



Sunday 5th July 2020
14th Sunday of Year A Part 1

“Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened and I will give you rest” Matt 11 25-30

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: 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) Confessions: Saturday at 10.30am after morning Mass Rosary: Wednesdays, starting 25 mins before Mass Hall Bookings: portswood@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk	
Sun 5th July.	14th Sunday Ordinary	Jim Shine RIP	
Monday 6 th July	St Maria Goretti	No service	
Tuesday 7 th July	Feria		
Wednesday 8 th July	Feria		
Thursday 9 th July	St Augustine Zhao Rong	Special Intention	
Friday 10 th July 1930	Feria- Attendance must be booked		
Sat 11 th July 1000	St Benedict Attendance must be booked		
Sun 12th July 1000	15th Sunday Ordinary	Maureen Howard RIP	
Sun 12 July 1730 5.30pm	Attendance must be booked.		
Sunday Mass will be available: on youtube, facebook and the Parish Website from 1000 Sunday. The link will be emailed as usual on Saturday. With 100 subscribers, we may have a permanent site!	SUNDAY'S READINGS  1st Reading: Zechariah 9, 9-10 Psalm: 144 2nd Reading: Romans 8:9 11-13 Gospel: Matt 11: 25-30	Public Holy Mass resumes on Friday 10th July with a new mass schedule. Attendance must be booked via email icmassbookings@gmail.com The Parish Office is 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. Enquiries re the Sacraments-- please make an appointment by email.	

Weblink for children's liturgy this week:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/6gzc96ct14xv8rl/Children%27s%20Liturgy%20Video%2005.07.20.mp4?dl=0>

YOUTube for Mass available from 1000 on Sunday- <https://youtu.be/g2oLjDhE0rg>

Please see the special newsletter regarding arrangements for Public Mass.

My dear Friends:

How can I try to make the contents of today's readings relevant to the challenges each one of us is facing in our daily lives?! There are a lot of interesting words and life-style comparisons in the gospel, with: *learned, clever, wisdom, simple, faith!* When I asked myself, what were true *intelligence and knowledge*? What was true *wisdom*? What was the life's journey of *learning* about? Where did *simple faith* enter into all this? Like a sage emerging from the mist

of confusion, Nikos Kazantzakis appeared in my imagination with his words: *The real meaning of enlightenment is to gaze with undimmed eyes on all darkness.*

Our personal journeys of *learning* and *knowledge* are not about flaunting an accumulated number of degrees which can result in the painful illusion of arrogant superiority. As Fr. Foley commented, this delusional superiority '*never enters a room alone, but always brings a number of her children: arrogance, distain, boredom, cynicism. All of these are occupational hazard for the 'learned and the clever' and none of these unlock any of life's deep secrets.*'

The same could be said about 'simple faith'. Having a *simple faith* does not mean blindly following, suspending our intellects, and interpreting every challenging question that enters our minds as a sign of fearful and evil *doubt*! The faith journey means asking ourselves hard and challenging questions. I firmly believe that hard and difficult questions are Christ's way of knocking at the door of our hearts and souls asking us to get to know him better! Our answers can open the door to that sacred romance with God

In the workplace, we are invariable sent away for conferences and update presentations in our areas of professional expertise. In our faith journeys, however, we often try to answer major questions about LIFE, FAITH, AND LIVING, with what we learned as children. Needless to say, we have outgrown what was presented to us as children, and some of us toss that faith into the garbage can. Part of that 'learning journey' is to become better-informed Catholics! It is then we can truly become engaged in *informed dialogue* with our intellects and with others!

Last Sunday, (and I am sure you remember this!!!! LOL), I spoke about the *hollowing* of our hearts and souls to scoop out the dross of our *egos*. It is then that we are *hallowed*, made holy/sacred, by the Divine Woodcarver's love and grace. *Therefore*, the authentic pursuit of knowledge and learning does *not* lead to delusional superiority, with her supercilious children, *arrogance, distain, boredom, and cynicism*! True knowledge and leaning unfold the *greatness* and *beauty* of God dwelling within each of us and is *recognised* in the *other*! It is a learning, a knowledge, and a wisdom which illumine, like a warm inner glow of *awareness*. This is often described as *enlightenment*!

