

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

28th July 2024 - SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

*“The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve,
and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

Matthew 20:28

**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 and Friday, 10:00 am – 3 pm, Wednesday and Thursday 1pm-5pm

**ALL MASSES ADVERTISED BELOW ARE AVAILABLE TO JOIN LIVE, ONLINE AT
www.churchservices.tv/portswoodchur**

Date	Solemnities & Feast days	Times & Liturgies		Mass Intentions
Sun 28 July	SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass (Children's)	Audrey Reid RIP Margaret Davis RIP
Mon 29 July	Ss Martha, Mary & Lazarus		NO MASS	
Tues 30 July	St Peter Chrysologus	9.00 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic adoration Mass	Joan Dunleavey RIP
Weds 31 July	St Ignatius of Loyola	10.00 am 6.00 pm	Mass Eucharistic adoration	Veronica White Birthday
Thurs 1 August	St James	10.00 am	Mass	Margaret Daly RIP
Fri 2 August	Ss Joachim & Anne	9.00 9.30 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic adoration Rosary Mass	Ted Andrews RIP
Sat 3 August	Our Lady on Saturday	10.00 am	Eucharistic Service	K T John RIP
Sun 4 August	SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Dr Kenneth Webb RIP Margaret Gallagher RIP



READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY

1st Reading: Jeremiah 23:1-6

Psalm: 22(23)

2nd Reading: Ephesians 2:13-18

Gospel: Mark 6:30-34

NEXT WEEK IN THE PARISH:

Tues 30th - Funeral 11am - Joan Dunleavey RIP

Weds 31st - Adoration for students and anyone else who would like to join us – 6-7 pm in the Lady Chapel

Sun 4th **Choir Practice** 11.30 am in the church.
Anyone welcome to join.

Baptism 1pm – Naomi Okorie 3 years old

NO SECOND COLLECTIONS UNTIL SEPTEMBER

TODAY'S GOSPEL REFLECTION:

Journeying in Faith and Prayer

Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed them to those who were reclining, and also as much of the fish as they wanted. When they had had their fill, he said to his disciples, “Gather the fragments left over, so that nothing will be wasted.” John 6:11–12

The people who were present for this miracle of the multiplication of loaves and fish had to journey to be there. First, they followed Jesus to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, and then they followed Him up a mountain in a remote area. This is significant because it tells us that a miracle of such magnitude could only take place for those who had faith and acted on that faith. Jesus could have easily performed this miracle in the Temple in Jerusalem or in a synagogue where people doubted Him. If He did that, then many of His skeptics and critics would have seen His almighty power with their own eyes. Jesus could have also done this miracle in Nazareth, His hometown,

in the presence of His extended family and friends. Perhaps if He had done this, then they would have come to believe in Him. But Jesus didn't do this incredible miracle in places where faith was lacking. Instead, He went to a remote area where only those who truly wanted to be with Him were present.

Note that the actions by which Jesus performed this miracle are similar to the way He instituted the Holy Eucharist during the Last Supper. We read above that Jesus "took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed them..." Though this miracle is recorded in all four Gospels, in John's Gospel it is a prelude to Jesus' Bread of Life Discourse in which Jesus teaches, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst." Therefore, this miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fish should be seen as a teaching about the Eucharist. It is in the Eucharist that Jesus feeds us to superabundance. The Eucharist is the gift of His very life and the food that will bring us to eternal life.

Unfortunately, it seems that very few people ever discover the gift of the Eucharist. Many people look at their participation in Mass as a duty that they must fulfill rather than as an invitation to share in the superabundant life. The only way we will discover the superabundant life given to us through the Eucharist is by working to imitate the faith of the people whom Jesus fed on that mountain. Again, the people who received this miracle had to journey either around or across the sea and climb a mountain. So also with us, the only way to come to a fruitful participation in the Eucharist is to make a concerted effort. The journey we make is one of faith, and the mountain we climb is one of prayer. Unless we believe deeply in our Lord, believe in the superabundant and transforming power of the Eucharist, seek it out faithfully every week and do so prayerfully, we will never be fed in this superabundant way.

Reflect, today, upon the symbolism of Jesus traveling to this remote area so as to perform this most incredible miracle. See this journey that you are invited to take as a journey toward the discovery of the superabundant grace bestowed upon you through the Most Holy Eucharist. The only way that you will receive this grace is by committing yourself to the journey of faith and prayer. Don't miss out. Don't ignore the incredible value of this Gift. Seek out our Lord and discover His Gift of superabundant grace within your fruitful participation in the Holy Mass.

A reflection for the Seventeenth Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B
www.mycatholic.life

PARISH NOTICES

WELCOME TO FR ANTONY GATT – FR ANTHONY UPCOMING ANNUAL LEAVE

Our thanks to Fr Antony who is covering our Sunday Masses this weekend. He will also be with us between **6 – 27th August** Sundays in August while Fr Anthony is taking his annual leave. Please note that during this period masses will be only held on Sundays.

