



<b>3<sup>rd</sup> May 2020</b> <b>Fourth Sunday of Easter: Year A Part 1</b> <i>'The Sheep follow because they know His voice' John 10: 27</i> <b>Vocations Sunday</b>			
<b>Immaculate Conception Church</b> Within the Pastoral Area of Southampton East 346 Portswood Road, Southampton, SO17 3SB Tel: (023) 8055 5470 Website: <a href="http://www.immaculateconception.church">www.immaculateconception.church</a> Email: <a href="mailto:portswood@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk">portswood@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk</a> Facebook: Immaculate Conception Church, Portswood Twitter: @ic_portswood		<b>Parish Priest: Fr Antony Gatt</b> 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) <b>Confessions:</b> Saturday at 10.30am after morning Mass <b>Rosary:</b> Wednesdays, starting 25 mins before Mass <b>Hall Bookings:</b> <a href="mailto:portswood@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk">portswood@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk</a>	
<b>Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> May</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday of Easter</b>	<b>Vocations</b>	
Mon 4 May	The English Martyrs		
Tue 5 <sup>th</sup> May	4 <sup>th</sup> week Easter	Mahmud Kianush (RIP)	
Wed 6 <sup>th</sup> May	4 <sup>th</sup> Week Easter	Special Intention	
Thurs 7 <sup>th</sup> May	4 <sup>th</sup> Week Easter	Special Intention	
Fri 8 <sup>th</sup> May	4 <sup>th</sup> Week Easter	WW2 deceased	
Sat 9 <sup>th</sup> May	4 <sup>th</sup> Week Easter		
<b>Sun 10<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Fifth Sunday of Easter</b>		
	<b>SUNDAY'S READINGS</b> <b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b> Acts 2: 14 36-41 <b>Psalm:</b> 22 <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b> 1 Peter 2: 20-25 <b>Gospel:</b> John 10: 1-10		<b>NO PUBLIC MASSES</b> Fr Antony will say Mass privately each day and include all requested Mass intentions <b>The Parish Office is closed.</b> The Parish email is still checked. For non -urgent matters please send an email to <a href="mailto:portswood@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk">portswood@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk</a> <b>Enquiries re the Sacraments</b> --please make an appointment by email. <b>Unless it is an emergency</b> , please keep calls/emails to a minimum on Mondays as this is Fr Antony's day off.

My dear Friends:

Today is the feast of the Good Shepherd. This beautiful gospel unfolds the loving, nurturing, and protective relationship between Christ and his disciples right up to the present day. In various parts of the world in which I have worked and lived, towards dusk, the shepherd would create a circular corral of thorn bushes or stones. The entrance to this corral did not have the usual wooden gate.

The shepherd, himself, was the gate. He would sleep across the entrance to corral. Any predator attempting to attack the sheep would have to go through him first! The shepherd-sheep relationship was so intimate that the sheep would only respond to *his* voice, and *his* voice alone!

This is a very beautiful, deeply meaningful, pastoral image. However, in today's world, I think this 'image' or 'analogy' has deepened and evolved. I have often spoken about our Divine Romance with God. This Divine Romance is essentially what our individual, and collective, spiritual journeys with the Jesus, Good Shepherd is all about!

In last Sunday's gospel, when Jesus joined some of his followers on their journey to Emmaus, they reflected, *'Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and*

*opened the Scriptures to us?’ I really believe that as we fall deeper in love with God; as his love permeates every fibre of our being; as we are filled with his quest for *justice*, his *strength*, his *courage*, his boundless *compassion*, *healing* and *forgiveness*...he transforms the ‘heart’ of the sheep into the **heart of a lion!***

When I look around me at our Faith Communities, I see so much self-sacrifice, human dignity, compassion, tolerance, strength, courage, determination, and pastoral vision. I witness daily, the followers of Jesus, celebrating their baptismal priesthood. Now, and in our histories, they are the lion-hearted sheep who have become Reformers, Healers, Educators, and Prophets. They are the people who are striving to become the embodiment of Christ’s Love, Healing, Compassion and Justice. They are sheep with the hearts of lions!

I believe that any ‘shepherd’ has to be, not just a spiritual guide and leader, but also, the pastoral ‘midwife’ of the giftedness, greatness and glory of God which dwell within each person. By allowing himself to become a channel of *The Good Shepherd’s* passionate love for us, God can transform the sheep-hearted to the lion-hearted: *like the bamboo flute, we are raised and kissed by the lips of God*. It is God’s breath passing through us which makes the music of our lives.

