

2<sup>nd</sup> May 2021

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR B

*"I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing." John 15:5*

### Immaculate Conception Church

Within the Pastoral Area of Southampton East  
346 Portswood Road, Southampton, SO17 3SB  
Tel: (023) 8055 5470  
Website: [www.immaculateconception.church](http://www.immaculateconception.church)  
Email: [office@immaculateconception.church](mailto: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**

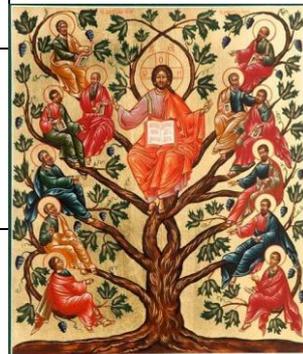
**[www.churchservices.tv/portswoodchur](http://www.churchservices.tv/portswoodchur)**

**SEE DETAILS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE NEWSLETTER TO BOOK**

Date	Solemnities & Feast days	Mass Times	Mass details & intentions	 <b>SUNDAY'S READINGS</b> <b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b> Acts 9:26-31 <b>Psalm:</b> 21:26-28, 30-32 <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b> St John 3:18-24 <b>Gospel:</b> John 15:1-8
Sun 02 May	<b>FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>	10.00 am 5.30 pm	<b>Attendance bookable</b> †Wilfred McDonell RIP <b>Attendance bookable</b>	
Mon 03 May	Ss Philip & James	-	No Mass	
Tues 04 May	The English Martyrs (1553-1680)	10.00 am	ONLINE ONLY †Christopher Thompson RIP	
Wed 05 May	of the 5 <sup>th</sup> week of Easter	10.00 am	ONLINE ONLY Marta Elsdon & Family on the occasion of her 50 <sup>th</sup> birthday	
Thurs 06 May	of the 5 <sup>th</sup> week of Easter	10.00 am	ONLINE ONLY	
Fri 07 May	of the 5 <sup>th</sup> week of Easter	10.00 am	ONLINE ONLY	
Sat 08 May	of the 5 <sup>th</sup> week of Easter	10.00 am	<b>Attendance bookable</b> †Kate Paler RIP	
<b>Sun 09 May</b>	<b>SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>	10.00 am 5.30 pm	<b>Attendance bookable</b> † Wilfred McDonnell RIP <b>Attendance bookable</b>	

### 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*



### SECOND COLLECTIONS -

- TODAY, SUNDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> MAY – No Second Collection
- NEXT SUNDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> MAY – No second collection

### USE OF THE HALL FOR MASS

We will be opening the hall from next Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> May for Mass so that we can accommodate more parishioners at the 10 am Mass. It is still very advisable to book a seat to attend Mass and you will be told if your seat is in the hall in the case that there is no more space available in the church. If you arrive without booking a seat you will need to go to the hall queue. Note that if you have booked a seat and are late, your seat may go to someone who is waiting unless we know in advance.

### ASCENSION DAY Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May

Mass in the church only, 10 am & 7.30 pm. Please remember to book your seats in advance before Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May.

### 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:** Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 9.30 am – 4.00 pm

## Humility and Gratitude

*"I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing." John 15:5*

What a great little reminder... "Without me you can do nothing."

At first, hearing this may hurt. It may hurt our pride, and we may react to this idea negatively. Is it really true? Can we really do nothing without God? Obviously the answer to that is "Yes." Jesus does not lie. We can do nothing without God in our lives.

In fact, if God were to forget us for one moment, we would cease to exist. Even our very existence depends upon God continuing to will that we exist. And as for doing good, making a difference, having a productive life, etc., we can do nothing good without God's grace.

Though this may be hard to hear at first, we should ponder it regularly. And if we do ponder it and embrace this truth, two things will happen in our souls. First, we will grow in humility. Humility is the most important virtue in which we can grow. It's been referred to as "the mother of all virtues." This is because from this virtue, all other virtues flow. Humility means we realize that God is everything and that we need Him with a 100% need. This humble truth will enable us to seek God in all things and to invite Him deeply into every part of our lives.

A second thing that will happen in our souls when we realize that we can do nothing without God is that we will grow in gratitude. As we see that God is everything AND we begin to see that He provides us with constant grace in our lives, our only appropriate response will be "Thank you!" We will be grateful to God for everything because we will realize that everything that is good is a gift from Him.

Reflect, today, upon these truths of humility and gratitude and allow them to sink in. As you do, allow these virtues to grow to greater fruition in your life.

*Lord, I do believe that I can do nothing without You. Help me to believe this with an even greater conviction and, as I do, help me to grow in humility and gratitude. Jesus, I trust in You.*

[www.mycatholic.life](http://www.mycatholic.life)

A reflection for the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

### THANK YOU TO FR SHAUN

I would like to say a very special thank you to Fr. Shaun for his care, love and support during these challenging times. He is now a very special part of our Faith Family  
Fr. Antony

### MAINTENANCE MORNING Next Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> May, 10.30 am

All volunteers much appreciated. Please meet Adrian in the hall if you are free to come and help to ensure we are safe and secure for all parishioners. No experience necessary!

### CONFIRMATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

We will be running a confirmation programme this year for young people in the parish from year 9 upwards. If you would like to join this programme, please write a short letter to Fr Antony by Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May, saying why you would like to be confirmed and also including your full name, address, parents/carers e mail address and if you have your own e mail, please include this too.

**A CAFOD THANK YOU:** Over the 40 days of Lent there were 32 groups from this Diocese 'Walking for Water' who walked over 11,000 miles (approx. 20 million steps!) raising approximately £30,500 from sponsorship for this CAFOD project, plus other monies sent directly to CAFODs Head Office. Included in this were 700 miles (1,232,000 steps) walked by the two groups in this parish. WELL DONE TO ALL!! This is a great achievement for the drought stricken villagers of Ethiopia and Africa in general. Drilling for wells and Solar powered pumps cost approx.£750 each so about 100 villages should benefit .

### CATHOLIC HOME CARE IS LOOKING TO RECRUIT NEW

**CARERS** to join a friendly and supportive team undertaking general domestic tasks. If you like elderly people and have a few hours spare during the week, this is the job for you with a good rate of pay. Full training is given. Car driver is an advantage (but not essential). Success at interview will lead to an enhanced DBS check before appointment. Permanent and holiday cover carers required. We are also looking for a person who can help on a voluntary basis for jobs around the home – small repairs & technical support

Full details and application form from Anne Monaghan 023 8017 0498 Closing date – 14 May 2021

### PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE E NEWS

<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue319?e=34c55ac6ce>

### SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKSOUTHAMPTON/bulletins/2cdb32d>

### MASS BOOKING

To avoid disappointment, when booking a place at Mass, please ensure:

- i) you send your booking request in by midday on Wednesday for the following Saturday or Sunday and
- ii) provide the required information. (This is key – without the correct information we are not able to make the booking and we don't want anyone to miss out ☺)

To book send an email to [icmassbookings@gmail.com](mailto:icmassbookings@gmail.com) (or if you do not have internet access, phone 0800 246 1372 with the following details.

Name of Person Booking
Contact Details of Person Booking (email address and/ or phone)
Number of People in Booking Group
Number of Households in Booking Group
Any Special Circumstances eg wheelchair, pushchair
No of children under aged 10 in group