



# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

*“You are the Christ,*

*the Son of the living God.” - Matthew 16:13-19*

**Address:** 346 Portswood Road, Southampton, SO17 3SB

**Tel:** (023) 8055 5470

**Email:** [office@immaculateconception.church](mailto:office@immaculateconception.church)

**Website:** [www.immaculateconception.church](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.churchservices.tv/portswoodchur)

Solemnities, Feast days & Memorials	Times & Liturgies		Mass Intentions
Sun 28 June Ss PETER & PAUL	8.30 am	Mass	Blessings on Father Martin and his intentions
	10.30 am	Mass	For Mr Brian Physick RIP on his 99 <sup>th</sup> Birthday
Mon 29 June 13 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	<b>-NO MASS-</b>		
Tue 30 June First Martyrs of the Church of Rome	9.00 am	No Eucharistic Adoration	Mr Brian Physick RIP
	10.00 am	No Mass	
	11.00 am	Funeral Mass for Mr Brian Physick	
Wed 1 July St Oliver Plunkett	10 am	Mass	--
	6 pm	Eucharistic Adoration	
Thu 2 July 13 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	10 am	Mass	Emelda Che RIP
Fri 3 July ST THOMAS	9.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration	Hugh Slevin RIP
	9.30 am	Rosary	
	10.00 am	Mass	
Sat 4 July St Elizabeth of Portugal	10 am	Memorial Mass for Fr Shaun Budden & Fr Kevin Bidgood	Fr Shaun & Fr Kevin RIP
Sun 5 July FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.30 am	Mass	Lawrence & Luigiana Clegg RIP
	10.30 am	Mass	Remembrance Mass for Mr & Mrs Francis and Helen Afodume



*Thought for the Week: "When every action — movements, purchases, relationships and preferences — leaves a trace, a new form of power emerges, namely the power to profile, predict and influence behavior, often without individuals being fully aware of it. If such kinds of data are used to make decisions affecting concrete opportunities — such as access to credit, employment or essential services — there is a risk of undermining freedom and discriminating against the most vulnerable." (Pope Leo: Magnifica Humanitas 171)*

## Second Collection - Peter's Pence 2026



The Peter's Pence collection will be taken on Sunday 28 June 2026, supporting the charitable work and mission of the Holy Father.

### SUNDAY READINGS



1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Acts 12:1-11

Psalm: Ps 34(33):2-3. 4-5. 6-7. 8-9. R5

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-19

### 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

## TODAY'S GOSPEL REFLECTION: *The Church Shall Prevail* Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul

*“Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the Kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”* [Matthew 16:17–19](#)

Though the Church will suffer in many ways, She will ultimately overcome all things. As we celebrate the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, we are reminded of this truth by pondering their lives as two of the greatest pillars of the Church. Neither imprisonments, persecutions, nor apparent defeats kept them from fulfilling the mission God gave them.

Likewise, the Church will never be overcome, for She remains under the guardianship of divine providence.

The Church shall prevail for one simple reason: Jesus said so. He founded the Church upon the Twelve Apostles, giving unique and supreme authority to Peter: “I will give you the keys to the Kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” Though Peter's given name was Simon, Jesus changed it to Peter—Petros in Greek and Cephas in Aramaic. Both terms can be used as a man's name but also mean “rock.” Hence, Peter, and the Apostles in union with him, become the rock and immovable foundation upon which the Church is built.

By giving Peter “the keys to the Kingdom of heaven,” Jesus granted him singular authority to teach, govern, and sanctify with divine authority. This authority did not end with Peter; it is passed on to his successors through the office of bishop. Since Peter died in Rome, Rome remains the see of the Church's divinely established governance.

Though Peter offers the Church the stability and clarity necessary as the immovable rock foundation, Paul reflects the Church's missionary role to bring the Gospel to the ends of the earth. This is seen especially in today's second reading, where Paul, facing the end of his earthly life, proclaims that he has “competed well,” “finished the race,” and “kept the faith.” His life was poured out as a libation for Christ, tirelessly laboring to make the Gospel known to all nations. While Peter ensures the Church's unity and fidelity to divine truth, Paul embodies her zeal to spread that truth to every corner of the world, calling all people into communion with Christ and His Church.

Peter and Paul remain spiritually alive and active today through the unbroken tradition God established through them. Often at World Youth Day, when the Holy Father is present, young people chant, “You are Peter!” It is a beautiful expression of their faith in this foundational truth Christ established. Though every pope is a sinner like the rest of humanity, faith leads us to look beyond human weakness to see the successor of Saint Peter, the solid rock to whom Christ entrusted the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven. Thus, Peter's mission remains alive today, not only in the person of the Holy Father, but also in our faith in his divinely given authority.

Saint Paul remains alive today through the ongoing fulfillment of the mission God gave him. His burning zeal to proclaim the Gospel lives on in every missionary endeavor, every act of evangelization, and every effort to spread the Good News

to the ends of the earth. His spirit is especially present in those who courageously preach the Word, catechize the young, defend the faith, and labor tirelessly for the salvation of souls. Just as Peter ensures unity and fidelity, Paul inspires action and outreach, so that the Church may extend Christ's Kingdom to every land and heart.

