

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

4th May 2025

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go.' John 21, 18

**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 NEXT WEEK: Tuesday/Friday 10:00-5 pm, Wednesday/Thursday 1 - 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 4 May	THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	John & Mary Doherty & Reg & Nora Gough RIP
Mon 5 May	of the 3rd Week of Easter		NO MASS	
Tue 6 May	of the 3rd Week of Easter	9.00 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration Eucharistic Service	
Wed 7 May	of the 3rd Week of Easter	10.00 am	Mass	Winifrid McDonnell RIP
Thu 8 May	of the 3rd Week of Easter	10.00 am	Mass	
Fri 9 May	of the 3rd Week of Easter	9.00 am 9.30 am 10.00 am 11:00 am	Eucharistic adoration Rosary Mass Funeral Mass	Sarah Dillon RIP
Sat 10 May	of the 3rd Week of Easter	10.00am	Eucharistic service	
Sun 11 May	FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Jan McClure RIP

READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY

1st Reading: Acts 5:27b-32, 40b-41

Psalms: Ps 30(29):2, 4, 5-6, 11,
12a,13b, R2a

2nd Reading: Revelation 5:11-14

Gospel: John 21:1-19

SECOND COLLECTIONS:

4th May: No second collection

11th May: Clergy Training Fund

NEXT WEEK IN THE PARISH

Tues 6th Tea & Coffee after 10 am service – parish hall

Wed 7th Adoration for students and anyone else who would like to join us – 6-7 pm in the Lady Chapel

Thu 8th Caritas activity group– 10.30am

Fri 9th Funeral Mass – Sarah Dillon RIP – 11.00am

Sat 10th FHC - Session 15 – 11am

Sun 11th Parish BBQ Fun Day and Cake Sale after mass

Choir Practice - 11.30 am in the church. All welcome to join.

ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-THREE LARGE FISH

When it was already dawn, Jesus was standing on the shore; but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, “Children, have you caught anything to eat?” They answered him, “No.” So he said to them, “Cast the net over the right side of the boat and you will find something.” So they cast it, and were not able to pull it in because of the number of fish. John 21:4–6

Recall the first time there was a miraculous catch of fish in the Gospels. In Luke 5:1–7, Jesus was preaching to the people on the shore from where He sat in Peter’s boat just a short distance away. After preaching, Jesus told Peter, “Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch.” Peter did so and there was such a large catch of fish that the Apostles needed help to haul it in.

In today's Gospel, some three years later after the Resurrection, Jesus appeared to the disciples from the shore and instructed them to cast their nets "over the right side of the boat." They did so and caught 153 large fish. In commenting on these two passages, Saint Augustine teaches that the first miraculous catch was a sign that the Gospel would be preached to all people, which is indicated by Jesus simply saying "lower your nets." But after the Resurrection, Jesus specifically tells the disciples to cast their nets "over the right side" to indicate that grace is now given to those who stand on His right side and are separated from the condemned who are on His left. Thus, this second miraculous catch symbolizes the end of the age when the good and the bad are judged.

Saint Augustine also notes that the 153 large fish, caught off the right side of the boat, are a symbolic representation of those who conform not only to the Ten Commandments but also receive the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit by grace. He explains that $10 + 7 = 17$ and if you add all the numbers together between 1 and 17 you arrive at 153. Thus, these 153 fish represent everyone who receives His gift of grace and obtains salvation. The boat represents the Church, and the gift of salvation is offered by Christ through His Church.

One clear message we must take from Saint Augustine's interpretation is that grace and mercy are offered to all, but not received by all. At the end of our lives and at the end of the world, judgment will take place. Those who responded to the offer of grace and mercy, repented of their sins and gave their lives to Christ will eternally share in the Resurrection. But those who refused to follow His Commandments and closed themselves to the transforming power of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit will be separated from eternal joys.

Facing the reality of hell is not pleasant, but it is a message that must not be ignored. It is a message that is real and, therefore, hell is a possibility for us all. Therefore, it is important to remind ourselves from time to time of this spiritual truth. Are you among those 153 large fish found on the right side of the boat? Do you allow the ministers of Christ within the Church, represented by the disciples in the boat, to draw you to Christ through preaching and the Sacraments? Though all of us might quickly answer "Yes" to that question, we should never fail to be attentive to the fact that salvation requires action on our part. It requires that we accept Christ Jesus by following His Commandments and live by the transforming power of the Holy Spirit as it is dispensed by the Church.

Reflect, today, upon the symbolism found in this Resurrection account. Consider the fact that the Gospel has, indeed, been shared with you. Have you listened to the Word of God as it is preached by the Church? Do you immerse yourself in the grace given through the Sacraments? Do you follow the Ten Commandments faithfully? Do you continually open yourself to the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit? Seek to be among that catch of fish caught on the "right side." Never doubt that hell is real and possible. For that reason, never waver from your fidelity to Christ, so that you will remain firmly grounded in His grace and share one day in His Resurrection.

