



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

29th September 2024 - TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

*“No one who works a miracle in my name is likely to speak evil of me.
Anyone who is not against us is for us.”*

Mark 9:39-40

**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: 1st Oct Tuesday 10:00 am-3 pm Closed between 2-4th October

then return to normal hours from 8th October: 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 29 September	TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Steve White RIP
Mon 30 September	St Jerome, Priest		NO MASS	
Tues 1 October	St Teresa of the Child Jesus	9.00 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration Mass	K. Lorance Perera RIP
Weds 2 October	The Holy Guardian Angels	10.00 am 6pm	Eucharistic Service Eucharistic Adoration	
Thurs 3 October	Feria	10.00 am	Mass	
Fri 4 October	St Francis of Assisi	9.00 am 9.30 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic adoration Rosary Mass	
Sat 5 October	St Faustina Kowalska	10.00 am	Mass	Zbigniew Wolos RIP
Sun 6 October	TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Tina Gibbs RIP
Mon 7 October	Our Lady of the Rosary		NO MASS	
Tues 8 October	Feria	9.00 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration Mass	
Weds 9 October	St John Henry Newman	10.00 am 6pm	Mass Eucharistic Adoration	
Thurs 10 October	St Paulinus of York	10.00 am	Mass	
Fri 11 October	St John XXIII, Pope	9.00 am 9.30 am 10.00 am	Morning prayer Rosary Mass	
Sat 12 October	Our Lady on Saturday	10.00 am	Mass	
Sun 13 October	TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Fr Paul Spellman RIP Ian Warwick RIP



READINGS FOR SUNDAY 29TH September

1st Reading: Numbers 11:25-29

Psalm: 18(19):8,10,12-14

2nd Reading: James 5:1-6

Gospel: Mark 9:38-43,45,47-48

READINGS FOR SUNDAY 6TH October

1st Reading: Genesis 2:18-24

Psalm: 127(128)

2nd Reading: Hebrews 2:9-11

Gospel: Mark 10:2-16

SECOND COLLECTIONS:

SUNDAY 29th SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY 6th OCTOBER

SUNDAY 13th OCTOBER

St Vincent de Paul Society (non GA)

No collection

CAFOD (non-GA)

NEXT TWO WEEKS IN THE PARISH:

Sun 29th - Tea & coffee after 10.30 am mass
(Please note the bookshop is closed this Sunday.)
Tues 1st - Tea & Coffee after 10 am service – church hall
Wed 2nd Adoration for students and anyone else who would like to join us – 6-7 pm in the Main Church
Thur 3rd Caritas activity group– 10.30am
Sun 6th - Tea & coffee after 10.30 am mass

Sun 6th - Tea & coffee after 10.30 am mass
Tues 8th - Tea & Coffee after 10 am service – church hall
RCIA (Faith Journey) course opening session 8pm
Wed 9th Adoration for students and anyone else who would like to join us – 6-7 pm in the Main Church
Thur 10th Caritas activity group– 10.30am
Sat 12th First Holy Communion – Session 4 Miracle of Jesus
Sun 13th - Tea & coffee after 10.30 am mass – **Cake Sale**

ADVANCE NOTICE: Please note that Fr Anthony will be away on retreat between 14-18th October 2024.

GOSPEL REFLECTION:

Eliminating Occasions of Sin

If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed than with two hands to go into Gehenna, into the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life crippled than with two feet to be thrown into Gehenna. And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out...” [Mark 9:43-47](#)

Sometimes we need to wake up to the horror of sin. Sin and sin alone is capable of sending you to hell. Hell is real, and going there for eternity is a real possibility. Therefore, we must do whatever it takes to avoid that frightful possibility. This teaching from Jesus might not, at first, be thought of as one of His most inspiring teachings, but it should be. It’s not inspiring in the sense that it is quite graphic. But it is very inspiring in the sense that it has the potential to motivate us to action.

Are you motivated to do all that you can to avoid sin? Would you even go so far as to cut off your hand or foot, and to pluck out your eye so as to avoid sin? First of all, this should not be seen as a literal command in which Jesus is telling us to mutilate ourselves. But He is the one Who chose such graphic language. Therefore, we should not shy away from pondering these images in a prayerful way so as to more clearly see those things that lead us into sin. When we see them, we must take the radical step of completely eliminating them from our lives.

