

28th March 2021

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

'I tell you solemnly, one of you is about to betray me, one of you eating with me'
(Mark 14:18)

Immaculate Conception Church

Within the Pastoral Area of Southampton East
346 Portswood Road, Southampton, SO17 3SB
Tel: (023) 8055 5470
Website: www.immaculateconception.church
Email: office@immaculateconception.church Facebook:
Immaculate Conception Church, Portswood
Twitter: @icportswood

Parish Priest: Fr Antony Gatt

Hospital Chaplaincy: (023 8120 8517)
University Chaplain: Sr Valentina Stilo (07983 883377)
Safeguarding Officer: Pat Saunders (08044 2189)
Parish Secretary: Rachel Brady (023 8055 5470)

Enquiries re the Sacraments:

please make an appointment by email.


Hall Bookings are not being taken at present .

ALL MASSES ADVERTISED BELOW ARE AVAILABLE TO JOIN LIVE, ONLINE AT


www.churchservices.tv/portswoodchur

SEE BELOW FOR DETAILS OF HOW TO BOOK WEEKEND MASSES IN LENT

Date	Solemnities & Feast days	Mass Times	Mass details & intentions
Sun 28 Mar	PALM SUNDAY of the Passion of the Lord	10.00 am 5.30 pm	Attendance bookable †Francis Peter Hill RIP Attendance bookable
Mon 29 March	of HOLY WEEK	-	No Mass
Tues 30 March	of HOLY WEEK	10.00 am	ONLINE ONLY
Wed 31 March	of HOLY WEEK	10.00 am	ONLINE ONLY
THE EASTER TRIDUUM			
Thurs 1 April	MAUNDY THURSDAY	7.30 pm	EVENING MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER Attendance bookable †Lawrence & Luigina Clegg RIP
Fri 2 April	GOOD FRIDAY	3.00 pm	CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION Attendance bookable
Sat 3 April	HOLY SATURDAY	8.00 pm	EASTER VIGIL Attendance bookable
Sun 4 April	EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD	10.00 am	Attendance bookable †Claire Starley RIP



SUNDAY'S READINGS
Procession Gospel:
Mark 11:1-10
1st Reading: Isiah 50:4-7
Psalm: 21:8-9,17-20,23-24
2nd Reading:
Phillippeans 2:6-11
Gospel: Mark 14:1-15:47



SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in this Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love You above all things and I passionately desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul so that I may unite myself wholly to You now and forever. Amen

BOOKING TO ATTEND MASS

Bookings for the weekend Masses must be made by the Wednesday beforehand by e mail or by phone (if you don't have internet access).

Please let us know - your name

- contact phone no

- any special circumstances

- no of children under 10 yrs

- No of seats required

- how many household/bubbles this is for

E mail: icmassbookings@gmail.com

Tel: 08002461372 (only for those without internet)

The Parish Bank Account details are:

Name: PRCDTR Immaculate Conception Church
Sort Code: 30-93-04
Account No: 00887995

For donations please give a reference followed by your gift aid number if you donate in this way. e.g:
GEN = General Fund (offertory collection),
ERF = Emergency Relief Fund

Parish office hours: Tues, Weds, Thurs 9.30 am – 4.00 pm

From Glory to Glory

*Those preceding him as well as those following kept crying out:
“Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!
Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is to come!
Hosanna in the highest!”* [*Mark 11:9–10*](#)

As Jesus entered Jerusalem at the beginning of the first Holy Week, He was welcomed with much enthusiasm, and He accepted the love and devotion of those who welcomed Him. He was their King. He was the Messiah, and the welcome they gave to Him was but a pale gift of the true adoration He deserved. And though Jesus entered Jerusalem with this glorious welcome, less than a week later He would leave Jerusalem with a heavy cross on His shoulders, carrying it outside the city walls to die.

When we contrast the entry of Jesus on Palm Sunday with His arrest, abuse, mock trial, carrying of the cross and death, these two extremes do appear to be at the opposite ends of the spectrum. There is rejoicing and praise as He enters, and sorrow and shock as He leaves. But are these two events all that different from a divine perspective? From the perspective of the Father in Heaven, the end of the week is nothing other than the ultimate culmination of the full glory of His Son.

