

# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

## 4<sup>th</sup> August 2024 - EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

*“For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”*

*John 6:33*

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


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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 Chiattu  
**Parish Deacon:** Dcn Gerard Dailly  
**Hospital Chaplaincy:** (023 8120 8517)  
**University Chaplain:** Sr Emelliana Silva (07426 000213)  
**Safeguarding Officer:** Laura Sparmann  
([safeguarding@immaculateconception.church](mailto: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](http://www.churchservices.tv/portswoodchur)**

Date	Solemnities & Feast days	Times & Liturgies		Mass Intentions
Sun 4 August	<b>EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Dr Kenneth Webb RIP Margaret Gallagher RIP
Mon 5 August	Dedication of the Basilica of St Mary Major, Rome		NO MASS	
Tues 6 August	The Transfiguration of the Lord	10.00 am	Eucharistic Service	
Weds 7 August	St Sixtus II, Pope, and Companions	10.00 am	Eucharistic Service	
Thurs 8 August	St Dominic	10.00 am	Eucharistic Service	
Fri 9 August	St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross	09:30 am 10.00 am	Rosary Eucharistic Service	
Sat 10 August	St Lawrence	10.00 am	Eucharistic Service	
Sun 11 August	<b>NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Joan Dunleavy RIP Mary Whitner RIP

 **READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Exodus 16:2-4,12-15  
**Psalm:** Psalm 77(78):3-4,23-25,54  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** Ephesians 4:17,20-24  
**Gospel:** John 6:24-35

**NEXT WEEK IN THE PARISH:**  
**Sun 4<sup>th</sup>** - **Baptism 1pm** - Naomi Okorie 3 years old  
**Tues 5<sup>th</sup>** - **Tea & Coffee after 10 am Mass** – church hall  
**Sun 11<sup>th</sup>** **Baptism 12:30 pm** –Mila and Luca Sabine (2m & 3y)

**NO SECOND COLLECTIONS UNTIL SEPTEMBER**

### TODAY’S GOSPEL REFLECTION:

#### *Hunger for God*

*“Rabbi, when did you get here?” Jesus answered them and said, “Amen, amen, I say to you, you are looking for me not because you saw signs but because you ate the loaves and were filled. Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you.” John 6:25–27*

The day before, Jesus fed the crowds at the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fish. The next day, the people were hungry again, so they went looking for Jesus thinking that He might miraculously feed them again. In the passage above, Jesus uses their physical hunger to point them to a deeper spiritual reality.

Each one of us is hungry. We continually have cravings that we want satiated. Certainly, food and drink are among our cravings, but the deepest craving we each have is a spiritual one. The problem is that we often try to satiate ourselves in ways that will never satisfy us. Therefore, we each need to hear Jesus say, “Do not work for food that

perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you.” What is that food that the Son of Man will give to us? Of course, it is His very Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity. It is the Most Holy Eucharist.

This passage begins the lengthy “Bread of Life Discourse” from which we will read over the next three Sundays. Throughout this discourse, Jesus makes it clear that His flesh is true food and His blood is true drink. Eating Jesus’ flesh and blood is the only way to eternal life. Some who listen to this teaching find that it is too difficult to accept and, as a result, reject Jesus and His teaching. The discourse ends with Jesus asking the Twelve if they want to leave too. Peter gives the perfect response by saying, “Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God.”

As we ponder this teaching of Jesus over the next few weekends, it is important to start with the foundation. The foundation is our spiritual hunger. We each experience it. We each are aware of it. We cannot escape it. For that reason, look into your own soul. What do you see? Do you see a certain restlessness and unfulfilled desire? Do you sense the cravings within your own soul? When you see this, know that you have discovered the starting point of the life of fulfillment. Unless you can see that hunger within, you cannot turn to the source of satiation.

The Eucharist is the source of all that we long for in life; however, too often we fail to see that. We can easily fall into the trap of seeing the Eucharist as an obligation we must meet each week. Sometimes Mass can even be seen as an inconvenience. If this is your struggle, try to use the next few Sundays to reexamine your understanding of the Most Holy Eucharist.

Sunday Mass, more than anything else in life, must be understood as the source of our deepest satisfaction in life. It must be seen as the answer to every interior longing and restlessness we have. It is not money, recognition, status, power, or anything else in life that fulfills us. It is God. And God comes to us first and foremost in the celebration of the Mass. Do you believe this? Do you understand?

Reflect, today, and for the next few weeks, upon the Gift of the Most Holy Eucharist. As you do, try to see it as the answer to every interior longing and hunger that you have in life. Try to make an act of faith in this spiritual truth. If you do not regularly experience the satiation offered by consuming the Eucharist, ask yourself why not. Believe in everything that Jesus teaches in this holy discourse of the Bread of Life. If you do, you will also begin to receive the nourishment that our Lord promises.

