.30 am Mass 10.30 am Mass	-- Irena Darlak RIP
Mon 4 May <i>The English Martyrs — Feast</i>	<b>-NO MASS-</b>	
Tue 5 May <i>Of the 5<sup>th</sup> Week of Easter</i>	9.00 am - NO ADORATION- 10.00 am - NO MASS-	
Wed 6 May <i>Of the 5<sup>th</sup> Week of Easter</i>	10.00 am Mass 6 pm Adoration	Emelda Che RIP
Thu 7 May <i>Of the 5<sup>th</sup> Week of Easter</i>	10 am Mass	--
Fri 8 May <i>Of the 5<sup>th</sup> Week of Easter</i>	9.00 am Adoration 9.30 am Rosary 10.00 am Mass	--
Sat 9 May <i>Of the 5<sup>th</sup> Week of Easter</i>	10 am Mass	Winifrid McDonnell RIP
Sun 10 May <i>6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</i>	8.30 am Mass 10.30 am Mass	-- For all the deceased of Loko and Houedikin families

## SUNDAY READINGS



1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Acts 6:1-7

Psalm: Ps 33(32):1-2. 4-5. 18-19. R22

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 1 Peter 2:4-9

Gospel: John 14:1-12

## NEXT SECOND COLLECTION



Sun 17 May

Catholic Communications Network

## OTHER REGULAR WEEKLY ACTIVIES IN THE PARISH

All Welcome to join.....

- **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 RCIA - 7:15 pm – 8.45 pm in the Church Hall
- **Weds- Alpha 7pm**, Church Hall (**No Alpha on 6<sup>th</sup> May**)
- **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

## TODAY'S GOSPEL REFLECTION

### The Way to the Father

***“Where I am going you know the way.” Thomas said to him, “Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”*** [John 14:4-6](#)

In addition to His parables and moral teachings, Jesus revealed to His disciples deep mysteries in a direct way that they did not immediately comprehend, especially when He spoke to the Twelve in intimate settings, such as the Last Supper, the context for today's Gospel. In this discourse, Jesus explains, in veiled form, that He will soon ascend into Heaven where He will prepare a place for His followers. He explains that because they know Him, they know the way to where He is going—the way to the Father—because He Himself is that Way. As Jesus spoke these mysterious truths, we can imagine the Twelve listening attentively, yet with confusion.

Everything Jesus taught was true. His words, recorded in the Gospels, reveal to us the deepest divine mysteries. Within the Scriptures, we find all we need to know to attain perfect holiness and the eternal life of Heaven. Yet we cannot quickly digest Jesus' words as we might an intriguing novel or history book. There are many layers of depth to what He says, and we can only understand those layers through prayer.

As the conversation continued, “Philip said to him, ‘Master, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you for so long a time and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father?’” ([John 14:8-9](#)).

Jesus' response likely surprised Philip and the other disciples because they did not understand what He was saying. Their intention was good—they wanted to understand—but Jesus' words were more than they could comprehend at that moment. Despite this, Jesus gently rebuked Philip as a way of drawing him deeper into the mystery He was revealing.

God often treats us the same way. There are many things that we do not understand. Why do innocent people suffer? Why doesn't God heal my loved one in answer to my prayers? Why do my children no longer practice the faith? What am I supposed to do with my life?

Just as Philip struggled to understand Jesus' words, we, too, face moments of confusion when God's ways seem beyond our grasp. God's answer to life's most challenging questions is rarely straightforward or immediate. Why? Because such an approach can never fully satisfy the depth of our hearts. Instead, God reveals a kernel of truth to us and then invites us to ponder it, revealing the divine mystery we seek to understand little by little, to the degree we are open.



The answers we seek come only as we conform our wills to God's, patiently opening ourselves to His Wisdom. Divine mysteries can only be understood through prayer and deep attentiveness to the truths in God's mind. Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Only by uniting ourselves to Him in prayer will we discover the path we must walk, the truth we need to hear, and the life we are called to live.

Reflect today on anything you struggle to understand. See yourself as one of the Twelve, listening to Jesus speak, but failing to comprehend. Do not be discouraged; instead, allow the fullness of Jesus' divine Truth to sink in gradually. Spend time in prayer, read the Gospels, be open, and listen from the depths of your heart. Seek out His gentle voice and know that He is your Way, Truth, and Life. Let Him lead you and reveal to you the mysteries of His divine Wisdom so that you, too, know the way to the Father in Heaven.