A reflection for the Third Sunday of Easter (Year C)

www.mycatholic.life

PARISH NOTICES

A WORD OF THANKS

I would like to sincerely thank you, the parishioners of Immaculate Conception, for your great generosity to me through your contributions to the Christmas and Easter collections. Your kindness and support are deeply appreciated. Please be assured of my prayers for you and your families. May the Lord continue to bless our parish community with His peace and joy.

Fr Anthony

PARISH BBQ

SUNDAY 11TH MAY AFTER 10.30 AM MASS

Everyone is welcome to our parish BBQ. All the usual BBQ food plus refreshments and cakes – we need bakers to donate cakes! All proceeds raised will support the parish and Emergency Relief Fund. If you could help in any way, please speak to Anastasia.



PARENTS & GUARDIANS - CHILDREN'S LITURGY

We are making changes to Children's Liturgy to comply with safeguarding regulations. From **Sunday 4th May** parents will need to complete an authorization form every Sunday, one for each child. The forms will be in the porch and the children will have to bring a completed form to the hall when they leave for Children's liturgy. If a child does not have a completed form they will have to return to the church.

The liturgy is aimed at children 4 years to 9 years old. Children under 4 are welcome but must be accompanied by an adult, over 18. Younger siblings do not count

We also need more helpers to ensure we meet the correct 3/20 adult/child ration as per the safe guarding regulations. Sue Deadman is looking for parents who can support the leader once a month on a rota basis. You will not be expected to take charge and prepare anything, however if anyone is interested in taking a more proactive role please contact Sue. If we cannot meet the adult child ratio the sessions will be limited to 20 children on a first come, first serve basis.

Thank you for your help with this, Sue Deadman

CHILD BAPTISMS

Congratulations to the family of one year old Thomas whose baptism fell on his 1st birthday this Saturday, 3rd May.

Also thanks to the Ezech family for hosting such a generous celebration of their child's baptism last week for the parish. Our next baptism preparation course on the 10th of June is open for registration, please contact the office if you are interested. office@immaculateconception.church


FUNERAL – SARAH DILLON

Our dear parishioner, Sarah Dillon, who used to attend the 8.30 masses has passed away on 11th April aged 99 years. Her funeral mass will take place on **Friday 9th May at 11am.**

CARITAS GROUP

Activities in May:

- **8 May** - Practicing Mindfulness
- **15 May** - Start exercising in simple easy way
- **22 May** - Board games. Knitting/ Crochet / Embroidery Cross stitch
- **29 May** - Chinese calligraphy/ink drawings. Knitting/ Crochet / embroidery / cross stitch





Do you want to cook better?

Come and join us


at
The Immaculate Conception Community Hub

COOKING WITH CONFIDENCE
Sessions for basic cooking skills

Upcoming Sessions -

28/04/2025 - Italian
12/05/2025 - Irish/Cantonese
19/05/2025 - Mexican
02/06/2025 - British

Book your session dates now!



Scan to Register

Contact Us
07435 249267
caritas@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

MONDAY
11-13:30
in the parish hall

Caritas Portsmouth is part of the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth. Charity No. 1086626

FRANK CAMPBELL WRITES AS WE REMEMBER THE MINISTRY OF THE POPE:

It is customary to begin by providing a context in which Francis would strive to guide the Church and the world. Two words were prominent in the press, "turmoil" and "war". Francis did succeed in addressing the UN in New York but his desire for peace, which he voiced on that and on many other occasions, has not come to fruition so far. Disarmament is a goal of the UN, but many governments appear to rate war and arms manufacture above peace, as the road to security. In the wake of the COVID pandemic of 2020, the Church was not immune to the turmoil, with religious gatherings banned as science sought an antidote.

In relation to the Magisterium and leadership, Francis met with opposition from some cardinals who appeared to campaign against him and his reforms. He tried to limit the power of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, which amongst other issues criticized the thinking of many theologians. When asked about old interpretations of sin he replied, "who am I to judge". He engaged with broader questions about ecumenism, for example sharing retreats with Muslims.

"Laudato Si", influenced by the witness of St Francis of Assisi, offered the Church's thoughts about care of the planet and green issues as part of evangelization. However, Francis seemed to realise that Papal Encyclicals no longer attract wide readership.

"Fratelli e sorelle, buonasera" ("Brothers and sisters, good afternoon") were his first words to the crowds in St Peter's Square following his election. They announced his intention to connect with ordinary people. He was also aware that the Church created obstacles to some groups and tried to open dialogue about this whilst falling short of substantive reform.