Many of the Church Fathers say that the hand, foot and eye in this teaching refer to our friends. Just as a hand, foot and eye are good in and of themselves, so also are friends. We are made for friendship with God and with others. However, not every friendship helps us grow closer to God. Therefore, when an earthly friend becomes a source of sin, we must eliminate that friendship.

Friendship is different from charity. We owe charity to all people, even those who are the most sinful. But acting with charity toward others is different from being friends with them. To be a friend implies mutual giving and receiving. And though we must always give of ourselves to others, we ought not always receive from them when what they have to offer is an invitation to sin. This is how we “cut it off” and “pluck it out.” When another person tries to relate to us in such a way that they lead us into sin, we must take that temptation very seriously and reject it with much vigor.

The hand, foot and eye in this teaching also represent every situation in life that tempts us to sin. For example, consider material possessions. If buying a very expensive car, house, or electronic gadget tempts you to become more materialistic, then you must avoid buying it. People are drawn to nice things. But does possessing nice things help your soul to become holy? One could argue that they can have nice things, while at the same time remain spiritually detached from them. But this is difficult to live. The more luxurious our material possessions, the more tempted we will be to rely upon them for our happiness. Therefore, choosing to live simply is almost always better for your soul than choosing to live in luxury. This teaching also applies to anything else that could become a source of temptation.

Reflect, today, upon those things or persons in your life that have become an occasion of sin for you. Do not fool yourself into believing that you can handle the temptation. If you have some source of ongoing temptation in your life, you need to eliminate it. Ponder this very graphic teaching from Jesus and try to apply it to your life. Identify those things that lead you into sin and eliminate them with much determination.

A reflection for the Twenty-Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B
www.mycatholic.life

PARISH NOTICES

SVP Annual Collection

Today is the annual collection for the St.Vincent de Paul group in the parish. A group that has been active since the Church was built.

As usual I cannot thank our supporters enough for your generosity towards our small parish group. Covid has resulted in much smaller collections for all charities but your response to our Appeal last year was amazing. I was moved deeply by the parishioners who approached me directly with gifts of money.

Here are some figures regarding the period from March 1 2023 - April 30 2024.

Number of meetings held:	14
Number of meetings cancelled:	5
Number of visits:	149
Money given out to help with bills etc:	£990
Christmas Gifts:	£80
Fundraising:	£280
Shopping for individuals:	8
Transport to hospitals and other appts:	5
Outings:	5
Furniture Offered:	4

Enquirers are always welcome as well as those with ideas and energy! Please contact Anne Dempsey on 02380 552064 if you would like to find out more.

CAFOD Family Fast Day – Harvest Appeal Friday 11th October

With your help, CAFOD funds training, tools, equipment and safe spaces so **disadvantaged young people in the third world** can learn new skills and fulfil their God-given potential. Use the envelope in church or give online.



In preparation for the Family Fast Day Steve Deadman will be talking about CAFOD in a presentation on 6th October .

DO YOU WANT TO BECOME A CATHOLIC?

We will be starting our new **RCIA course** on **Tuesday 8 October 2024 (8 - 9:30pm) each week**

The RCIA (or “Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults”) is a process of Christian formation – based on ancient tradition – offered to those who seek to become Catholic. The initiation of new members is a gradual process, allowing enquirers time to grow in faith and become full participants of the Catholic community.



If you are interested please speak to Fr. Anthony or Dcn Gerard in the first instance.

STUDENTS WELCOME!

As a Parish Community we would like to extend a very warm welcome to all new and returning students.

We would really appreciate it if you could make yourselves known to either Fr. Anthony or Deacon Gerard allowing us to introduce you to others. There is **Tea and Coffee** available after 10:30 Mass in the Parish Hall.

Our regular student adoration service on Wednesday evenings are being held in the main church in October.

We would also like to extend an invitation to our upcoming Students Welcome Meal on Friday 23rd October at 7.30pm after Adoration.

We also invite you to connect with the Parish Students WhatsApp Group run by fellow students.

CARITAS OUTREACH GROUP- THURSDAY MORNINGS 10.30am to 12:30pm

Programmes coming up in the next two weeks:

3 rd October	Gardening and Stretch Exercises
10 th October	Board games

PLEASE COME AND JOIN IN! No costs. Parents need to accompany and be responsible for their children.