In the words of the great Eastern mystic, it is then that we can:

***See through the eyes of compassion***

***Listen with ears of tolerance***

***Speak with the language of love***

Remember me as loving you,

Fr. Antony

### **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.

**A note from Pope Francis** <https://www.catholicsstrivingforholiness.org/pope-francis-on-the-4th-sunday-of-easter-year-a-the-good-shepherd-sunday/>

“This Sunday is the *World Day of Prayer for Vocations*. In this year’s Message I recalled that “every vocation, even within the variety of paths, always requires an exodus from oneself in order to centre one’s life on Christ and on his Gospel” (n. 2). Therefore, the call to follow Jesus is both exciting and challenging. In order that it may be realized, it is always necessary to enter into deep friendship with the Lord in order to live from Him and for Him.

Let us pray that also, in these times, many young people may hear the voice of the Lord, which is always in danger of being suffocated by the clamour of other voices. Let us pray for young people: perhaps there is someone here in the Square who hears the voice of the Lord calling him to the priesthood; let us pray for him, if he is here, and for all young people who are being called. I asked four of them from the Diocese of Rome to come forward and join me in giving the blessing. May Our Lady offer her help in support of those who are called by Him, that they may be ready and generous in following his voice.”

Donations for Vocations Sunday may be made through the Diocesan e letter-

2<sup>nd</sup> May 2020

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter Year A : Newsletter Part 2**

**Vocations Sunday. 'The Sheep follow because they know His voice' John 10: 27**

**Immaculate Conception Church**

Within the pastoral area of Southampton  
East

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**Website:**

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**Facebook:** Immaculate Conception Church  
Portswood

Twitter: @ic\_portswood

The **Parish Bank Account** details are:

Name: **PRCDTR Immaculate Conception Church**

Sort Code 30-93-04

Account No: 00887995

For donations give a reference please e.g.

RF = Roof Fund

ERF = Emergency Relief Fund

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

**Thank you for your support and patience at this  
time**

**Recorded Parish Mass will be on the web site/facebook for Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May**

**SAINT OF THE WEEK: Continuing the Forty Martyrs of England and Wales:**

St John Houghton (feast day 4<sup>th</sup> May)

St John Houghton was prior of the Carthusian Charterhouse at Smithfield in London. In 1534, he refused to take the Oath of Succession and was imprisoned in the Tower of London. Later, he agreed to take the oath conditionally, that is insofar as it was lawful. With the passage of the Act of Supremacy and the Act of Treason it became clear that the oath was insufficient and the Charterhouse prepared for the worst by three days of prayer, culminating in all the monks going to confession and celebrating a votive mass of the Holy Spirit. Appearing before Cromwell, the lay Ecclesiastical Vicar General, three Carthusian priors including John had their oath, 'as far as the law of God allows', refused and were imprisoned in the Tower. At their trial the jury was reluctant to declare such holy men guilty until their own lives were threatened by Cromwell. On 4 May 1535 the monks were dragged on hurdles through the streets to Tyburn to be hanged, drawn and quartered. In a final speech, John said, 'I declare that I have refused to comply with the will of His Majesty the King, not from obstinacy, malice or a rebellious spirit, but solely for fear of offending the supreme Majesty of God.' St John, pray for us.

Submitted by Dudley Plunkett- thank you Dudley

**Getting to know you from Dudley**

I am married to Francine. We have two sons, Daniel, married with 3 children, and Martin, a Westminster priest. I was a senior lecturer at Southampton University and senior tutor at the Maryvale Institute before I retired. My books are listed on Google or Amazon. The latest (2019) is a study of the life of St Philip Howard, martyr.

**MASSES FOR THE SICK AND THEIR FAMILIES, NHS FRONT-LINE WORKERS AND THOSE WORKING IN  
SOCIAL CARE: 1900 Thursdays finishes before the Care workers applause at 2000**

In order to show a spiritual solidarity with all those who are involved in the ways described above, each week from next Thursday, a Catholic Bishop will celebrate Mass in their Cathedral which will be live-streamed for people to join. This will take place **every Thursday at 7pm.**

**7 May** Bishop Marcus Stock [St Anne's Cathedral, Leeds YouTube Channel](#)

**14 May** Bishop Robert Byrne CO [St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle YouTube Channel](#)

**21 May** Bishop Mark Davies [Our Lady Help of Christians and Saint Peter of Alcantara, Shrewsbury](#)

**28 May** Bishop Terence Drainey [St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough YouTube Channel](#)

Caritas Social Action Network and the St Vincent de Paul Society have released a new Toolkit to help Catholic parishes and groups develop safe, local responses to people in need during the COVID-19 pandemic.