*A reflection for the Fifth Sunday of Easter (Year A)*

[www.mycatholic.life](http://www.mycatholic.life)

## PARISH NOTICES

### 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 faith.

### St Joseph's Men's Group – A Space for Faith and Fellowship

In response to a growing desire for mutual support and fraternity, we are pleased to launch a new Men's Group in the parish under the patronage of St Joseph. This group will meet once a month on a Tuesday, offering a relaxed and welcoming space where men can come together to explore topics of their choice, reflect on the life and virtues of St Joseph, and support one another in faith and daily life. If you are interested in being part of this new initiative, please add your name to the sign-up sheet available in the porch. The group will begin in June, and all men of the parish are warmly invited.

### Are you celebrating a 25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 60<sup>th</sup> or anniversary over 60 years?

If so, Bishop Philip would like to invite you to a Mass of celebration. This will take place at St Bede's church in Basingstoke on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June at 11am. This will be followed by a buffet lunch. It is a wonderful occasion to celebrate and witness to Marriage.

Please contact your parish office if you would like to attend and they will send you a form for you to complete and return to Kirsten McGuire ([kmcguire@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:kmcguire@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)), in Bishop's Office.



### Parish Youth Activities – Spring & Summer

We are pleased to begin building our parish youth community with several upcoming events for young people.

- **Junior Youth Group (Ages 7–10)** : The Junior Youth Group will meet **6:00–8:00pm** on the following Fridays:  
**24 April, 5 June, and 3 July**. Leaders: Sue, Steve and David
- **Older Teenage Group (Ages 11–16)** : The Teenage Group will meet **6:30–8:30pm** on the following Fridays:  
**15 May, 26 June, and 17 July**. Leaders: Bwalya, Mweetwa and Night

## Diocesan Pilgrimage to Turin and Assisi 2026

Join us on a pilgrimage to Turin in northern Italy and Assisi in central Italy to learn about and experience the lives of our two newest saints - St Carlo Acutis and St Pier Giorgio Frassati - **Monday 20th July - Sunday 26th July.**

Beginning in Turin where St Pier Giorgio Frassati was born, lived and died at the age of just 24 in 1925. We will visit his parish church and the family summer house in the foothills of the alps very close to the Marian shrine at Oropa. Then to Assisi to visit the tomb of St Carlo Acutis, the modern day saint using the internet to spread the Good News of the Gospels before his death in 2006 aged 15.

**What's Included?** : Flights Outbound: London Gatwick to Turin, Return: Perugia to London Heathrow Accommodation in central Turin and central Assisi Breakfast and dinner, Local transfers in and around Turin and Assisi, Long distance coach day with stops along route, Visit Marian shrine in Oropa, Visit Royal Palace in Turin - site of The Shroud, Visit tomb of St Carlo Acutis. Click [here \(https://www.jcjournneys.com/turin-assisi\)](https://www.jcjournneys.com/turin-assisi) for more details and a booking form or [contact Canon PJ Smith.](#)

### Honouring Mary, Queen of Poland

**Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> May 3pm – 5pm**

Fr. Krzysztof and members of the Polish community will bring flowers and an image of Mary, Queen of Poland, to the church for Mass. Parishioners are warmly invited to join them in this celebration.

### Local Elections – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May

Local elections are being held across the diocese on Thursday 7th May.

Parishioners are gently reminded to make use of their right to vote and take part in civic life.



### Cake Sale – 10<sup>th</sup> May



Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month, so the usual cake sale will take place after 10.30 mass. We are appealing again for more bakers and cake donations. At the moment we only have 2 regular bakers, so any contributions would be gratefully accepted. The proceeds of the sales go to our parish charities, so please help.

### Taste of The British Isles – Thank you everyone!



We would like to thank everyone who supported the recent Taste of The British Isles event last Sunday afternoon. It was a real success: great

atmosphere, delicious food representing the 4 nations, very enjoyable Irish dancing which many people joined in with, and a much-appreciated raffle.

Donations and raffle takings will be shared with our current charities: Street Pastors and The Sunday Lunch Project.

Special thanks to Anne Work (and team) who organised this event.

### Funeral

**Mr Kim Anton Aubin-Mauger**

Service:

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2026, 1pm at

Immaculate Conception Church

Committal:

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2026, 2.00pm

Hollybrook Cemetery



*Please keep Mr Kim Anton Aubin-Mauger & his family in your prayers*