



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

"Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, 'Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'" - Matthew 13:24-43

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Website: www.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 LISTED BELOW ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE TO JOIN LIVE on our website or www.churchservices.tv/portswoodchur

Solemnities, Feast days & Memorials	Times & Liturgies		Mass Intentions
Sun 19 July SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.30 am	Mass	John Coffey RIP
	10.30 am	Family Mass	Sheila Gorham RIP
Mon 20 July St Apollinaris	-NO MASS-		
Tue 21 July St Laurence of Brindisi	9.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration	Kenneth Waters RIP
	10.00 am	Mass	
Wed 22 July St Mary Magdalene	10 am	Service of the Word (No Mass)	--
	6 pm	No Eucharistic Adoration	
Thu 23 July St Bridget Of Sweden	10 am	Mass	--
Fri 24 July St Sharbel Makhluf	9.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration	Maria & Dave Maddocks 50th Wedding Anniversary
	9.30 am	Rosary	
	10.00 am	Mass	
Sat 25 July Our Lady on Saturday	10 am	Wedding Mass	Night & Emil
Sun 26 July SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.30 am	Mass	John Cooney RIP & Sheila Gorham RIP
	10.30 am	Mass	Robert (BOB) Henry 70th Birthday



Thought for the Week: "We live at a time of significant spiritual and cultural blindness. A false pragmatism urges us to sever the roots of our history, as if it were possible to inaugurate a kind of "new creation" detached from the past. Even those who cite important moral principles can fall into this historical nihilism, mistakenly believing that the atrocities of the twentieth century can never happen again." (Pope Leo: Magnifica Humanitas 204)

SUNDAY READINGS



1st Reading: Wisdom 12:13, 16-19

Psalm: Ps 86(85):5-6. 9-10. 15-16a.
R5a

2nd Reading: Romans 8:26-27

Gospel: Matthew 13:24-43

OTHER REGULAR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

All are welcome to join!

- Mon- Cooking with Confidence 11 am – 1 pm, Church Hall kitchen
- Tues- Tea & Coffee after 10 am Mass – Church Hall
- Thurs- Maintaining the parish gardens – from 10:30 am Multicultural group – 10:30 am in the Church Hall
- Sun- Refreshments after 10.30 am Mass-Church Hall

Transformed by God's Word Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

He spoke to them another parable. “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed with three measures of wheat flour until the whole batch was leavened.” [Matthew 13:33](#)

Yeast is small—invisible once it is worked into the dough. And yet, its influence is pervasive and powerful. This simple image—yeast worked into three measures of flour, causing it to slowly rise—reveals that the Kingdom of Heaven is built quietly, almost imperceptibly, from within. Like leaven silently transforming dough from the inside, so too does God's grace operate—hidden yet active—in the heart, in the Church, and in the world.

Patently watching dough rise can be a small wonder, especially for children. In this brief parable, the yeast symbolizes the Word of God, and the wheat flour, the human soul. When God's Word is welcomed by faith, it possesses the power to transform the entire soul. Just as yeast elevates and expands flour into bread, so God's Word elevates human nature and conforms it to Himself. How awe-inspiring it is to behold the gradual transformation of a soul animated by divine grace!

Saint Augustine offers several interpretations of the “three measures” of wheat flour. He suggests they can represent the threefold interior life of the human person: heart, soul, and mind (cf. [Matthew 22:37](#)); or the three degrees of fruitfulness described in the parable of the sower—“a hundredfold, sixtyfold, and thirtyfold” (cf. [Matthew 13:23](#)); or even the three righteous men mentioned in Ezekiel—Noah, Daniel, and Job (cf. [Ezekiel 14:14](#)), each representing a distinct path of fidelity under trial. Each of these interpretations reveals how God's transforming Word is at work not only in the individual soul, but within the Church and throughout all humanity.

Though “three measures” might not sound like much, it was in fact a substantial amount. According to ancient Jewish and Roman measurements, three measures (or satons) could equal nearly fifty pounds of flour—enough to feed more than a hundred people. The parable, therefore, is about abundance—the superabundant fruitfulness of God's Word when it is thoroughly received—penetrating deeply into the individual soul, the Church, and society. Like leaven in dough, this transformation takes time. Though not immediate, it is steady, enduring, and complete.

Consider your own life: Has the Word of God been thoroughly mixed into your whole being—into your heart, your soul, and your mind? Has it leavened your interior life so completely that even your smallest actions are touched by grace? Has divine love taken hold of you—not in part, but in whole?

Furthermore, do you see your interconnectedness with the Church and rejoice in the many ways God is at work within Her and Her members? Do you gaze upon the world and, with wonder and awe, perceive God's hidden activity? It is easy to focus on the worldly chaos and to be drawn into the sensationalism of evil. But it takes a truly perceptive soul—like a child watching dough rise—to behold the quiet, steady work of God, who is ever bringing His Kingdom to life—quietly, steadily, and far and wide.

