



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

13th April – 4th May 2025

PASSIONTIDE- EASTER NEWSLETTER

“They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him on the third day and caused him to appear.... To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.’ Acts 10,39-40, 43

**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 NORMAL HOURS: Tuesday/Friday 10:00-5 pm, Wednesday/Thursday 1 - 5pm
THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON GOOD FRIDAY AND BETWEEN 23-25TH APRIL. REOPEN ON 29TH APRIL.

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

HOLY WEEK

Date	Solemnities & Feast days	Times & Liturgies		Mass Intentions
Sun 13 April	PALM SUNDAY	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Gerdi Doherty RIP
Mon 14 April	of HOLY WEEK		NO MASS	
Tue 15 April	of HOLY WEEK	10.00 am	Eucharistic Service	
		11am	Chrism Mass @ Portsmouth Cathedral	
		7pm	Penitential Mass	
Wed 16 April	of HOLY WEEK	10.00 am	Mass	Shay and Jane Fenton RIP
Thu 17 April	MAUNDY THURSDAY THE EASTER TRIDUUM	7.30pm	Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper	
Fri 18 April	GOOD FRIDAY	9.30 am 12pm noon 3pm	Children's Way of the Cross Stations of the Cross Celebration of the Lord's Passion	
Sat 19 April	HOLY SATURDAY	3pm 8pm	Traditional Polish blessing of the food Easter Vigil Mass	
Sun 20 April	EASTER SUNDAY	8.30 am	Mass	People of the parish
		10.30 am	Mass	People of the parish

WEEK WITHIN OCTAVE AND 2ND WEEK OF EASTER

Please note that we will return to our normal liturgy times as follows:

MONDAY	NO SERVICE		THURSDAY	10am	Mass
TUESDAY	9.00 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration Mass	FRIDAY	9.00 am 9.30 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic adoration Rosary Mass
WEDNESDAY	10am 6pm	Mass Eucharistic Adoration	SATURDAY	10.00 am	
SUNDAY	8.30 am	Mass	10.30 am	Mass	

NAMED SAINTS OF 2ND WEEK OF EASTER:

Mon 28 th April	ST GEORGE, Patron of England	Sun 27 th April 8.30am	Fergus Cathan Fallon RIP
Tue 29 th April	St CATHERINE of SIENA, Religious & Doctor of the Church, Patron of Europe	10.30am	Michael McGinn RIP
Fri 2 nd May	St Athanasius, Bishop, Doctor of the Church	Fri 2 nd May	Kate Paler RIP
Sat 3 rd May	Ss PHILIP & JAMES, Apostles	Sun 4 th May 10.30 am	John & Mary Doherty & Reg & Nora Gough RIP

MASS INTENTIONS:

SUNDAY READINGS



PALM SUNDAY

1st Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7
Psalm: Ps 22(21):8-9. 17-18a. 19-20.
 23-24. R2a
2nd Reading: Philippians 2:6-11
Gospel: Luke 22:14-23:56

EASTER SUNDAY

1st Reading: Acts 10:34a, 37-43
Psalm: Ps 118(117):1-2. 16-17. 22-23.
 R24
2nd Reading: Colossians 3:1-4
Gospel: John 20:1-9

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

1st Reading: Acts 5:12 – 16
Psalm: Ps 118 (117):2 – 4, 22 – 24, 25 –
 27a. R.1
2nd Reading: Revelation 1:9-11a,12 – 13, 17-19
Gospel: John 20:19 – 31

SECOND COLLECTIONS

13th April: No second collection
 18th April Holy Places
19-20th April – Easter Offerings for Priest

All donations, including Gift Aid where applicable, given at Masses on Easter Sunday (including the Easter Vigil), other than those by regular standing order, will be used exclusively to support the priest appointed to the parish.

Please be as generous as you can in supporting Fr. Anthony in whatever way you can, as he works tirelessly for the Parish. Please remember him in your prayers as he does for all of us.

THE MESSAGE OF THE ANGELS

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, approached, rolled back the stone, and sat upon it. His appearance was like lightning and his clothing was white as snow. The guards were shaken with fear of him and became like dead men. (Matthew 28:1-4)

The angels of God have been present at the most significant moments of human history. There are numerous mentions of angels in the Old Testament. In the New Testament, the Incarnation of the Savior of the World was announced by an archangel. Myriads of angels were present at His birth. An angel spoke to Saint Joseph on four different occasions. As Jesus began His public ministry and overcame the temptations of the devil in the desert, angels from Heaven came to minister to Him. When Jesus prayed in solitude, especially during His agony in the garden, He was comforted by angels. At the empty tomb, it was an angel who first announced the good news that our Lord had risen. And at the end of time, it will be the angels of God who bring forth God's justice.