Today we read the long and beautiful account of the Passion of Jesus as told in Mark's Gospel. But on Friday we will read the account of John's Gospel. Mark's Gospel tells the story in clear detail, but John's Gospel will most notably add the spiritual insight that Jesus' crucifixion and death is nothing other than His hour of glory. We will see His Cross as His new throne of grace, and the earthly glory Jesus receives today as He enters Jerusalem will be fully realized from a divine perspective as He mounts His Throne of the Cross to take up His eternal Kingship.

As we enter into the holiest week of the year, it is essential that each of us see the journey of Christ this week as our own calling in life. We must journey toward the glory of the Cross with our Lord. From a worldly perspective, the Cross does not make sense. But from the perspective of the Father in Heaven, the Cross is not only the source of the greatest glory of His Son, but it is also the path by which we share in that glory. We must die with Him, sacrifice all for Him, choose to follow Him, and hold nothing back in our resolve to lay down our lives out of love.

Reflect, today, upon the events you will commemorate this week. Commit yourself to share in them, not just as an intellectual remembrance but as a living participation. How is God calling You to step forward in a sacrificial way out of love? How is God calling you to courageously embrace your calling to give your life away? Strive to see this week from the perspective of the Father in Heaven and pray that you will also see the ways in which the Father is calling you to imitate His Son. Let us go and die with Him, for it is in the Cross of Christ that we will discover His eternal glory.

My glorious King, You are worthy of all praise and adoration. Hosanna to You, hosanna in the highest! Draw me into Your glorious passion, dear Lord, and help me to see the glory of Your Cross. As I see its glory, give me the grace I need to share more fully in Your life of transforming sacrificial love. Jesus, I trust in You.

***A reflection for Palm Sunday 2021
From 'Catholic Daily Reflections'***

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www.mycatholic.life

SECOND COLLECTIONS -

If you are able to make a donation to the following you can bring your donation to the church next time you are here, in an envelope marked with the cause you are donating to, or drop it in the presbytery letter box. Alternatively you may use the online donation links listed below.

- **THIS SUNDAY– Poor and Housebound**

If making an online donation please state 'Poor & Housebound' in the message area

https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/donate?cid=155922&utm_campaign=Donatebutton&utm_content=155922&wl=1&br=5&bc=1f75e6

- **ALL COLLECTIONS OVER THE TRIDUUM**

Clergy Offering

The Easter Collection traditionally supports our parish priests, in recognition for all the dedication, guidance and care they give across our Diocese and in each parish. If you would like to give a gift to support Father Antony in his vocation and mission this Easter, please visit:

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/southampton-immaculate-conception-easter-sunday-collection>



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

This Friday is Fr Antony's Birthday! Thank you for your constant care and support to our Parish. We wish you a wonderful day!

ATTENDING MASSES OF THE TRIDUUM

If you are planning to attend Mass during Holy Week or Easter the following is an update of the position at Immaculate Conception. As you'll see we are almost fully booked. If you would still like to book one of the remaining seats please book as soon as possible – booking details on the front of the newsletter.

Maundy Thursday - a few seats still available in the church

Good Friday - church fully booked, some seats still available in the hall

Easter Vigil – Just a few seats left in the church

Easter Sunday – Church fully booked. 2 seats left in the hall.

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

This year there have had to be some approved changes made to our usual forms of worship. As a result, this Good Friday there is no personal adoration of the cross. The large cross will however be placed in front of the altar but you may wish to

bring a rosary to venerate your own cross during this service.

LENT THIS WEEK

Stations of the Cross

A recording from our church is available on our Church Services TV page to join at your convenience. It will also be showing on our page at 3 pm on Sundays during Lent.