*My Eucharistic Lord, You are the Bread of Life and the source of all satisfaction in life. Your Body and Blood, given to me through my participation in the Holy Mass, is the greatest Gift I could ever receive. Please renew and deepen my love for You in this Gift so that I will find full satisfaction and fulfillment in You alone. Jesus, I trust in You.*

A reflection for the Eighteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B  
[www.mycatholic.life](http://www.mycatholic.life)

## PARISH NOTICES

### FR ANTHONY ANNUAL LEAVE

Fr Anthony is taking his annual leave between 6 – 27<sup>th</sup> August. Fr Antony Gatt will be celebrating masses on Sundays and Assumption Day. Please check the newsletters for masses/confessions arranged for Saturdays.

### TEA & COFFEE AFTER SUNDAY 10.30 AM MASS

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

### REPAIR CAFE @ IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Meet in the church hall on Saturday 17 August, 10.30am - 1pm. Bring along your items needing repair: electric, electronic, sewing, jewellery, bikes....



Refreshments available. Donations appreciated.

### WISDOM CENTRE ROMSEY

Wisdom Centre in Romsey has an inspiring programme of events for you this autumn. The first quiet day of the season will be 'The Gospel of Thomas - A Day of Reflection' facilitated by Martin Handy. It is booking up quite quickly but places are still available. We look forward to also welcoming Fr Antony Gatt who will be leading our October quiet day. And Sr Marie Turner will be sharing her wisdom for November's quiet day. We hope you will be able to join us.

Check their website for more info:

<https://www.wisdomhouseromsey.org.uk>

### Celebrate our existing and new deacons

This week we celebrate the Feast Day of St Laurence, Patron Saint of Deacons (10th August)  
*“Deacons share in Christ’s mission and grace in a special way. The sacrament of Holy Orders marks them with an imprint (‘character’) which cannot be removed, and which configures them to Christ, who made himself the ‘deacon’ or ‘servant of all’” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, Nos. 1569-70).*

Pray for our Deacon, Dcn Gerard Dailly and our two newly ordained deacons in the diocese, Rev. Stephen Patterson and Rev. Zacharias Parambi.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO

Moore Maradzika and Liebling Tagivetau who celebrated their wedding on



3<sup>rd</sup> August in our parish church.

### SIGNIFICANT WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

**Sat 7<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:anniversaries@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

### 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>



### PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE E NEWS & JOB VACANCIES

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

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

### SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN

There is a **petition** organised by SPUC to **abolish the two-child benefit cap**, which directly relates to one of the biggest drivers of abortion, poverty. If you want to support this cause please sign one of the petition postcards, which are available in the porch. Once signed, please leave them in the green basket labelled SPUC Petition, so we can post it back together via Freepost.

### 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.



### VOLUNTEER WITH SOUTHAMPTON STREET PASTORS

Applications are open now for the next training programme this Autumn, taking place on the weekends of 4-6 October, 18-20 October and 1-3 November.

Call 0238033387 or visit

[www.southamptonstreetpastors.org](http://www.southamptonstreetpastors.org)

to find out more and submit your application.

### RETREATS & PILGRIMAGES

**ADoRE spiritual mini-retreat 31st August 10.00-1.00**

“BEAR THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT – our transformed lives will help other people.”

Including Mass, Adoration, Praise, Prayer for the gifts of the Holy Spirit and inspiring guest speaker Maria Heath.

Please register for the Zoom meeting in advance at

[bit.ly/ADOREAUG2024](https://bit.ly/ADOREAUG2024) More information at

<http://www.altonrenewal.com>

### Italian Pilgrimage 8-13<sup>th</sup> September

Guided by Father Francesco Broccio and Friar Pio Corvino  
Visiting:

Pietralcina: Birthplace of Saint Pio -  
Sanctuary of Saint Pio - San Giovanni  
Rotondo - The Grotto Church of Saint



Michael – Pompei: Shrine of the Virgin of the Rosary  
**Anyone interested in booking this pilgrimage please  
speak to Rosanna Orlando - 07585 799852 or**

**Bernie Farrell – 07792 961036**

Flyers with more information are available in the porch.

### 8 DAYS PILGRIMAGE TO ROME IN SUPPORT OF LIFE

“Pilgrim’s Progress to Rome, an eight-day trek in Autumn 2025, is a charity fundraising challenge organised by the charity Life. Life supports women in unexpected and crisis pregnancies and those experiencing pregnancy loss. Life are calling all those with “an adventurous spirit and a compassionate heart”, to email [emilytraynor@lifecharity.org.uk](mailto:emilytraynor@lifecharity.org.uk) to receive more information.”

### 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. Those already registered but not attended a welcome session please come along to our last welcome session at 6pm on 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

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.