This form of knowledge and wisdom, like the L.E.D. lights on a car, can illumine the path for others. These forms of learning, knowledge and wisdom *attract* because their source flows from the awesome greatness and beauty of God himself. It is interesting that the Latin origins, etymology, of "*to educate*" means "*to lead out*" – *to lead out of darkness into the light*! I guess this is what life's educational journey is about: illumining the intellect and soul within, that we may illumine the paths around us. Someone once said that the gift of Wisdom is the fruit of years. Perhaps that is what Jalāl ad-Dīn Mevlana Rumi was hinting at when he said: *Yesterday, I was young and clever, and I wanted to change the world. Now I am older and wiser, I just want to change myself.* This is possibly the journey we are invited to embark upon in today's readings!

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.

Sunday 5th July 2020
14th Sunday of Year A Part 2

“Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened and I will give you rest” Matt 11 25-30

Immaculate Conception Church

Within the pastoral area of Southampton East
346 Portswood Road,
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Website: www.immaculateconceptionchurch.org.uk

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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.

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

Children's liturgy video

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/6gzc96ct14xv8rl/Children%27s%20Liturgy%20Video%2005.07.20.mp4?dl=0>

A message from Fr Antony last week and abridged for information.

My dear Friends:

Rejoice! Rejoice! As I am sure you have heard, we are now able to celebrate the Eucharist in our church. **However**, before we can celebrate the Eucharist in public, we have to ensure that all the diocesan and governmental requirements and guidelines are followed and fulfilled, especially concerning social distance and hygiene. To open our church to celebrate Sunday and daily mass, it is essential that we have three ushers/stewards at each mass. Without usher-volunteers, it will be impossible to open the church for public mass. Please volunteer if you are not obliged to self-isolate or are in a vulnerable group. Our first public Mass available for booking and for which we need stewards is Friday 10th July at 7.30pm (1930).

Because of social distancing, we shall have to make a few changes to our celebration of the Eucharist.

1. It is **very important** that you read the letter explaining how to 'book' a Mass
2. When approaching/entering the church please follow the guidance of the ushers/stewards-
3. Again, following the requirements there will be no singing or live music
4. As stated below, offertory baskets are provided as we leave the church.
5. We shall receive the Eucharist and then leave the church through the side doors.

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

Friday 10th July 1930 -7.30pm

Sunday 12th July at 1000 and 1730 (5.30pm)

Other dates are in the special letter from Fr Antony together with details on how to make the booking.

We-urgently- need stewards (3 per mass) for our new mass times .

Please email the office if you can help and are not in a 'vulnerable' group.

Thank you for your support.

PLEASE NOTE: There is a one-way system operating in the church, with the entrance through the main porch and exit through the side fire exits. You will need to sanitize your hands on the

way in and out. Please see the details on the website and the noticeboard as you enter church. We look forward to welcoming you home! Please feel free to wear a face covering /gloves in church. Collection boxes are available for offerings. 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. We have spent several hundred pounds making the church and hall 'Covid -19' compliant. A packet of medical gloves can cost £5-15! And 5 litres of disinfectant about £35-45.

Welcome back Rachel and Halyna!

On 1st July we welcomed back from furlough Rachel and Halyna! It is great to have them back-how we missed them! In our COVID world, Rachel will be working mainly from home, so please, where possible send your requests in by email.



How to access the **weekly newsletter from the diocese**- perhaps you might like to sign up to this? <https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue279>

This week's Catholic Bishops' news has the theme of 'creation' and film about global healing see <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/our-work/environment/global-healing/>

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.

Catholic Newsletters from around the UK are free online: <http://www.churchpaper.co.uk/>

The next is **Mass for NHS and Care workers** is 9 July Bishop Tom Williams [Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King, Liverpool](#) [YouTube](#) [Channel](#) [Facebook](#)

For other dates see: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/masses-for-sick-and-nhs-covid19/>

FORTHCOMING ONLINE EVENTS

Wednesday 22nd July 8.45am - 3pm **Our Faith Yesterday, Our Faith Today and Our Faith Tomorrow.**

What are the Challenges ahead for our Faith? Four distinguished speakers feature in this Knights of St Columba Young Persons webinar. Open to all young people aged 16 to 23 years old. If interested please email: headoffice@ksc.org.uk, or visit their website [here](#).

