



# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

17 March 2024

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

“when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself”

John 12:33

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

**Address:** 346 Portswood Road, Southampton, SO17 3SB  
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**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:** Rachel Brady (023 8055 5470)  
**Confessions:** After 10 am Mass on Saturdays  
**Hall Bookings:** contact the parish secretary

**PARISH OFFICE OPEN NEXT WEEK: Tuesday - Thursday, 9.30 am – 2.30 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 17 Mar	<b>FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT</b>	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Janine Spencer Terry Gurd RIP
Mon 18 Mar	of the 5 <sup>th</sup> week of Lent	11.30 am	FUNERAL	Jeanine Hunt RIP
Tues 19 Mar	St Joseph	10.00 am	Mass	Janine Spencer
Weds 20 Mar	of the 5 <sup>th</sup> week of Lent	10.00 am	Mass	-
Thurs 21 Mar	of the 5 <sup>th</sup> week of Lent	10.00 am	Mass	-
Fri 22 Mar	of the 5 <sup>th</sup> week of Lent	9.00 am 9.30 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration Stations of the Cross Mass	Felix de Melo RIP
Sat 23 Mar	of the 5 <sup>th</sup> week of Lent	10.00 am	Mass	Roy Thomson RIP
Sun 24 Mar	<b>PALM SUNDAY of the Passion of the Lord</b>	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Zibigniew Wolas RIP Maureen Slevin RIP

	<p><b>READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY</b>  <b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b> Jeremiah 31:31-34  <b>Psalm:</b> 51:3-4,12-15  <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b> Hebrews 5:7-9  <b>Gospel:</b> John 12:20-33</p>	<p><b>NEXT WEEK IN THE PARISH:</b>  <b>Mon 18<sup>th</sup> - Funeral</b> – 11.30 am Jeanine Hunt RIP  <b>Tues 19<sup>th</sup> - RCIA</b> 7.30 pm in the hall  <b>Wed 20<sup>th</sup> - Adoration</b> – 6 pm in the Lady Chapel  <b>Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> - Choir Practice.</b> Anyone is welcome to join          7.30 pm in the Church  <i>(Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> - Note – parish office closed today)</i>  <b>Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> - First Holy Communion session,</b> 11.00 am in the hall  <b>Sun 24<sup>th</sup> - Official Opening of the Parish Kitchen</b>          after 10.30 am Mass.</p>
<p><b>SECOND COLLECTIONS:</b>  <b>THIS SUNDAY – 17 March</b> – Flowers for the Church for Easter  <b>NEXT SUNDAY – 24 March</b> – No second collection  <b>(CARD MACHINE NOW WORKING RELIABLY AGAIN)</b></p>		

**TODAY’S GOSPEL REFLECTION: Suffering Transformed by Glory**  
 “I am troubled now. Yet what should I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it and will glorify it again.” [John 12:27-28](#)

Our Lord’s human soul was “troubled.” Other translations state that His soul was in agony. After expressing His interior suffering, Jesus identified the human temptation caused by this suffering: to flee from His “hour.” Of course Jesus dismisses this temptation as a way of teaching us a lesson from His human experience.

As God, Jesus had perfect strength and always remained faithful to the mission He received from the Father. But as a human, Jesus permitted Himself to experience temptation and human suffering for many reasons. One reason was so that He could relate to us in every way. That includes being able to relate to interior human suffering. In doing so, Jesus also made it possible for us to imitate Him and to share in the strength and determination He had as He perfectly fulfilled the will of the Father. Jesus allowed Himself to endure the agony caused by foreseen suffering because we will endure similar temptations through life.

What is it that causes you fear and anxiety as you look into the future? If there is something that immediately comes to mind, try to look at that within the light of Jesus' own experience above. The first thing Jesus does is identify the temptation to fear. He does this by identifying the interior suffering He experiences and then by looking at the cause: His coming "hour." The "hour" of Jesus in the Gospel of John is a reference to His crucifixion and death. This was the reason He came to us. He came to suffer the consequences of our sins and to destroy death itself. But this mission of His was the cause of true human suffering and was also a temptation toward fear. But it was a fear that He perfectly overcame.

As you look at anything that tempts you to give into fear and anxiety, first ask yourself whether it is the will of God that you fulfill that action. If we are fearful of something that is not the will of the Father, then we should reject it. But very often the plan God has for our lives will include acting with courage in the face of some pending cross and suffering. Experiencing fear is normal, but fear will not turn into anxiety if we imitate our Lord and choose the will of God no matter the cost.

Jesus also embraced His Cross by looking at it through the lens of glory. He understood that His suffering and death would glorify the Father in Heaven. Therefore, He allowed Himself to see the Cross as a glorification of the Father. The same must happen in our lives. No matter what we face in life, no matter the cross we are given, if it is the will of God that we embrace it, then we must see it not only as a suffering we must endure but primarily as an act by which God will be glorified in our lives. This truer perspective will bring with it hope, joy and strength which will free us from anxiety caused by fear.

Reflect, today, upon the ways in which God is calling you to the cross. As you do, don't allow fear to deter you. Instead, look at every pending suffering as an opportunity to glorify God in your life. See your crosses with gratitude and joy, and allow this new perspective to give you the strength you need to fulfill the mission given to you by the Father in Heaven.

*A reflection for the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent, Yr B*

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

## PARISH NOTICES

### AFTER 10.30 AM MASS TODAY .....

#### 'BRING & SHARE' LUNCH IN THE HALL

If you are able to bring a contribution for lunch it would be very welcome.

### WELCOME TO FR ANTONY GATT

Our thanks to Fr Antony who is covering our Sunday Masses this weekend whilst Fr Anthony away.

### RECENTLY DIED

Jeanine Hunt RIP – Funeral to take place on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024, 11.30 am.

### CONFIRMATION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

**PLEASE NOTE: NO Confirmation session this week**

Next session Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April, 4.00 pm

### OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE HALL KITCHEN

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March, 11.45 am**

Our new kitchen will be officially opened by the Lord Mayor, Valerie Laurent, after 10.30 am Mass, along with tea and cake. Save the date!

**CHRISM MASS** – Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March, 11 am at St John's Catholic Cathedral Portsmouth. Anyone is welcome to attend.

### PENITENTIAL SERVICE AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March at 7 pm – An opportunity for confession before Easter.

### GOOD FRIDAY 9.30 AM

#### CHILDRENS WAY OF THE CROSS

Readings, Songs, Dress UP, Actions – all children and their families are warmly welcome to come along and take part.



### PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE E NEWS & JOB VACANCIES

Activities, events, news and job vacancies from around the Diocese.

<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue437>

### INFANT BAPTISM PREPARATION

If you would like your baby/young child to be baptised, you will need to attend a baptism preparation session for parents. Next session:

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May, 7.30 pm – 9.00 pm in the hall**

Please contact the parish office to register your child for baptism and to attend the course.

### ADVANCE NOTICE

The newsletter for Easter will be sent out on Thursday of Holy week. It will be a double newsletter as the office will then be closed until Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April.