Today's angelic salutation to Mary Magdalene and the other Mary at the empty tomb should teach us that the message of the Resurrection is among the most important lessons we can ever learn. Furthermore, the message of this angel, given to these holy women, was intended not only for them, it is also spoken to us today.

The angel made an appearance that depicts absolute power and sanctity. He arrived with the speed of lightning. His countenance was radiant with Heavenly light. He instantly moved the large stone and sat upon it, pointing these holy women to the empty tomb. Today, if we have the eyes of faith, we will also receive an interior revelation from Heaven, just as these women did. Though we will not see with our eyes what they saw, we will see and hear through faith all that was spoken to them.

The message of the Resurrection of Christ is being spoken to you today. Do you hear it? Do you comprehend the voice of this angel from Heaven? If you do, the first thing you will hear are the words, "Do not be afraid!" Fear is one of the greatest obstacles to the reception of the Word of God in our lives. The evil one sows fear; the angels of God dispel it. So begin by considering whether fear clouds your ability to receive the Word of God.

The angel then said, "I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified." In other words, these women had not yet understood the Resurrection. They were still seeking the dead body of our Lord. Similarly, we often find ourselves focusing upon our losses, sufferings and trials. As a result, it can be difficult for us to see the ways that our Lord desires to transform the crosses in our lives and bring from them the glory of the Resurrection. The angel then said, "He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said." When we allow God to transform every cross in our lives, those crosses and sufferings disappear as they give way to the new life God brings forth from them.

Finally, the angel tells the women, "Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead...'" When we come to faith in the death and Resurrection of Christ, we cannot keep it to ourselves. We must go forth and proclaim the Resurrection of Christ to others. It cannot be contained.

Reflect, today, upon the most glorious, awe-inspiring, life-changing message of Christ's Resurrection. If you find that you do not understand this message, then this Easter Season is an important time for you. It must be a time in which you dispel

any fear that clouds your thinking. It must be a time when you listen most attentively in faith. It must be a time when you hear God speak to you about His glorious triumph over sin and death. It must be a time when you more fully penetrate the mystery of the Resurrection. And it must be a time when you recommit yourself to go forth and share that message with others. Listen to the angels of God. Receive their message and allow Christ's Resurrection to change your life forever.

A reflection for Easter Sunday (Year C)
www.mycatholic.life

PARISH NOTICES

REGULAR PARISH ACTIVITIES

Tues	Tea & Coffee after 10 am service – parish hall
Wed ^h	Adoration for students and anyone else who would like to join us – 6-7 pm in the Lady Chapel
Thu 1	Caritas activity group– 10.30am
Sun	Refreshments
	Choir Practice - 11.30 am in the church. All welcome to join.

REINTRODUCING A PARISH CHARITY

This year we shall be reintroducing a parish charity. This means that a portion of funds raised through fund raising activity within the parish will be given to the selected parish charity. If there's a charity you are keen to support that operates in Southampton please collect a form from the office. Forms are available from Anastasia on Sundays and from Cecilia during office hours, or can be downloaded from the website:

<https://www.immaculateconception.church/copy-of-resources>

Please ensure that you submit your proposal for a parish charity by 30th April. For further information please contact anastasia.mulenga@gmail.com

CARITAS GROUP

Programme of the Hong-Kong Group for the upcoming few weeks:

- 17/4/25 No activities
- 24/4/25 Activities Reviews and Planning

CAKE SALE

This Palm Sunday join us in the hall after the 10.30 am Mass for refreshments and cake sale.



The organisers Gemma and Maria are always looking for more bakers and helpers (shop cakes ok too!). Bring your cake donations to the church hall before the 10.30 am Mass on the second Sunday of each month, together with a list of the ingredients (for those with allergies). All proceeds go towards the general Parish Funds.

INVITATION FROM THE BISHOP TO THE CHRISM MASS

The Chrism Mass this year takes place on Tuesday 15th April 2025 at 11am in the Cathedral. I wish to invite you to it!

The Mass is the special Liturgy in Holy Week during which the Bishop blesses the three Holy Oils for use in the Sacraments: the Oil of the Blessing of the Sick, the Oil of Catechumens and the Oil of Chrism.

The blessing of the Holy Oils is one of the most ancient ceremonies of the Church and it is always celebrated in the Cathedral with the priests, deacons, religious and lay people of the diocese. The Mass is one of the main diocesan events of the year and is a celebration of thanksgiving to God for our Diocese of Portsmouth, its clergy, religious and people.

Hope to see you next week!

