

19th July 2020

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

'The good seed is the subjects of the Kingdom of Heaven' (Matt 13:38)

Immaculate Conception Church

Within the Pastoral Area of Southampton East
346 Portswood Road, Southampton, SO17 3SB

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Website: www.immaculateconception.church

Email: portswood@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Facebook: Immaculate Conception Church, Portswood

Twitter: @ic_portswood

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 .

BOOKING TO ATTEND MASS

PLEASE NOTE due to current government guidelines, available capacity in the church is limited to 40 persons / 14 households except Saturday when it is 24.

Therefore, attendance at mass is through the BOOKABLE SYSTEM ONLY

Details of how to book a place for Holy Mass are on the last page of this newsletter and on the parish website.

Sun 19 July	10 am	16th Sunday Ordinary Time Sunday Mass available from 10 am on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youtube • Facebook • Parish Website *Saturday Mass is recorded for Sunday	John Coffey RIP	 SUNDAY'S READINGS 1st Reading: Wisdom 12:13,16-19 Psalm: 86 2nd Reading: Romans 8:26-27 Gospel: Matt 13: 24-43
	5.30 pm		Sheila Goreham RIP	
Mon 20 July	—	St Apollinaris	No service	 https://www.dropbox.com/s/dzwqbky3ccucgid/Children%27s%20Liturgy%20Video%2019.07.20.mp4?dl=0
Tues 21 July	10 am	St Laurence of Brindisi	The Adam Family	
Wed 22 July	7.30 pm	St Mary Magdalene	Siobhan & Richard Channer	
Thurs 23 July	12 noon	St Briget of Sweden	-	
Fri 24 July	7.30 pm	St Sharbel Makhluf	Holy Souls	
Sat 25 July	10 am	St James	-	
Sun 26 July.	10 am	17th Sunday Ordinary Time	Arthur Maxfield RIP	
	5.30 pm		-	



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

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 e.g:

ERF = Emergency Relief Fund,

GEN = General Fund (offertory collection),

followed by your gift aid number if you donate in this way.

Thank you for your support and patience at this time

Contacting the parish

While the Parish Office is often physically closed, the Parish email is still checked.

For non-urgent matters please send an email to

portswood@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Unless it is an emergency, please keep calls/emails to a minimum on Mondays as this is Fr Antony's day off.

My dear Friends

Do you ever look at your lawn and notice there are more weeds than grass? If we were to dig out the weeds, there would be very little grass left. I have often wondered why weeds flourish, and flowers wilt! Do roses have thorns, or thorns have roses?! This Sunday's readings address our life's journey towards *wholeness* and *holiness*. Sometimes, however, we simultaneously scatter *seeds/weeds/darnal* of self-doubt, pain and division into the lives of others. Tragically, we do not realise that when we do this, we plant the same seeds of self-doubt, pain and division in our own hearts and lives.

How do we address the human pain, weaknesses, brokenness and woundedness smouldering within us which often compel us to wound or demean others? When we feel threatened or insecure, jealous or envious, we often set out, like saboteurs, to 'bring down' the other person flat on his/her face. And it is *so* easily done! A *knowing* smile with a raised eyebrow...the *uncertainty* about a person's expertise, capabilities, qualities or honesty, 'planted' among colleagues over a cup of coffee. How many times have we heard, 'yes, she/he *IS* such a *nice* person...and the eyes are raised towards the heaven...followed by a polite laugh! The challenge here is to ask ourselves, what is this *compelling* drive which makes us want to scatter these kinds of seeds? What are the sometimes raging emotions within us which can make us spiritually blind, emotionally deaf and heart-hardened to those around us?

I remember a gardener once telling me that the bulb of the amaryllis plant is very ugly. However, to throw away the bulb, means to throw away the plant. I think it is the same with the human weaknesses and frailties within us. Just like the *darnal* in today's readings, it is not just a question of ripping out the perceived ugliness of weaknesses, and, in the process, ripping out the beauty of our strengths.

Perhaps, it is in *recognising* these weaknesses and strengths as parts of our human condition that we can *feel* with a new, heart-filled compassion; we can *hear* the voice of a loving God guiding us into a more life-giving response to our fears and challenges; and the scales are lifted from our eyes, so that we can *see* God in the people with whom we interact each day.

The first reading today mirrors the transformative impact of God's love! It is an awe-filled love which can transform us, *love* us into the creations we are meant to be! It is a love which radiates a gentle, yet titanium, strength; pulsates with a boundless, forgiving compassion; breathes *healing* into every fibre of our being; and, restores us to be the bearers of God's love and healing to his world.

So, my dear friends, next time you are in the garden...have a look at the lawn...ah...the grass and the weeds! How do they compare to the topography of my soul and heart?