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/our-work/health-social-care/coronavirus-guidelines/>

### QUIZ CORNER (answers below)<sup>1</sup>

1. What am I? A pub is named after me in Portswood- I am part of the Bishop's attire.
2. What am I? You walk across me at mass. Phonetically - I was accused of stealing tarts.
3. Which Gospel was written by a doctor? Where was he born?
4. Who am I? I was born in 1924 and joined the Special Operations Executive during World War 2. Having seen the horrors of war and the concentration camps, I started doing voluntary humanitarian relief work and in 1953 founded a major charity and initiated 2 hospices. My husband (who witnessed the dropping of an atomic bomb in Japan) and I were converts to Roman Catholicism. I subsequently became a Baroness and died in 2000. "Do what you can for the person in front of you."
5. Who said? "If God created shadows it was to better emphasise the light."

### STUCK for Ideas for CHILDREN'S LITURGY IN LOCKDOWN?

Supported by the Bishops, Aid to the Church in Need has produced worksheets and interactive resources on their web site here. <https://acnuk.org/resource/childs-bible-project/>

Here is the completed first workbook with interactive resources, activities etc

<https://acnuk.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Final-Week-1-Activity-workbook-V2.pdf>

A short prayer and a fun activity inspired by each chapter can be found in the workbooks.

Each day's activity is linked to a video on YouTube. The **videos are released each weekday at 10am on Twitter** (@ACN\_Schools, @ACN\_Scotland, @ACNUK\_NW); at the end of each week, the links are added into the workbooks, so you can catch up if you've missed anything.

### PARISH EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND- a note from Gino (Pillar lead)

It is no understatement to say that our parish faces a great challenge in this time of national crisis. As expected, we have had several requests for help from different people in and around Portswood. Some have asked for financial support while others asked for food and believe it or not for drinking water! Although our relief fund is short of what we would like, we've tried to prioritise and accommodate all the requests except one which turned out not to be genuine. As Christians we are reminded that this is not the first time that churches have become the place where people come for help. And just as history is judged in retrospect, how we respond to the requests for help not only gives witness to our faith, but also will be noticed and remembered by the wider community of Portswood. Please remember St Paul's message to the Corinthians which is more relevant to us than ever:

*"...God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all time, having all you need, you will abound in every good work."* If you can help in any way.....please donate above or let us know via the parish office.

### Victory in Europe Day Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May

Friday is the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the Second World War in Europe. There are some resources on the British Legion Website for home schooling etc.

<https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/remembrance/teaching-remembrance>

Next week there will be a special edition of the newsletter with 'memories' from parishioners of either VE Day itself, liberation day for other parts of Europe, or memories of the period. We would welcome contributions from parishioners and photos! Please email them to [mary.gobbi@btinternet.com](mailto:mary.gobbi@btinternet.com) or the parish office before Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May. Thank you.

**MIGRANTS DAY 2<sup>ND</sup> MAY:** The annual Migrant' Day Mass will be celebrated using [Instagram Live](#) and [YouTube](#) on **Saturday 2 May, at 10.30am.**

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<sup>1</sup>(1) Mitre (2) Nave of the church (central aisle) (3) St Luke the Evangelist born in Antioch, now modern Turkey (4) Sue Ryder married to Group Lenard Cheshire, Baroness Ryder of Warsaw (5) Pope John 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**MAY IS THE MONTH OF OUR LADY- WHY NOT MAKE A SPECIAL EFFORT TO SAY THE ROSARY or  
ANGELUS?**

**(after each response say the Hail Mary – see the children's newsletter for the background to the Angelus)**

V The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary, R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord. R. Be it done unto me according to Your Word.

V. And the Word was made flesh, R. And dwelt among us.

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God. R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ

Let us pray:

Pour forth, we beseech You, O Lord,

Your Grace into our hearts;

that as we have known the incarnation of Christ,

your Son by the message of an angel,

so by His passion and cross

we may be brought to the glory of His Resurrection.

Through the same Christ, our Lord. Amen

**A PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS SUNDAY FROM THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF ENGLAND AND WALES**

Loving Father, you call us by name.