Reflect today on the quiet ways God is at work within you, within the Church, and throughout the world. Though you might not always perceive the movement of grace, trust that it is active—like yeast in dough—gently transforming, sanctifying, and preparing hearts for the glory to come. Resist the temptation to measure your spiritual growth by visible signs or immediate results. Instead, remain faithful to prayer, attentive to the Word, and docile to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. God's Kingdom unfolds in time, and its rising is certain. Even when the world seems overwhelmed by sin or division, remember that the leaven is at work. The final loaf is being prepared for the eternal

banquet—and you are being made ready, one hidden grace at a time, until you are fully prepared to share in the joy of the eternal feast.

A reflection from www.mycatholic.life

PARISH NOTICES

A Note of Gratitude

Dear Parish Family,

I am delighted to share that I will be graduating with my PhD on the 22nd of July. As this day approaches, I find myself deeply grateful, because I know this journey was not mine to walk alone. Your prayers, patience, and encouragement have sustained me through every stage of this process, especially in the moments when the path felt long or uncertain. I am mindful that whatever I have achieved carries the mark of this community's support, and I want you to know how much that has meant to me.

As I begin this new chapter, I ask for your continued prayers and give thanks to God for the gift of a community that walks with one another so faithfully.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

With gratitude,
Fr Anthony



World Day of Prayer for Grandparents & Elderly – Sunday 26 July

This is the sixth World Day, which always takes place on the Memoria of SS. Joachim and Anne, the parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary and grandparents of Jesus. The theme chosen by Pope Leo XIV for this year is: “I will never forget you” (Is 49:15). It reminds us that God’s unwavering love is the ultimate answer to the isolation and neglect so often experienced by the elderly. Since its creation in 2021, the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly has grown into a cherished tradition that teaches our communities to truly value the elderly, not through occasional gestures, but as a permanent, central part of our lives. This celebration helps us appreciate older generations as vital keepers of our history, witnesses to our faith, and teachers for our lives. Let this Day be a tangible opportunity for everyone — especially young people — to spend time with their grandparents, the elderly in their families, and most importantly, those who are completely isolated.



Cleaner Vacancy - Parish of the Immaculate Conception, Portswood



We are looking for a reliable and dedicated Cleaner to help maintain our church premises and presbytery to a high standard, ensuring they remain clean, safe, and welcoming for

worship and parish life.

This vital role supports the dignity of our spaces and the mission of the Parish by fostering a respectful and well-cared-for environment for all.

Interested applicants are warmly invited to contact the Parish Office for further details.

Book now for Adoremus 2026

Adoremus is a National Eucharistic Congress initiated by the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales to deepen devotion to the Eucharist and encourage adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Canon Michael Dennehy invites you to join the Diocesan contingent.

The next Adoremus event is due to take place in London on **Saturday 10th October 2026**, with Mass, a Eucharistic Procession and Benediction. Book your place on the Adoremus Pilgrimage **by 3rd August, 2026** to travel by coach, departing St Edmund’s Church, The Avenue, Southampton, then Winchester Services, Fleet Services and on to London.

To book a place please register using the form either by [clicking here](#) or scanning the QR code.



Wedding Mass

Wedding Mass will be celebrated at the church on **25 July at 10 am** as Night & Emil join together in the Sacrament of Marriage.



Please note that there will be no regular 10 am Mass or Confessions on this day. We kindly ask parishioners, where possible, to leave parking spaces available for the wedding guests and their families. Please keep the couple in your prayers that God will bless them with a lifetime of love and happiness together.

Hello Summer Holidays!

As another school year comes to an end, we thank all our students and staff for their hard work and achievements. Whether you're travelling far, staying close to home, or simply enjoying a slower pace of life - have a fantastic holiday and may God's love accompany you wherever you go.



Wessex Rotary Shoebox Appeal

We are once again supporting the Wessex Rotary Shoebox Scheme, which sends shoeboxes filled with gifts to disadvantaged children in Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, and Ukraine (via Poland), ensuring they receive them in time for Christmas. Shoeboxes are available from the church porch or the parish office. We look forward to receiving your filled shoeboxes. For more information, please contact Norman Fairchild or parish office. For guidance on what items may be included in the boxes, please visit: www.wessexrotaryshoebox.org.uk. Thank you for helping to bring joy and hope to children in need.



Funeral



Rowena & late Desmond McComb

Mrs. Rowena McComb

Requiem mass:

Friday 7th August 2026, at 1.00 pm at

Immaculate Conception Church

Committal:

Friday 7th August 2026, 2.30pm at Hollybrook Cemetery

Please join us for refreshments in the Hall

Maintenance Morning - Thank You!!

A heartfelt thank you to all the volunteers and organisers who took part in our Maintenance Morning last Saturday.

Thanks to your hard work, the church and hall were thoroughly cleaned and tidied, with floors, altars, windows, kitchen cupboards, grounds, locks, lighting and drains all receiving much-needed attention. We are very grateful to everyone who gave their time and effort to help keep our parish buildings and grounds welcoming and well maintained. Thank you all!