Lent Reflection Talk recordings

Fr Antony's talks have now finished but are available to watch as recordings on our Church Services TV page.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Online for much of the time when services are not taking place. Please visit the church at any time of the day or night to spend a few minutes with the Lord

Triduum Services

As advertised on front page – a few seats still available at some services. All available to join online at our Church Services TV page

HELP WITH MANAGING OUR GIFT AID DONATIONS

We are looking for a volunteer to be the lead contact for gift aid within the parish. This will only require a few hours a month and will include helping people to sign up to gift aid. If interested please contact Anastasia Lungu-Mulenga.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS NEEDED



We will be commencing a short training programme after Easter for anyone interested in becoming a Eucharistic Minister. If you could help the parish in this way please contact the parish office or speak to

Fr Antony after Mass.



PARISH COUNCIL MEETING UPDATE:

Key points:

- Volunteers are needed for a range of activities such as - stewards particularly for the Sunday evening service, washing the linen, IT support, counters and readers etc. Volunteers please contact any member of the PPC and the office.
- A bid has been made to the diocese for upgrading and refurbishing the hall. The outcome of the bid will be announced in the coming weeks.
- Following several incidents, the PPC is considering improving security around the site.

BOOKING TO COME TO MASS

For information, from April 5th bookings for will be co-ordinated by Catherine Pearson, Dave and Maria Maddocks. Please continue to request your places as

usual by email, or if you do not have internet access by phone. Refer to the front page of the newsletter for details.....

PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE E NEWS

<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue314?e=34c55ac6ce>

SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKSOOUTHAMPTON/bulletins/2c7cfao>



CAFOD WALK FOR WATER UPDATE

So far in our 40 Days of Lent, **our Parish team has covered 877,495 steps** in solidarity with Ethiopian villagers who have to walk up to 10 hours a day for water for their families. Thanks to parishioners for the £1330 so far collected for CAFOD via the CAFOD website and our Southampton parishes Just Giving page.

Another 10 days to go so please join us and email steps to: sdeadman@cafod.co.uk or donate as below:

<https://cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/Walk-for-Water>

CAFOD also have some useful Lent resources on their website including a meditation on the Stations of the Cross which you can join by clicking on on the website link below on Friday at 11 am.

[Stations of the Cross: Lent 2021 | CAFOD](#)

SOUTHAMPTON STREET PASTORS

Over the last year of the pandemic and lockdowns we have been serving people on our city streets and have made 182 faith conversations, prayed with 175 people, given out 42 Bibles and been involved with 22 safeguarding incidents. The team are always very grateful to have new Street Pastors or Prayer Pastors. Full training is given and will take place during April and May. If you would like to find out more about Street Pastors please see the following link:

www.southamptonstreetpastors.org

or call 023 80333387

SUNDAY LUNCH PROJECT UPDATE

We have 12 teams operating from St.Denys Church and St.Marks Woolston and we are currently doing Sunday Lunches for approx.60 people. Thanks to many of our Parishioners who help in this. This is also linked with Southampton's Big Difference Project which has many churches working together and supplying food to over 100 families in the city. This is all volunteer operated including delivery drivers.

We are helping those in need in these difficult times!!

CARER REQUIRED

Live in or live out, to look after my Mum who is bed bound most of the time and has mild dementia. For further details please call Jon on 07709105141.

NEW PARISH EMAIL ADDRESS



Please note that there is a new parish office email address to tie in with some new diocesan IT protocols and procedures. It is now:

office@immaculateconception.church

The old address will still work but will automatically re-direct to this e-mail. When you receive future emails from the Parish Office they will come from this new address.



Give as you Live® Online >

DONATE AS YOU SHOP ONLINE

The above link has been added to the home page of our parish website

(www.immaculateconception.church)

There are hundreds of retailers who will make a small donation to a charity of your choice if you shop on line with them via the Give as you Live website. If you are buying anything on line, log into the store website by clicking on the Give as you live link on our website to enable your purchase to make a small difference to our parish fundraising. You can click on the link above to try it!

DO PLEASE SHARE A COPY OF THIS NEWSLETTER with other parishioners who may not have access to the internet. If anyone without internet access would like a copy sent to them each week while we do not have regular access to the church, please let the parish office know.