Remember me as loving you,

Fr. Antony



UK DISASTERS EMERGENCY COMMITTEE APPEAL

CAFOD has joined with the UK Disasters Emergency Committee to help millions of people whose lives are at risk, as Coronavirus spreads across refugee camps and countries suffering conflict. Your generous support can help CAFOD to scale up its Coronavirus response throughout our global Church family. Donations can be made at www.cafod.org.uk/coronavirus, or you can support the 60 volunteers from around the diocese who have taken part in the 10,000 steps challenge in aid of this appeal by donating to their just giving page at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Cportsmouth-Aldershot>.

Alternatively, for just one week starting Saturday 25th July, you can donate via the collection at all Masses via the collection boxes at the exit doors. These donations should be put in an envelope clearly marked 'CAFOD Emergency'. Envelopes will be available in the church porch. Thank you for your support.

BEREAVEMENT GROUP

The Pastoral Team is looking for volunteers to join our parish St Luke's Bereavement Group which is really short of help. No previous experience required as Fr Antony will be providing training, but an interest in providing some practical and emotional support to those who are grieving the loss of a loved one. Please have a chat with Fr Antony or contact the parish office if you would be interested in finding out more.

CONGRATULATIONS to Steve Deadman who has now completed over 500 hours of ministry as a Street Pastor. If anyone is interested in volunteering in this work please refer to the website below or have a chat with Steve. <https://streetpastors.org/locations/southampton>

DEBT RELIEF FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Bishop John Arnold (Salford, and Chair of CAFOD) and 76 other UK faith leaders have signed an open letter calling for the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rishi Sunak, to support a proposal for debt relief for those developing countries worst hit by Covid. The letter calls on the World Bank, IMF and private creditors to cancel debt payments owed by those countries in 2020 and 2021. Please see the statement from the Bishops Conference [here](#).

This issue is to be considered by the world's richest countries at the G20 Finance Ministers meeting this weekend (18-19 July). CAFOD have asked people to contact their MPs to express their support for this campaign and to ask their MPs to write to the Chancellor. Please support this campaign by clicking on this link: <https://cafod.org.uk/News/Campaigning-news/Faith-leaders-debt-letter>.



JOYOUS NEWS!

I am delighted to announce that the Immaculate Conception parish has recently received a substantial donation, the final amount of which is still being calculated. At this present moment, the donors would prefer to remain anonymous. This donation covers the remaining loan on the Church roof with some surplus funds. More information will follow on this development.

I remember when we were blessing the image of the Immaculate Conception on the sanctuary wall of the church, we asked for her help, care and protection. She is certainly standing by us! May the Lord bless and reward our generous donors. May he also bless and reward all of you who are, and have been, so supportive and generous in responding to the needs of this Faith Community and maintaining the Lord's House.

We are aware that some monies that have been/are collected for the roof. These monies will be used for the repair and development of the church site.

And so...with grateful relief, specific fundraising for the church **roof** is now closed. REJOICE!!!!



HOLY FAMILY - NEW PARISH PRIEST

Our congratulations and prayers to Fr. Benjamin Theobald who recently has been appointed Parish Priest of the Holy Family Parish, Millbrook, Southampton. We wish him many years of fruitful ministry.

E NEWS

Weekly update from the Bishop plus events and activities around the diocese

Sign up to receive this weekly bulletin at:

<https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/enews>

This week includes:

- Reflections on next Sunday's Gospel
- A series of online talks and videos this summer to help bring you closer to Jesus Christ. Whether you're a catechist wanting to develop your ministry or a Catholic looking to learn more.
- A history of the building of St John's Catholic Cathedral, Portsmouth

CATHOLIC BISHOPS' NEWS

can be found at

<https://mailchi.mp/cbcew/230320-1183514?e=d8f421addf>

This week includes items on:

- climate change at the heart of economic recovery
- CAFOD Coronavirus Appeals,
- 'The God who speaks' Sunday worship, exploring loss, separation and trauma.

CATHOLIC NEWSPAPERS FROM AROUND THE UK

free online: <http://www.churchpaper.co.uk>

FORTHCOMING ONLINE EVENT

A webinar for young people aged 16 – 23 years:
Our Faith Yesterday, Our Faith Today and
Our Faith Tomorrow.

Wednesday 22nd July 8.45am - 3pm

- What are the Challenges ahead for our Faith? Four distinguished speakers feature in this Knights of St Columba Young Persons webinar.
- If interested please email: headoffice@ksc.org.uk, or visit their website here.

