



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

1st March 2026 – 2nd SUNDAY OF LENT



“Rise, and have no fear”

- Matthew 17:1-9

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

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:

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 SCHEDULED BELOW ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE TO JOIN LIVE AT www.churchservices.tv/portswoodchur



Feast of St David

Patron of Wales
1st March

**“Byddwch lawen,
cadwch y ffydd, a
gwnewch y pethau
bychain.”**

*(“Be joyful, keep the
faith, and do the little
things.”)*



Solemnities & Feast days	Times & Liturgies		Mass Intentions
Sun 1 March 2 nd Sunday of Lent  SECOND COLLECTION: CAFOD	8.30 am	Mass	For all the priests who have brought Trish closer to Christ
	10.30 am	Mass	Kathleen and James Earl RIP
Mon 2 March of 2 nd Week of Lent	-NO MASS-		
Tue 3 March of 2 nd Week of Lent	9.00 am 10.00 am	Adoration Mass	--
Wed 4 March of 2 nd Week of Lent	10.00 am 6:00pm	Mass Evening Mass	--
Thu 5 March of 2 nd Week of Lent	10.00 am	Mass	--
Fri 6 March of 2 nd Week of Lent First Friday Adoration	10.00 am 10.30 am 11.00 am 12:00 – 6pm	Rosary Stations of the Cross Mass Adoration	--
Sat 7 March of 2 nd Week of Lent	10.00am	Mass	Trish's family members living and deceased
Sun 8 March 3 rd Sunday of Lent	8.30 am	Mass	For priests suffering illness of any kind
	10.30 am	Mass	Gorham family RIP

If you wish to book a Mass intention, please use the Mass Intention envelopes in the porch or contact the Parish Office.

1st Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a

Psalm: 33(32):4-5. 18-19. 20, 22. R5b



Sunday Readings

2nd Reading: 2 Timothy 1:8b-10

Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

OTHER REGULAR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES IN THE PARISH

We offer a variety of weekly parish activities throughout the week, and you are warmly invited to join us. Whether you're new to the parish or have been with us for years, there's always a place for you. Come along, meet others, and share in our parish life.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cooking with Confidence 10 am - 1 pm, Church hall kitchen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tea & Coffee After 10 am Mass, Church hall ▪ RCIA 7:15 pm – 8.45 pm, Church hall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parent & Toddler Group 10:30am – 12 noon, Church hall ▪ Alpha Course 7pm, Church hall
Thursday	Sunday	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Multicultural group 10:30 am, Church hall  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintaining the parish gardens from 10:30 am 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Refreshments After 10.30 am Mass, Church hall 	<p>All Welcome to join.....</p>

TODAY'S GOSPEL REFLECTION

Good and Bad Days

“Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” [Matthew 17:4](#)

The Apostle Peter's reaction to the Transfiguration reveals that he was overwhelmed by his firsthand experience of a glimpse of Jesus' true glory. Not long before this moment, our Lord took His disciples north to Caesarea Philippi and asked them privately who they thought He was. Peter boldly proclaimed, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God" ([Matthew 16:16](#)). In response, Jesus promised Peter that He would build His Church upon Peter's profession of faith and that Peter himself would be entrusted with the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven. It was a good day for Peter. Shortly after this, however, Jesus began to reveal to His disciples that He "must go to Jerusalem and suffer greatly from the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed and on the third day be raised" ([Matthew 16:21](#)). In response, Peter pulled Jesus aside and said, "God forbid, Lord! No such thing shall ever happen to you" ([Matthew 16:22](#)). Jesus replied harshly to Peter's rebuke: "Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do" ([Matthew 16:23](#)). It was a bad day for Peter.

Jesus then taught His disciples, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it" ([Matthew 16:24-25](#)). Not only was Jesus soon to suffer greatly, but His followers, including the Twelve, were called to follow Him on this difficult path. This was hard news for them to accept.

In today's Gospel, we hear the story of the Transfiguration. Interestingly, Jesus allowed the disciples to reflect on His prediction of suffering for six days before taking Peter, James, and John up a mountain for prayer and solitude. Jesus, aware of their confusion and struggles, was transfigured before their eyes. "[H]is face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, conversing with him" ([Matthew 17:2-3](#)). Peter exclaimed in this moment of glory, "Lord, it is good that we are here." It was another good day for Peter.

We all have good days and bad days. But what defines a good day versus a bad day? Was the day of Jesus' Crucifixion a bad one for Him? Certainly not. Though filled with intense suffering, it was the most glorious day in history because His

perfect obedience to the Father's will was fulfilled. Similarly, Peter's good and bad days can be understood in terms of his willingness to obey Christ, especially when the demands were great.