CARITAS AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

The new Autumn newsletter can be found here:
<https://mailchi.mp/5f83b022d4f5/autumn-newsletter>

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2024-25

Please note that the First Holy Communion course is now fully booked and no longer accepts registrations. Parents, please use the document section of the church website to access course materials online.

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

Safeguarding training for all those working with children or vulnerable adults is necessary unless you already have a relevant certificate no more than 3 years old.

A training session is organised for 26th October, 11am – 4pm in the parish hall, please contact the office to sign up.

COMING SOON AGAIN - REPAIR CAFÉ

Bike repairs can be undertaken at the next Repair Cafe session at Immaculate Conception church hall on Saturday morning 19 October from 10.30 till 12.30. In addition repairs to clothing, electronics, electrical items and many other items undertaken for a donation.

Refreshments available including homemade cakescome and see what the Repair Cafe has to offer.

OREMUS – LET US PRAY



We will very soon be entering the month of October, traditionally the month dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary. The Rosary developed in the High Middle Ages period and the reason that October came to be devoted to its recitation is primarily because the liturgical feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is celebrated annually on 7th October.

Prior to 2002 there were three sets of Mysteries - the Glorious, Joyful and Sorrowful mysteries - to mediate upon, and then Pope St John Paul II added the Luminous Mysteries, or Mysteries of Light.

The Rosary is a wonderful prayer for us to say, praying to Our Lord for protection from all danger, sickness and evil. If you need help in saying the Rosary, go to <https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/the-holy-rosary-2024> Encourage each other to say the Rosary daily this month.

FEAST OF ST LUKE

18th October is the feast day of St Luke, patron saint of healing and a physician himself.

A special mass at **at 6.30pm** will be followed by a shared meal to celebrate our hard working medical staff, doctors and nurses.



CHRISTMAS SHOE BOX APPEAL

DEADLINE: 13th OCTOBER

Christmas presents are still collected for disadvantaged and displaced children in Eastern-Europe. Boxes are available to take away and fill with presents. Please also take a leaflet to guide you.



PLEASE RETURN YOUR FILLED BOX (TOGETHER WITH £2 ATTACHED) BY SUNDAY 13th OCTOBER AT THE LATEST, TO HELP THE ROTARY CLUB IN PREPARING THEIR DELIVERIES.

Contact Norman and Mary for any queries.



PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE E NEWS & JOB VACANCIES

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

<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue459?e=34c55ac6ce>

A DAY OF REFLECTION WITH FR ANTONY GATT MYSTICAL PATHS: TERESA OF AVILA, RUMI AND THOMAS MERTON

Date: 19th October 2024, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Location: Wisdom Centre, Romsey

To book this event call 01794830206 (leave a message if we are unable to take the call).

Or email: reception@wisdomhouseromsey.co.uk

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

PRIESTHOOD DISCERNMENT GROUP

A Priesthood Discernment Group will be running at St Edmund's Church, The Avenue on alternate Saturday evenings for men aged 16-35 who are discerning a call to the Catholic priesthood.

Contact Ryan for more information:

rhawkes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk



**SAINT GEORGE
CATHOLIC COLLEGE**

Open Evening

Thursday

3rd October

5pm - 8pm



ST PATRICK'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



OPEN DAYS AUTUMN 2024

07 Oct 2024, 13:30 – 15:00 BST
12 Nov 2024, 09:30 – 11:00 GMT
18 Nov 2024, 13:30 – 15:00 GMT
26 Nov 2024, 09:30 – 11:00 GMT



To book and for more information about admissions please visit our website:

[Admissions | St Patrick's School \(spcps.co.uk\)](https://www.spcps.co.uk)



SPRINGHILL CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

'PROSPECTIVE PARENT' TOURS



If your child will be starting school in September 2025, we'd love to welcome you to Springhill Catholic Primary School. We advise that you don't bring children with you so you can concentrate on the presentation and tour which will last around an hour. They will all start at 9:30am on the following dates:

Wednesday 16th October & Tuesday 26th November

Please arrive at the school reception at around 9:25am and enjoy getting to know our school. Please use the link below to let us know you are coming.

<https://forms.office.com/e/tnZ6bJmh5a>