Masses for the Sick and their Families, NHS Front-line workers and Social Care workers

To show spiritual solidarity, Catholic Bishops will celebrate Mass in their Cathedrals and this will be live-streamed for people to take part on Thursdays at 7pm. The next is 2 July with Archbishop John Wilson from St George's Cathedral, Southwark **YouTube Channel** For other dates see: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/masses-for-sick-and-nhs-covid19>

Congratulations to Matthew King who is being ordained soon on Sunday 5th July at 2pm. He spent a couple of weeks at Immaculate Conception staying in the presbytery with Fr Antony about 18 months ago during his training.

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/293b020>

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

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

The children's video can be found here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/6gzc96ct14xv8rl/Children%27s%20Liturgy%20Video%2005.07.20.mp4?dl=0>

Here is the link for the Portsmouth Diocese E bulletin – special mention on Bamenda situation

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

QUIZ CORNER (answers below)¹

1. *Where am I?* A site where a saint was shipwrecked and bitten by a snake from the island.
2. *Who am I?* In the movie, *the Mission*, I am played by Jeremy Irons as Father Gabriel. But who was I in real life? Who wrote the theme music?
3. *What am I?* A title given in a papal bull by Pope Clement VII on 5 March 1524 to Henry V111. What was this award for?
4. *Who said?* "And let them first pray together, that so they may associate in peace."

Do you know how to wear a face mask properly?

These two videos may be of help!

Also found on the parish website Documents + Resource Links menu objects.

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/when-and-how-to-use-masks>

<https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/posters/COVID19-PPE-Safe-Mask-Wear-Poster.pdf>

¹ (1) St Paul's islands Malta(2) Father Gabriel's character is loosely based on the life of Paraguayan saint and Jesuit Roque González de Santa Cruz. Ennio Morricone. (3) Defender of the Faith, (Fidei Defensor) for Henry's book 'Defence of the Seven Sacraments' in which he condemned Martin Luther 1521. In 1538 however, Henry was excommunicated by the then Pope Paul 3rd over his marriage to Anne Boleyn.. (4) St Benedict- The Rule

Poets Corner: (Thank you Dennis, Alina)

LETTER OF CONSOLATION

“Dear Vicar,

I’m writing to lessen your pique,
(You were hurt and offended, no doubt);
In the midst of your sermon on Sunday last week,
When my husband got up and walked out.
It had nothing to do with the text that you chose;
And your thinking was lucid and deep;
And the length was alright and enthralling your prose;
It was just that he walks in his sleep.”

Dennis B. Wilson

Dennis thanks parishioners for all their good wishes on the occasion of his 99th birthday.

From Alina- can you work out which book the different lines relate to? Answers next week

Go and open the door maybe there is a lion, a witch or a boar.
Go and open the door maybe there are goblins, elves and plenty more.
Go and open the door.
You could find magic, friendship or a centaur.
Go and open the door.
Knock on 221b if it is adventure you are looking for.
Go and open the door.
Do not be scared, go on go on open **that** door.
Go and open the door.
Travel through time, excitement, a bigger world inside, strange things will happen or maybe all
four.
Go and open **my** door.
What will you find?

A prayer for our times found by Una will appear next week

Right to Life and Legislation

On Monday 6 July, MPs are due to debate the Domestic Abuse Bill. This is Report Stage of the Bill, when backbench MPs can suggest amendments.

The Bill aims to give greater protection to the victims of domestic abuse – something the Catholic Union fully supports. But there are attempts to hijack this important piece of legislation, to seek the introduction of abortion on demand in England and Wales. At least one backbench MP is attempting to secure an amendment to repeal sections 58 and 59 of the Offences Against the Persons Act. If such an amendment were to succeed, it would result in the introduction of abortion on demand, for any reason, up until when a child is capable of being born alive, with a ceiling of 28 weeks.

We need your help to make MPs aware of the risks we face on Monday. Please contact your MP about this, either directly, or use the e-lobby function on the Right to Life website [here](https://righttolife.org.uk/StopExtremeAbortion/?mc_cid=18093403ef&mc_eid=6694f6de79).

https://righttolife.org.uk/StopExtremeAbortion/?mc_cid=18093403ef&mc_eid=6694f6de79