

23RD APRIL 2023
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

“Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.”
 Luke 24:34

**WEEKLY
 INFORMATION
 & UPDATES**

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

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 Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth, (Reg Charity No: 1199568)

Parish Priest: Fr Anthony Chiatu
Parish Deacon: Dcn Gerard Dailly
Hospital Chaplaincy: (023 8120 8517)
University Chaplain: Sr Emelliana Silva (07426 000213)
Safeguarding Officer: Pat Saunders
Parish Secretary: Rachel Brady (023 8055 5470)
Confessions: After 10 am Mass on Saturdays
Hall Bookings: contact the parish secretary

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

Date	Solemnities & Feast days	Times & Liturgies		Mass Intentions
Sun 23 Apr	THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Thanksgiving for birth of baby Esme Ariana Paredes RIP
Mon 24 Apr	St George	-	No Mass	-
Tues 25 Apr	St Mark	10.00 am	Mass	-
Wed 26 Apr	of the 3 rd week of Easter	10.00 am	Mass	-
Thur 27 Apr	of the 3 rd week of Easter	10.00 am	Mass	-
Fri 28 Apr	of the 3 rd week of Easter	9.30 am 10.00 am	Rosary Mass	-
Sat 29 Apr	St Catherine of Siena	10.00 am	Mass	Bridie Boles RIP
Sun 30 Apr	FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Winifred McDonnell RIP Iain Rylands RIP



READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY

1st Reading: Acts 2:14,22-33

Psalm: 15:1-2,5,7-11

2nd Reading: Peter 1:17-21


Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

TEA AND COFFEE AFTER MASSES

Please join us in the hall on **Sundays after the 10.30 am Mass** for tea and coffee. **And also after Mass on TUESDAYS** –A friendly welcome awaits you.

SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Parish Summer Fair
 Saturday
 15th July 2023


Parish BBQ And Cake Sale
Sunday 14th May 2023

BOOKSHOP

Our bookshop will be re-opening after Masses next Sunday including a stall in the hall after the 10.30 am Mass. There is a lot of brand new stock at very good prices so please come and visit the shop/stall and do remember to come back if you are looking for religious gifts or cards, bibles, prayer books etc in the future.



Bringing people closer to Jesus Christ through His Church
 Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth



**THIS WEEK'S
 PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE
 E NEWS**

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

<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue405?e=34c55ac6ce>

PARISH OFFICE OPEN NEXT WEEK:

Tuesday, Thursday & Friday, 9.30 am – 2.00 pm
 (Closed on Wednesday)

Understanding Disperses Doubt

“But we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel; and besides all this, it is now the third day since this took place. Some women from our group, however, have astounded us: they were at the tomb early in the morning and did not find his body; they came back and reported that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who announced that he was alive.” [Luke 24:21-23](#)

The day on which our Lord rose from the dead, some of the women who had accompanied Him went to the tomb to anoint Jesus’ body and found the tomb empty. An angel spoke to them of Jesus’ Resurrection and then these women went to tell the disciples what they saw. The reaction of the disciples is recorded this way: “but their story seemed like nonsense and they did not believe them.”

Later that day, two of those doubting disciples were traveling on foot to the town of Emmaus. As they traveled, they were “conversing and debating” about what had happened to Jesus and also about what these women reported to them. It is clear from their words that they were quite confused and discouraged about what was happening. They encountered our Lord in His public ministry. They had listened to His powerful teachings. They witnessed His miracles. They had hoped that He was the Messiah. But then they saw Him arrested, humiliated, beaten, crucified and killed. Jesus’ death took a serious toll on them and made them question their faith in Him. And even after they heard that He had risen, they couldn’t bring themselves to believe. Thus, they traveled the road to Emmaus—discouraged, confused and doubting.

As these disciples walked along, our Lord appeared to them, but they did not recognize Him in His resurrected form. They expressed their confusion to Him and Jesus finally said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” After Jesus went on and explained the Scriptures to them, they were hungry for more. They asked this stranger to stay with them and He did. That evening, Jesus broke bread with them, and in that sacramental act, they recognized Him before He vanished from their eyes.

We must see ourselves in these disciples. There are many things in life that can lead us to discouragement. When we strive to follow God’s will but find that things have not turned out how we expected, there is a temptation to doubt. Why is that? What is the cause of doubt? More than anything else, doubts and discouragement come from our failure to understand the perfect plan of God for our lives.

If these disciples had understood, from the beginning, all that Jesus explained to them on the road to Emmaus, they would not have despaired. They would not have lost

hope. So also with us, when we begin to lose hope in our lives, it is primarily because we have failed to understand the divine plan for our lives correctly. We have failed to see that God permits certain things for His glory. He permits certain hardships to deepen our faith and trust in Him. When we fail to see His permissive will in all things, we will become discouraged and confused.

Reflect, today, upon these two disciples. They had the incredible privilege of spending much time with our Lord during His public ministry, seeing His miracles and hearing His sermons. But when the Cross ensued, they doubted and despaired. Let these disciples witness to you and reveal to you any ways that you fall into similar temptations. Do you have perfect hope in God and His plan for your life? Or do you allow the various crosses you endure to confuse you and lead you to doubt? Allow our Lord to appear to you through prayer and reveal to you His perfect plan. Be open to the gift of understanding by trusting that the wisdom of God will dispel every temptation you have toward doubt, replacing it with trust and hope.

A reflection for the 3rd Sunday of Easter, Year A
My Catholic Life, www.mycatholic.life.com

RECENTLY DIED



IAIN RYLANDS – Iain died very suddenly at home last weekend. Many of us will know him as a teacher at Springhill school and their Chaplain. He was a very much loved member of staff and his death has come as a real shock to all. Please remember him and his family in your prayers. When his funeral details are known we will make them available here.

HENRYK RUTKOWSKI –, died 5th April, aged 87. Henryk’s funeral will be held here on 4th May, 11 am

MARIA BIBBO – died on 2nd April at home, aged 83, Maria’s funeral will be held here on Wednesday 10th May, 11 am

ELLEN WATTS – Died at the great aged of 103. Ellen’s funeral was held here on Thursday last week.

**Please remember all of the above and their families
in your prayers**

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

SECOND COLLECTIONS:-

TODAY SUNDAY 23rd April – No second collection

NEXT SUNDAY 30th April 2023 – Clergy Training Fund

There are currently 10 seminarians training for the priesthood for the Portsmouth Diocese. These priests will baptise and catechize the next generation and care for our future church and they rely on your generosity to support them in their work towards this. **Any donations can be made in cash or by cheque via the collection baskets in the church or using our card payment machine in the church porch. The Parish Bank Account details are:** Name: CDP, Immaculate Conception Church, Sort Code: 30-93-04, Account No: 00887995

VOCATIONS NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2023

<https://www.portsmouthvocations.org/so/510SeY6ke?languageTag=en&cid=8eeb309f-dcf5-4938-a4a3-1108ca4991af>