TEA & COFFEE AFTER SUNDAY 10.30 AM MASS

Please join us in the hall for the usual refreshments after Mass today.

WORLD DAY FOR THE GRANDPARENTS AND ELDERLY

Pope Francis decided to institute the Church-wide celebration of World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly in 2021. Roman Catholics have been . It is held on the fourth Sunday of July, close to the liturgical memorial of Saints Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus.

As a church community we hold in all of our grandmas, grandpas and those who reached their sunset years.

SAFEGUARDING NOTICE – CHILDRENS LITURGY

Please note that all children under 5 years of age need to be accompanied by an adult (preferably a parent) when coming to childrens' liturgy.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2025 REGISTRATION

There are still a few more places left for FHC in 2025 and registration will close at the start of September in all our Southampton parishes. The programme will start in Autumn 2024.

If you would like your child to make their First Holy Communion, they should be over the age of 8 and they should register for the programme taking place at the parish in which they would normally attend Mass. They should be attending Mass with their family as regularly as possible. Registration forms for the programme at Immaculate Conception are available from the parish office by email, from the parish website or from the church porch. Completed forms should be returned to the parish office.

LOST AND FOUND

Any valuable items found or left behind in the church or parish hall will be kept and can be collected from the parish office during opening hours.

A keyring was lost last week at the 10:30 mass, if anyone found it, please bring it to the office. We also found a pair of sunglasses – if yours, please come and collect it.

PARISH HALL BOOKINGS

Our spacious parish hall with fully equipped kitchen is available for one-off or regular hire.

All details and booking forms are on our website:
<https://www.immaculateconception.church/hall-hire>

TWO GREAT SUMMER EVENTS:

FANNING THE FLAME SUMMER CAMP 2024
KINTBURY -19th - 23rd AUGUST FOR AGES 11-21



**FAITH - FUN – FELLOWSHIP - MASS - TEACHING – CRAFTS
WORKSHOPS - SPORTS - Q&A - PRAISE & WORSHIP – TALKS
DRAMAS - TEAM ACTIVITIES - GREAT FOOD - ADORATION**

For more information and bookings visit:

<https://www.fanningtheflame.co.uk/summer-camp-2024>



WEEK SILENT RETREAT

Pilgrims of Hope

finding hope in times of trouble

23 - 30 AUG. 2024

For more info: verbumdei.iow@gmail.com



BBQ AND NIGHT PRAYER WITH BISHOP PHILIP AND OUR PORTSMOUTH SEMINARIANS

Tuesday 30th July

The vocation team are hosting the annual gathering of all the Seminarians and Seekers/Discerners in a few weeks' time. If you are interested in joining the evening yourself as a new enquirer - or you know of a man/men in your parish who you may think could be interested in joining the evening, please pass news of this opportunity on to them. For full details please email by Friday 20th July.

vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

SCAM ALERT - READ THIS IF YOU TRAVELLED WITH A RELIGIOUS EVENT ORGANISER

Fraudsters pretending to be from the travel company are writing to parishioners who have travelled on a religious tour asking for donations. They are saying they have fallen on hard times and provide their bank account details so people can make a donation.

Please do not make a donation – this is a scam.

If you have made a donation, please report it to the police at Action Fraud on telephone number 0300 123 2040 or online at actionfraud.police.uk and report it to your bank. (Dial 159 to be automatically connected to your bank's fraud prevention service).

If you receive any correspondence or emails from any travel company, asking for money, don't make any payments and report it to the police at Action Fraud.

* If you live in England or Wales and have been a victim of fraud or cybercrime, report it at www.actionfraud.police.uk or by calling 0300 123 2040. In Scotland, victims of fraud and cybercrime should report to Police Scotland on 101.

SIGNIFICANT WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

Sat 7th September, 2pm, St Bede's Church, Basingstoke

Are you celebrating a 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, 60th or anniversary over 60 years? If so, Bishop Philip would like to invite you to a Mass of celebration. It is a wonderful occasion to celebrate and witness to Marriage.

If you would like to attend, please email:

anniversaries@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

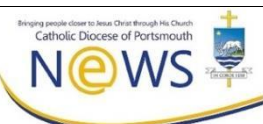
KITCHEN FAIRIES WANTED!

Can you cook or bake?

We have ambitious plans to use our new kitchen for more outreach in the local community. But we cannot do it without you.

If you can offer the odd couple of hours as a volunteer please get in touch.

Further details will be available from Fr Anthony, Dcn Gerard or the parish office.



PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE E NEWS & JOB VACANCIES

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

<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue452?e=34c55ac6ce>