



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

11th August 2024 - NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

*'No one can come to me unless he is drawn by the Father who sent me,
and I will raise him up at the last day.*

John 6:44

**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 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 10:30-3.30 pm, Wednesday and Thursday 1pm-5pm, Friday, 10:00 am – 3 pm

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

Date	Solemnities & Feast days	Times & Liturgies		Mass Intentions
Sun 11 August	NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Joan Dunleavy RIP Mary Whitner
Mon 12 August	St Jane Frances de Chantal, Religious		NO MASS	
Tues 13 August	St Pontian, Pope, & St Hippolytus	10.00 am	Eucharistic Service	
Wed 14 August	St Maximilian Maria Kolbe	10.00 am	Eucharistic Service	
Thurs 15 August	The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	10.00 am 7.30 pm	Mass Mass	Holy Day of Obligation
Fri 16 August	St Stephen of Hungary	9:30am 10.00 am	Rosary Eucharistic Service	
Sat 17 August	Our Lady on Saturday	10.00 am	Eucharistic Service	
Sun 18 August	TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Isabella Nica RIP Mona Halford RIP



READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY

1st Reading: 1 Kings 19:4-8

Psalm: 33(34):2-9

2nd Reading: Ephesians 4:30-5:2

Gospel: John 6:41-51

NEXT WEEK IN THE PARISH:

Sun 11th - Tea and coffee after mass

Baptism 12:30 pm – Mila and Luca Sabine (2m & 3y)

Tues 13th - Tea & Coffee after 10 am Mass – church hall

Thur 15th - Assumption - Morning and evening masses

Sat 17th - Repair café – 10.30 am -1 pm – church hall

Sun 18th - Tea and coffee after mass

NO SECOND COLLECTIONS UNTIL SEPTEMBER

TODAY'S GOSPEL REFLECTION:

Transforming Faith From Knowledge

"I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the desert, but they died; this is the bread that comes down from heaven so that one may eat it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world." [John 6:48-51](#)

We continue this Sunday with the beautiful "Bread of Life Discourse" from John's Gospel. At the beginning of today's passage, we read that the people listening to this discourse "murmured about Jesus." They did so because

He had been teaching them that He was the Bread of Life Who had come down from Heaven. For some of His listeners, this was too much to accept. It was especially difficult for those who knew Jesus and His family from Nazareth. When Jesus became aware of their murmurs, He confronted them straight on saying, “Stop murmuring among yourselves.” He then doubled down on His teaching, taking it even further, telling them that whoever eats His flesh will live forever.

In some ways, Jesus’ teaching could be said to defy human reason. Imagine hearing this teaching for the first time from someone who grew up in your hometown. Human reason alone is insufficient to comprehend and accept such teaching. But that is precisely the point. Human reason alone is insufficient. But when human reason is endowed with a special revelation from the Father in Heaven, then all becomes clear and all makes sense.

On that point, Jesus said, “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draw him” and that “Everyone who listens to my Father and learns from him comes to me.” Therefore, even though it is beyond the ability of natural human reason alone to make sense of what Jesus was teaching, those who were drawn by the Father and listened to His voice were given a new form of knowledge that brought clarity to their human minds. This knowledge is essential if we are to know and understand the path to eternal life and if we are to understand and believe in the Most Holy Eucharist.

Sometimes we can fall into the trap of thinking that faith is just believing in something that is beyond us. But faith is much more. It’s not just blindly believing. It’s not just wishful thinking that turns into a personal choice to believe. Faith is based on something absolutely real and unmistakable. It’s based on true spiritually revealed knowledge—a knowledge given to us by God. In fact, this form of knowledge, given by God, is far more certain than any other form of knowledge.

For example, you know that $2+2=4$ because you can take two objects, add two more, and then count four. Or you know that music is playing because your ears perceive the sound. Thus, you rely upon your senses to produce knowledge to arrive at conclusions. Spiritually infused knowledge, however, is even more certain than that which we can obtain through our senses because it is God Who reveals the truth. Therefore, if God speaks to you and imparts to you a knowledge that His flesh is true food and His blood is true drink, and that if you eat His flesh and drink His blood then you will obtain eternal life, then this knowledge is certain, transforming, and becomes the basis of a life of pure faith. Though this may seem overly philosophical, it is true and necessary to understand.

Reflect, today, upon anything that you fail to have perfect faith in. Do you believe in the Most Holy Eucharist? Do you believe that it is the food for eternal life? Do you believe in everything Jesus taught? Examine your faith and where it is lacking; seek the voice of the Father. Only God can impart the deepest spiritual knowledge to you. For your part, you must listen, comprehend, accept and believe. Doing so will produce the gift of faith within your human reason, and that faith will be your guide to the life of the fullness of grace.

Lord, You have revealed to us the deepest mysteries of life. You have revealed Your love and compassion, and You have revealed the way to eternal life. Please give me the gift of faith so that I will believe all that You have revealed. Please especially deepen my faith in the Gift of the Most Holy Eucharist. Jesus, I trust in You.

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

PARISH NOTICES

WELCOME TO FR ANTHONY GATT – FR ANTHONY ON ANNUAL LEAVE

Fr Anthony is taking his annual leave between 6 – 27th August. Please note that during this period masses will be only held on Sundays and on the Feast of Assumption and celebrated by Fr Antony Gatt.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Next week’s newsletter will cover two weeks due to annual leave. Please send any newsletter items by Thursday 15th August 1 pm to Cecilia via email: office@immaculateconception.church

Nominate your Church for a National Churches Award 2024

The National Church Awards 2024 will focus on the impact and contribution of the people behind the UK’s church buildings. Whether that is keeping a church well maintained, opening it up for visitors or running a community project from the building, the judges want to recognise the amazing ways parish teams are making a difference.

There are different categories to choose from and you can nominate some of our wonderful volunteers too.

More details and online nomination here: <https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/impact/awards>

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.



INCOME FOR JULY 2024

Candles	330.13
Tea/ Coffee	155.21
Summer Fair	2232.10
DONA	412.46
Envelopes	225.00
On Line Giving	475.00
Offertory	1684.18
St Orders & DDs	3354.00
Total	8868.08

Charity Donation/ Special Collections:

Peter's Pence	485.06
Emergency relief fund	40.00
Stella maris	357.24
Total	882.30

Stella Maris has expressed their heartfelt thanks for your donations on behalf of their seafarer and fisher beneficiaries.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2025

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 3rd September.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AND FASTING FOR LIFE

Join us in prayer and fasting on the 14th August. Please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia. Fast from all food except bread and water for the day, or fast from a particular food or luxury, e.g. chocolate
Say a Rosary or an extra Rosary if you already say it daily.



PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE E NEWS & JOB VACANCIES

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

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

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

VOCATIONS NEWSLETTER FOR AUGUST

<https://www.portsmouthvocations.org/so/13P47sBwl?languageTag=en&cid=8eeb309f-dcf5-4938-a4a3-1108ca4991af>

PARISH COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Under Fr Anthony's guidance, our parish has started to develop further OUTREACH EVENTS as part of our service as Jesus's apostles to the local community. We are linking this partly with our Portsmouth Diocese CARITAS initiative.

MORE INFO TO COME IN SEPTEMBER.

In the interim, we have a group meeting in our Parish Hall on **THURSDAY MORNINGS 10.30 to 2pm:**



15th August: Board games with children/teens and an ice cream party after Assumption Mass.

29th August: Chinese ink drawings and calligraphy

5th September: Gardening work (at the back of the hall) growing vegetables etc...

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

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 to find out more and submit your application.

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 More information at

<http://www.altonrenewal.com>

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>

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.