In our lives, we must also define our good and bad days through the lens of obedience to God's will, especially when His will calls us to bear the Cross and practice sacrificial love. It's easy to love God when we are consoled, but it becomes much more difficult when we face trials. Peter's declaration, "Lord, it is good that we are here," is the perfect prayer for us to echo in every circumstance. When we are consoled, as Peter was at the Transfiguration, we must pray this prayer. But unlike Peter's earlier missteps, we must also say, "It is good," when we encounter opportunities for sacrificial love, even when difficult.

Reflect today on your own good and bad days. Use the lens of holy obedience and your call to live a life of sacrificial love. Do not hesitate to cry out to the Lord, "It is good!" Consider whether you view every cross and every invitation to love sacrificially as something good. This is what God desires for you; embrace His desire with determination and joy.

A reflection for the Second Sunday of Lent (Year A)

www.mycatholic.life

PARISH NOTICES

CAFOD Lent Appeal – Family Fast Day collection

This Lent, live out the Gospel call to love your neighbour. By fasting and giving what you save, you join in Christ's compassion and help another family put food on the table. Your donation can help families around the world grow food in difficult conditions – such as on flood-resistant floating gardens or using solar-powered water pumps in times of drought. Collect a CAFOD envelope to bless others with your support, donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope or call 0303 303 3030. Text CAFODLENT to 70085 to donate £10.



Good News! Every donation counts twice!

Sponsors will **match all contributions**, so please give as best you can, your support truly matters.

BIG LENT WALK - Saturday 14 March

The St Edmund's CAFOD Group is running a Big Lent Walk at St Edmund's, beginning at 10.00am on Saturday 14th March. The walk will finish back at their church hall with soup lunch, drinks, and snacks. All parishioners across Southampton are warmly invited to join.

Lenten Soup Lunches

You are all invited to the 12 noon lunches. Please come and enjoy the freshly made soups, meet up with friends and help the charities who benefit from them.

We especially welcome anyone who has not been before.

6th March – Southampton and Winchester Visitors Group - Volunteers working with Asylum Seekers and Refugees.



Crayons / Coloured Pencil Amnesty

Dear parents and carers, please could you help us by ensuring that the pencil cases used by the children are returned to the box in the porch after 1030 mass (6 pencils per case). We had 20 new cases for Advent 25 and now we are down to about 12! Please use one pencil case per family during mass. If anyone needs a case for home use, please let us know.

Any volunteers to help sharpen the pencils once a month would be more than welcome!

Thank you for your support.





Children's Way of the Cross – Good Friday

There will be a Children's Way of the Cross on **Good Friday at 9.30am** in our church. This is a special service prepared for all families to attend.

Diocesan Pilgrimage

✦ Join the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2026

Bishop Philip warmly invites you to join the 2026 diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes, taking place from Monday 6th July to Friday 10th July, departing from London Heathrow.

Pilgrims will stay at the Hotel La Solitude, just moments from the Sanctuary, offering comfortable ensuite rooms, shared meals, and a welcoming base for this special journey.

The pilgrimage includes visiting places connected with St Bernadette, taking part in the main pilgrimage celebrations, moments of quiet reflection, and opportunities to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick. It is a beautiful opportunity to grow in faith, encounter God, and share in prayer with others.

This pilgrimage is a chance to grow in faith, encounter God, and share a journey with fellow pilgrims.

✉ Email: lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

📄 Booking Form: [Click here \(2026-Lourdes-Booking-Form-Portsmouth-v17.pdf\)](#)

Alpha Course - It's not too late to join

A warm meal, a welcoming room and a safe space to explore life's big questions: The Alpha course takes place every **Wednesday** with an evening meal at **7:00pm in the Parish Hall** (immediately after Adoration in the Church).



Alpha is a great opportunity to invite people to 'come and see' – ask them to just come and try it, without any obligation to commit to anything.

Alpha is more than just a course – it's a journey of discovery. Many people find Alpha to be a turning point in their lives: some encounter faith for the first time, others deepen their relationship with Christ, and everyone is free to explore questions that really matter.

If you know someone who is simply curious, or even just open to the idea that God might be real, Alpha provides a space to explore those thoughts without judgement. If you're going to invite a friend, why not come along too? Why not give it a try? **If interested please see the sign up sheets in the Church Porch.**

Parish Youth Community – Beginning This April!

We are excited to announce the launch of our Parish Youth Community, a new space for our young people to grow in friendship, confidence, and faith. Beginning in April, we will start with two age groups meeting monthly on:

7–10 year olds
6:00pm – 8:00pm
First session: 8 April

11–16 year olds
6:30pm – 8:30pm
First session: 24 April



These evenings will be welcoming, engaging and fun, with activities designed to help our young people build strong friendships and gradually deepen their relationship with Christ. *We warmly encourage parents to support this new initiative and to help your children get ready to take part. To our young people: we are looking forward to seeing you there, come ready to meet new friends and be part of something special!*

Sign-up sheets are now available in the church porch. Please complete a form to register your child.

Let us keep this new beginning in our prayers as we build our youth community together.