Reflect today on these pillars of the Church and acknowledge the living witness they gave and continue to give. Renew your faith in Peter, alive in the Holy Father, professing him as the rock foundation. See Paul at work by recognizing the missionary activity of the Church, carried out by countless souls with zeal and courage. Allow their witness to inspire within you a deeper love for the Church, and commit yourself anew to the mission entrusted to you: to remain firmly rooted in the truth and to bring that truth to the world with boldness and charity.

A reflection from [www.mycatholic.life](http://www.mycatholic.life)

## PARISH NOTICES

### Words of Thanks from Christine

Thank you

When my beloved Trevor died, I was completely lost and didn't know what to do but Fr Anthony Chiatu, Fr Antony Gatt and the wonderful friends and Parishioners of Immaculate Conception stepped in to support me. From practical help with preparing the mass, slides, flowers and refreshments to emotional support of love and kindness. I thank you from the bottom of my heart. I could not have got through this saddest of times without you. Be assured that you will be in my prayers.

Christine

### Parish Youth Activities – Spring & Summer

We are pleased to begin building our parish youth community with several upcoming events for young people.

- **Junior Youth Group (Ages 7–10):** The Junior Youth Group will meet **6:00–8:00pm** on the following Friday:  
**3 July.** Leaders: Sue, Steve and David
- **Older Teenage Group (Ages 11–16):** The Teenage Group will meet **6:30–8:30pm** on the following Friday:  
**17 July.** Leaders: Bwalya, Mweetwa and Night

These gatherings aim to help young people build friendships, grow in community, and deepen their faith in a welcoming and supportive environment. Parents and young people are warmly encouraged to take part.

### St Joseph's Men's Group – A Space for Faith and Fellowship

Many thanks to those of you who have expressed an interest to join, we would like to invite you to an initial meeting on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July at 7:30pm in the Parish Hall. At this time, we can share our wishes and expectations for what we would like to explore at future meetings.

### Obituary

We are saddened to inform the parish of the death of Kenneth Waters, let us keep his family and friends in our prayers at this time. Requiem Mass scheduled for Friday 10 July 2026 at 1:00pm.

### Rev Kevin Bidgood R.I.P. funeral

Fr Kevin's Body will be received into St Edmund's Church, Southampton on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July at 5:00pm. There will be a vigil Mass at 7:00pm.

The Funeral, a Requiem Mass, will be held at 12:30pm on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July.

### Memorial Mass - Fr Shaun Budden and Fr Kevin Bidgood

On 4<sup>th</sup> July 2026, there will be a memorial mass for Fr Shaun Budden and Fr Kevin Bidgood at 10am followed by refreshments in the hall. Fr Shaun and Fr Kevin were both integral to our parish community. We give thanks for their lives and service, and all are warmly invited to join us in prayer and remembrance

## Welcome to Our Parish Family



We warmly welcome Sephora Merrily Tellis, Arabella Sheila-Ann Ryan and Ronnie Stanley Smith who was baptised in our church recently. We pray for God's blessing upon the child and family, and we ask the parish to continue to support them with prayer and friendship.



### Can You Help? Questionnaire

Thank You to those of you who have already completed and returned the Forms, we are now working through these and we will be in contact shortly. Some of the email addresses received were difficult to read and we would appreciate it you could speak to Eleanor who will be available after the Sunday Masses to check that we have the correct details. If you have not yet returned your form and/or would like another one please see Eleanor who will be very happy to help.

### Maintenance Morning – Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July

Our next Maintenance Morning will take place on Saturday 11th July, following the morning Mass. We would be very grateful for volunteers to help with a range of tasks, including cleaning the kitchen, clearing drains, light gardening, and cleaning the church.

If you are able to lend a hand, even for a short time, your support would be greatly appreciated.

If you notice anything around the parish that needs repair or replacement, please do let the parish office know. Thank you for helping to care for our shared space.



### Outstanding Payments – Parish BBQ & Cake Sale

Following the Parish BBQ and Cake Sale on 10th May, a number of payments remain outstanding due to the card machine not being operational on the day. We ask that anyone who has not yet settled their payment does so as soon as possible. We hold a record of names and amounts for the cake sale, and approximately £100 is still owed to cover the cost of food provided by the BBQ team. Thank you for your understanding and support, and for helping us cover these costs.

### Parish Administrator Vacancy – St Edmund's

St Edmund's is currently recruiting a Parish Administrator, based at St Edmund's Lodge, The Avenue, Southampton. For full details and the job description, please see the link below.

<http://catholicdioceseofportsmouth.peoplehr.net/Pages/JobBoard/Opening.aspx?v=5ce3a172-94c9-409f-9675-100c20cba58e>

*Congratulations*  
*Fr Anthony and Fr Gaston*

On behalf of the Parish of the Immaculate Conception, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to you both on the joyous occasion of your 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of priestly ministry. We thank God for your faithful service, your dedication to the Gospel, and the care and guidance you continually offer to our parish community. Your commitment, kindness, and spiritual leadership have been a true blessing to us all. As you mark this important milestone, we pray that the Lord continues to strengthen and inspire you in your vocation. May He fill your hearts with renewed joy and grant you many more fruitful years in His service.

With gratitude and best wishes,

Parish of the Immaculate Conception