As we journey through life help us to be confident in our own unique identity  
and to find opportunities to develop our own gifts and passions.

We pray that the Holy Spirit will pour on us wisdom and guidance  
to help us realise and follow our dreams, discerning your plan for our lives.

Bless your Church by raising up dedicated and generous people from our families and friends  
who will serve as Priests, Deacons, Sisters and Brothers.

May we support one another in response to God's call.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen see <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/>

## Poets Corner- from Dennis! Thank you!

### SUFFER THE CHILDREN







The Lord's disciples chided them:  
The little children fled;  
But Jesus, seeing what they did,  
With indignation said,  
"Do suffer them to come to me,  
Those infants you forbade,  
Of little children such as these  
Is Heaven's Kingdom made.  
Amen, I tell you solemnly,  
Who does not seek to win  
God's Kingdom as a little child  
Shall enter not therein.  
And who receives and loves a child  
Receives and loveth Me,  
But whosoever harms a child  
Then best for him if he,  
A millstone hanged about his neck,  
Be cast upon the sea."

### REPEAT PRESCRIPTION

"I need a cure for hiccups," to the pharmacist he said,  
Who promptly took a cardboard-box and banged him on the head."  
"I trust you know," the chemist said, "about my action, quaint.  
A sudden shock can often cure your rather sad complaint."  
"That may be true," the man replied, with quite a bit of heat,  
It wasn't me with hiccups but my wife, out in the street."



Do you or someone you know need help? Here are some local support contacts

Coronavirus (COVID-19) support			
	Type of help	Who is this for?	What support is offered?
	<b>Community Support Hub</b>	Vulnerable groups, in critical need and have no other means of support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emergency food</li> </ul>
	<b>Resident helpline - 023 8083 4800</b> (open Mon - Fri, 8.30am to 5pm)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emergency food requests</li> <li>Social contact</li> <li>Signposting to voluntary groups</li> <li>Help with issues such as finances</li> </ul>
	Online form <b><a href="https://southampton.gov.uk/needhelp">southampton.gov.uk/needhelp</a></b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requests for help</li> </ul>
	<b>Pharmacy deliveries - 023 8071 8668</b> (in partnership with NHS Southampton City CCG and Saints Foundation)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collection and delivery of medications</li> </ul>
	Websites - <b><a href="https://southampton.gov.uk/coronavirus">southampton.gov.uk/coronavirus</a></b> <b><a href="https://gov.uk/coronavirus">gov.uk/coronavirus</a></b>	All residents and businesses	Hub of information on our services and coronavirus advice
	<b>Business helpline - 023 8083 4300</b> (open Mon - Fri, 8.30am to 5pm)	All businesses	Business support and advice

Our Community Support Hub can support with a range of services:

- Providing emergency food parcels if you're unable to leave your home and have no other means of support,
- Arranging deliveries of prescriptions (with the help of our friends at Saints Foundation)
- Linking and connecting you to local support in your local area such as voluntary organisations and community groups
- Or if you're feeling lonely and would like a chat, we can put you in touch with people who can help

Our dedicated helpline is open Monday-Friday (8.30-5.00) so give us a call on 023 8083 4800, or complete our [online form](#). Take a look at the [I need help](#) section of our website to find out more.

### FREE RESOURCES FOR THE ELDERLY:

The Diocese has sent us details of a new community hub for the elderly and their supporters called Age Space. They provide useful and varied content from financial advice on equity release to legal advice on Wills to care advice on how to choose a care home. The new Hampshire services is [hwww.agespace.org/local/hampshire](https://www.agespace.org/local/hampshire). They are part of 8 local hubs across the country and share a wealth of information about local services, dementia-friendly businesses, accessible days out (for when we're all allowed out!) and so much more. People can follow them on social media [@agespace.org](https://www.facebook.com/agespace.org) (Facebook) and [@agespace](https://twitter.com/agespace) (twitter). They have a dedicated Coronavirus support group Supporting Relatives at Risk of Coronavirus Age Space - [www.agespace.org/local/hampshire/coronavirus-elderly-support](https://www.agespace.org/local/hampshire/coronavirus-elderly-support)

**Please don't forget our resource page on the web site which lists Government approved agencies to help in a crisis (as mentioned by the Chief Government Medical Officer yesterday). (e.g. agencies to help with Domestic Abuse, suicide, mental health crisis and more etc.)**

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>