QUIZ CORNER (Answers below)

1. *Where am I?* St Francis Xavier landed here in 1849, spending over two years in this country before travelling to India
2. *Who am I?* I am mentioned by name 12 times in the gospels, more than most of the apostles. Legend states that the Jews cast me adrift with some other early Christians and the boat finally landed in Southern France where I then lived in solitude in a cave.
3. *What am I?* I have two names and shine red as a sign of the Real Presence of Christ.
4. *Who said?* "[There are hazards in everything one does, but there are greater hazards in doing nothing.](#)"

MASS BY PHONE

Mass by phone from Middlesbrough diocese allows you to listen to Mass by telephone. Mass is recorded every Sunday at St. Mary's Cathedral and remains available all week. The number to call is an ordinary geographic 'landline' number, 01642 130120. Calls are charged at normal rates and free if in your included minutes.

SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL HELP AND SUPPORT and CITY UPDATE

<https://www.southampton.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid19/i-need-help.aspx>

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKSOUTHAMPTON/bulletins/294ca17>

- Southampton Virtual Jobs Fair, Wednesday 29th July
- One year left to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme

Don't forget you can access many resources on the parish website by going to this link.

<https://www.immaculateconception.church/downloads> Go to documents/resources.

1) Kagoshima, then Hirado Japan (2) Mary of Magdala https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=83 (3) Sanctuary of Chancel lamp. Situated near the tabernacle (4) Shirley Williams



NUN TOO SURE

Two nuns were to go on a mission one day,
And which one should drive were debating:
"You drive," Sister Luke said, "And I'll sit and pray:"
Was surprised to hear Sister John stating,
"Though mildly, I fear I must take you to task,
For I don't think I like what you're saying:
I'm happy to drive, but at first I must ask,
Does it mean that you don't trust my praying?"

Dennis B. Wilson

A poem found by Fiona.

PIED BEAUTY

Gerard Manley Hopkins 1844-1889

Glory be to God for dappled things –
For skies of couple-colour as a brindled cow;
For rose-moles all in stipple upon trout that swim;
Fresh-firecoal chestnut-falls;finches' wings;
Landscape plotted and pieced-fold, fallow, and plough;
And all trades, their gear and tackle and trim.
All things counter, original, spare, strange;
Whatever is fickle, freckled (who knows how?)
With swift, slow; sweet, sour; adazzle, dim;
He fathers-forth whose beauty is past change:
Praise Him.

Arrangements for attending Mass

The Church will be open for 'bookable' Mass only as follows:

Sundays: 1000 and 1730 (5.30pm)

Tuesdays 1000

Wednesdays 1930-7.30pm

Thursdays 1200 (noon)

Fridays 1930 (7.30pm)

Saturday 1000 – for those with special circumstances- recorded Sunday mass

Email booking : icmassbookings@gmail.com (preferred)

080024613720 for those with no internet.

If you have not already booked your normal 'weekly mass time' then:

- i) Send an email request to this email address: icmassbookings@gmail.com and state
 - a. Your name and address.
 - b. The total number in your household coming to Mass (let us know if there are under 10s).
 - c. The preference for the day of the week and mass time you wish to attend. (If you can give a second choice that will help if there are too many requests for one Mass time).
 - d. Whether there is a special circumstance (e.g. wheelchair access, working hours)
- ii) Call this number **0800 2461372** and leave a message. We provide this option for those who have no access to the internet. If you have internet access, please email us.

You must specify the day of week and time you would like to attend Mass. This will be your usual Mass time each week. For the time being, *you cannot book more than one Mass a week* to allow as many people as possible to attend Mass. We are asking those who are retired, and those who can attend a Mass during the week, to sign up for a weekday Mass. Please do not 'swop' mass bookings, rather cancel them through the booking system, so we can release seats for those on shift work etc. Those who work unpredictable shifts should email us on a Wednesday for the following week. When your booking is confirmed, you will receive details of your seat and row number in Church. Numbers 1-10 are on the Sacristy side and 11-20 on the Lady Chapel side. Please try to arrive at the recommended time so we can prevent a queue.

There will be no toilet facilities available.

Each mass must have 3 stewards, so please volunteer if you can by emailing the office.

Attending mass: There is a one-way system operating in the church, with the entrance through the main porch and exit through the side fire exits. Please see the details on the website and the noticeboard as you enter church. Please feel free to wear a face covering /gloves in church except to receive Holy Communion. Collection boxes are available for offerings on the way out. Where possible, please bring gift aid envelopes or an ordinary envelope with your gift aid number on it. Unless otherwise specified, donations are for the general running of the church. Diocesan / Government guidance states that:

- You will need to sanitize your hands on the way in and out of church.
- The congregation should not stand or kneel during mass as this reduces social distance.

Capacity for Mass: Sunday- Friday included – 40 people or 14 households

Capacity for Saturday mass (recorded) excluding households- 27