PARISH YOUTH ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN

April 16th Wednesday, from 10am to 2pm in the Parish Hall

5 to 15 years old all welcome. Bring friends and a packed lunch. We will be making pizzas at lunch – bring your favourite toppings!. It would be great if one or two parents or students might spare an hour or two to lend a hand.

Contact the organiser: Steve Deadman

GOOD FRIDAY AT 9.30 AM IN THE CHURCH

Childrens' Way of the Cross with Father Anthony.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION – SESSION 14

Parents, please remember the next FHC session which takes place on Saturday, 26th April at 11am in the Parish Hall.

BABY EZEH BAPTISM
27th April 12.30

The Ezeh family would like to invite everyone including children in the parish to celebrate together the birth of their newborn baby, **Ihechukwu Terrence Ezeh**. After the baptism ceremony there is also a lunch for everyone in the parish hall. Everyone is welcome.



PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE
E NEWS & JOB VACANCIES

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

<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue486>

FUNERAL – RITA FUDIO RIP

Please note that Rita Fudio's funeral mass will take place on **Thursday 1st May at 10am.**

THE REPAIR CAFÉ RETURNS

The Repair Café returns to Immaculate Conception on **Saturday 19 April from 10.30 till 1pm.**

A variety of repairs can be undertaken for a donation. Refreshments available throughout this session.

INCOME FOR MARCH 2025

Candles	13.76
Flowers	10.00
Closer to Christ	810.00
Donations	4,960.00
Cake sale	82.70
Tea/Coffee	10.00
Dona terminal	514.66
Envelopes	200.00
Online Giving	539.82
Offertory	1,435.45
St orders & DDs	3,219.47
Total Income	11,795.86

Special Collections

CAFOD	555.93
Cathedral	14.76
Racial Justice	291.25
Lady Walsingham Shrine	218.35
Lenten lunches	426.04
Total	1606.33

JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES



This year is a Jubilee Year, declared by Pope Francis to have the theme 'PILGRIMS OF HOPE'.

Our parish is planning to form a group to go on a Pilgrimage to Lourdes with the Diocesan Pilgrimage led by Bishop Philip Egan.

Dates Monday 7th – Friday 11th July 2025

Booking Forms are now available from the office or Liz Bellamy.

Please could the completed forms be returned by Sunday 13th April so that the bulk of the forms can be taken to the Diocesan Office before Easter. Later bookings will be accepted. Please be aware that the balance payment will be due at the end of May.

For further information please contact the office, Fr Anthony or Liz Bellamy

LOST AND FOUND

In the office I have a collection of: a brown ladies' coat, 2 baseball caps, a blue water bottle, a pink notebook with a zebra on it, a pair of shades, a tiny black lock with four digits code, hair bands and various items of jewellery.

Join Us in Cooking with Confidence: Volunteer Opportunity!

We're looking for 3-4 passionate volunteers to help with our Cooking with Confidence cooking session on Mondays from 11 am to 1.30 pm, starting April 28th, at the Immaculate Conception Church Parish Hall. If you love cooking, enjoy teaching, and want to be part of a fun, hands-on learning experience, we'd love to have you join our team!

Please contact:

Kreza@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or 07825513195



At the age of 80 I am planning a skydive (parachute jump) on the 14th June to raise at least £1000 for the Mountbatten Hospice and its outreach work. They provided great care and support for my late husband, Christopher. You can sponsor me by scanning the QR code (also see the poster in the hall). Please donate as you can, and wish me luck!

<https://mountbattenhampshire.enthuse.com/pf/fiona-thompson> Thanks, Fiona

DAVID'S MAMMOTH 160 MILE FUNDRAISER FOR SOUTHAMPTON SIGHT



Our parishioner, David Maddocks is embarking on a challenge to raise funds for **Southampton Sight**. David, who suffers from chronic open angle glaucoma, a degenerative eye disease, is severely sight impaired. Southampton Sight have been helping him with their counselling, training, advice and physical aids.

At the age of 72, he wanted to challenge his disability and do something to help others affected by sight loss. He will walk the famous Camino de Santiago de Compostela choosing an old pilgrim route 160 miles long from Porto in Portugal to Santiago in Spain. The route will take over 13 days, including 1 rest day, from the 13th - 26th of May 2025 and he will be accompanied by his brothers in law, Mike and Adrian.

You can support his fundraiser on justgiving.com/page/southampton-sight-fundraiser-6

URGENT MYANMAR EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

CAFOD is running an emergency Myanmar Earthquake Appeal to provide water, food, solar lights, mosquito nets and water purification tablets to those devastated by this disaster. Their generosity will extend far and wide and will help the Catholic Church in Myanmar bring comfort and relief to families who are in urgent need. Donate at www.cafod.org.uk/myanmar