May he rest in peace.

TRIBUTES TO THE POPE

Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales have put together a webpage to submit a message, prayer, or short reflection in remembrance of the late Pope Francis - <https://popefrancistributes.com/>
Please feel free to use the page.

EASTER EGG COLLECTION TO SEAFARERS



A huge thank you to all those who donated Easter eggs for seafarers – they were moved by your thoughtfulness, for remembering them this Easter, and for the support, care,

and prayer that you give each Easter (and Christmas).

Stella Maris is very grateful for the support you give each Easter and Christmas – we continue to keep our supporters in our prayers. Gregory Hogan/Stella Maris Port Chaplain

Bringing people closer to Jesus Christ through His Church

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

NEWS



PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE E NEWS & JOB VACANCIES

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

<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue485>

THE CONCLAVE



On 21st April, 2025, The Holy Father, Pope Francis, died. After nine days of official mourning in the Church, the Cardinals will meet in Conclave to elect a new successor of Peter.

Bound by oaths of secrecy, they can never reveal what is said behind the closed doors of the Sistine Chapel, but what can be told about the Conclave – how it is conducted, who fills the many important offices needed to facilitate the process, and what actions are taken behind closed doors – is explained in this fascinating guide that's available online in audiobook or pdf format:

<https://www.ctsbooks.org/highlights/cts-audio/audiobook-collection/conclave/>

There is also a simplified slideshow available on our website:

<https://www.immaculateconception.church/downloads>

JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

There is still time to sign up to the Pilgrimage to Lourdes with the Diocesan Pilgrimage led by Bishop Philip Egan.

Dates Monday 7th – Friday 11th July 2025

Booking Forms are available from the office or Liz Bellamy. Please return your completed forms as soon as possible to Liz or the office. 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

SIGNIFICANT WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

**To be held at St Bede's Church, Basingstoke
On Saturday 21 June at 11am**

Any couple celebrating 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, 60th or more can apply to attend, please see your parish secretary or email anniversaries@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk for an application form.



CARITAS & CAFOD LAUDATO SI' 10TH ANNIVERSARY SATURDAY 10 MAY 2025

Join CAFOD and Caritas in a joint celebration for the 10th anniversary of the publication of Laudato Si' at St Peter's, Winchester on Saturday 10 May from 10am-1pm. The session will be packed with practical information and opportunity to ask questions on how we can make a difference in our lives and that of our parish, including CAFOD's LiveSimply Award. More information and to register visit <https://caritasportsmouth.org.uk>. Everyone welcome.

Vocations Prayer Newsletter May 2025

<https://portsmouthvocations.org/so/8bPQ6M8bh?languageTag=en&cid=8eeb309f-dcf5-4938-a4a3-1108ca4991af>

INCOME FOR APRIL 2025

Tea/Coffee	35.29
Candles	53.36
Easter Flowers	240.44
Cake Sale	69.56
Repair Café	82.00
DONA	357.21
Envelopes	186.70
On Line Giving	447.64
Offertory	1,228.95
Standing orders & DDs	2,992.00
Total Income	5,693.15

Special Collections

Lenten Lunches	139.50
Soup Lunch	101.00
CAFOD	88.56
Holy Places	266.20
Clergy Assist Fund	387.85
Total	983.11

CHARITY AND VOLUNTEER NETWORKING EVENT

Saturday 7th June, 2:30pm-4:30pm

St John the Baptist Parish in Andover (SP10 3AD)

Caritas is inviting you to a charity and volunteer networking event to connect with people in the Diocese passionate about social justice and supporting their community.

This is an opportunity to:

- Chat to different charities to hear more about their work and volunteering opportunities on offer.
- Explore ideas for your own parish by chatting to staff and volunteers about projects already running in the Diocese, as well as the chance to look around the Andover foodbank.
- Find out how Caritas can support you in your parish or school to help your local community.

Everyone welcome. There is plenty of parking at the parish and close by and it is a less than 10-minute walk from the station. For more information and a flyer visit

<https://caritasportsmouth.org.uk>

or email caritas@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

The Liturgy Project FORMATION DAYS

Fr Anthony Fyk, Director of Liturgy Formation, will be running further formation days for readers and EMHC. The EMHC day will include a session on taking HC to the sick and housebound. The Readers' Day will include a session on Lectio Divina.

**3rd May 2025 - Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion
18th October 2025 - Day for Readers**

There will also be a day for Ministers of Children's Liturgy on Saturday 7th June, further details to follow.

**Times and Venue: 10 am to 2 pm @ St Bede's Church,
Popley Way, Basingstoke RG24 9DX**

Anyone interested is encouraged to register via liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk