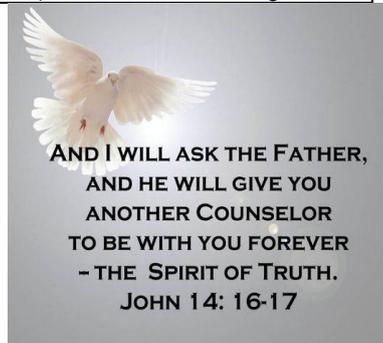


17 th May 2020 Sixth Sunday of Easter: Year A Part 1 <i>“If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord”</i>		
Immaculate Conception Church Within the Pastoral Area of Southampton East 346 Portswood Road, Southampton, SO17 3SB Tel: (023) 8055 5470 Website: www.immaculateconception.church Email: 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 17th May	Sixth Sunday of Easter	Irene Matthews RIP
Mon 18 th May	Sixth week of Easter	
Tue 19 ^h May	Dedication of Cathedral	Special intention
Wed 20 th May	Sixth week of Easter	
Thurs 21 st May	The Ascension of the Lord HOLY DAY	
Fri 2 nd May	Sixth week of Easter	Special intention
Sat 23 rd May	Sixth week of Easter	
Sun 24 May	7th Sunday of Easter	
	SUNDAY'S READINGS 1st Reading: Acts 8 5-8, 14-17 Psalm: 65 2nd Reading: 1 Peter 3: 15-18 Gospel: John 14: 15-21	NO PUBLIC MASSES Fr Antony will say Mass privately each day and include all requested Mass intentions The Parish Office is closed. The Parish email is still checked. For non -urgent matters please send an email to portswood@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk Enquiries re the Sacraments --please make an appointment by email. Unless it is an emergency , please keep calls/emails to a minimum on Mondays as this is Fr Antony's day off.



Sunday Mass will be available:
on youtube, facebook and the Parish Website from 1000 Sunday.
We will send an email on Tuesday/Wednesday regarding Mass for the Ascension

My dear Friends:

How are you? Thank you for joining me, and our Faith Community, in this reflection for the 6th Sunday of Easter.

The message of today's gospel could be summed up as follows:

1. **Love**...How much Jesus loves us. He invites us to respond to Him.
2. **Spirit**...He will send the Holy Spirit to dwell within us.
3. **Presence**... of the Holy Spirit will be experienced by each of us, and within our Faith Communities.
4. **Community**...we become Communities of Loving Witness.

We could ask ourselves, what is this Love? Rumi once said that Love is the house of God, and you are living in that house. Essentially, our Divine

Romance is that 'house of God's love' in which we are invited to dwell. Our lives, words and actions, both as individuals, and Faith Communities, then become living commentaries of that *dwelling place* and that *Divine Romance*. I think the great Greek writer, Nikos Kazantzakis, expresses very well this *dwelling in*, and 'in-dwelling', of the Holy Spirit, when he wrote:

What is love? It is not simply compassion, not simply kindness. In compassion there are two: the one who suffers and the one who feels compassion. In kindness there are two: the one who gives and the one who receives. But in love there is only one; the two join, unite, become inseparable. The I and the you vanish. To love means to lose oneself in the beloved.

I think this is what St. John is trying to express in this Sunday's gospel!

The ways in which *losing oneself in the Beloved* are lived out in daily life are mirrored in the lives of countless people. We can see it in the heroic self-sacrifices of the *Front-Liners* responding to the medical, physical, spiritual and material needs of populations. It can be in the 'compassionate' and 'kind' telephone call to a neighbour in lockdown or isolation; or a food parcel placed on a stranger's doorstep. It can be as a ray of hope, and strengthening word of encouragement, to stressed parents. It can be a sensitivity, and personable awareness towards others, when we are outdoors. I guess what I am trying to say is, that it is not just a case of the 'polite, Christian, *thing to do*', but words and actions which flow spontaneously from the fusion of our souls with the *Beloved*. It is that *fusion* with God that empowers and enables us to experience what Kazantzakis refers to as an *enlightenment* which empowers us *to gaze with undimmed eyes on all darkness*.

So, my dear friends, we are not alone! God dwells within us, as we dwell within Him! We are fused as one with the *Beloved*. In these 'interesting', challenging, and sometimes, confusing times, remember that healing, loving, hope-filled embrace of God. Because...as Shams of Tabrizi once said, *we believe that God sees us from above...But he actually sees us from the inside*.

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.

17th May 2020

6th Sunday of Easter Year A : Newsletter Part 2

“ If you love me you will keep my commandments”.

Immaculate Conception Church

Within the pastoral area of Southampton East
346 Portswood Road,
Southampton SO17 3SB
Tel: 02380555470

Website: www.immaculateconception.church.

Email: portswood@portsmouthdiocese.com

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

FEAST OF THE WEEK: THE ASCENSION



The Feast of the Ascension occurs forty days after Easter Sunday and in ancient times may well have been celebrated at the same time as Pentecost. The Feast celebrates the ascension of Jesus into heaven and was formalised in the fifth century. The witnesses to the Ascension report Jesus as saying: ‘And know that I am with you always; yes to the end of time’ (Matthew 28 v 20. What is interesting is that all the disciples were present on the mountain because ‘Jesus had arranged to meet them’ there. They all watched as Jesus ascended on a cloud accompanied by two angels.

.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 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.**

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](#)

Why not join us for the weekly Virtual Rosary Zoom Meeting?

Time: Wednesday May 20, 2020 06:30 PM London

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84094078213?pwd=U2hSTUkrL2ZGUGpVT0VYd0ZkSms4QT09>

Meeting ID: 840 9407 8213 Password: 214049

One tap mobile

+442034815240,,84094078213#,,1#,214049# United Kingdom

+441314601196,,84094078213#,,1#,214049# United Kingdom

Dial by your location

+44 203 481 5240

+44 131 460 1196

+44 203 051 2874

+44 203 481 5237

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kbyVKLERjt>

QUIZ CORNER (answers below)¹

1. Where was Jesus when He ascended into heaven?
2. Who am I? I grew up in the Basque country, took my vows as a priest in Montmartre, Paris and died on my way to China. I had travelled through India, Malaya and Japan before this. I famously baptised 10,000 people in 1544. I am the patron saint of Missionaries.
3. What am I? I was created in Rome, in the 15th Century by a young man of 25 who became famous for the skilful way he made me. Where can I be found now?
4. What am I? I am surrounded by water and have been invaded several times, for example by the Ottomans and Italians. I contain one of the seven wonders of the ancient world and was host to a famous order of religious warrior knights who now work with the sick..
5. Who said? *"People say, what is the sense of our small effort? They cannot see that we must lay one brick at a time, take one step at a time. A pebble cast into a pond causes ripples that spread in all directions. Each one of our thoughts, words and deeds is like that. No one has a right to sit down and feel hopeless. There is too much work to do."*

SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL HELP AND SUPPORT

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKSOUTHAMPTON/bulletins/2880bf0>

Lock down fever? How about one of these activities?

How about a virtual pilgrimage? Have you had to cancel a pilgrimage or other trip abroad? Or do you just fancy a 'holiday at home'? Virtual Tours are available of the Vatican, Jerusalem, Compostela, Jordan, Texas(!), Ireland and Orkney. See [here](#).

Or some Catholic History? There are audio recordings of talks given to the **English Catholic History Association** at <http://www.echa.org.uk>. See "What's Happened" and "Listen".

Divinitas: The Art of Faith: An introduction to the Catholic Creed using video commentary and art. Available from the [Divinitas Website](#). Or from [YouTube](#).

The Dominican Thomistic Institute in the US is offering a series of "Quarantine Lectures": <https://thomisticinstitute.org/quarantine-lectures>.

Alton Day of Renewal (ADoRE): Although the usual meetings are suspended till further notice, there will be a monthly **ADoRE Online starting 23rd May**, including livestream Mass, praise and worship and an inspiring talk on Pentecost. For full details and how to participate go to www.altonrenewal.com/online.html

FINANCES: At the moment, **the only source of income** that the parish receives to maintain the site, support the parish priest and deal with the regular utilities and bills comes from those parishioners who donate on a regular basis through their banks. This gives on average £1100.51 per week. Thank you for continuing your regular donations. If you usually put money in the collection basket at Mass, you may wish to consider setting up a standing order with your bank instead. Standing order forms, together with Gift Aid forms if you are a UK tax payer, are available on the parish website under the 'forms' tab. We appreciate that this is not suitable for everyone, so please consider putting money aside, dropping envelopes into the presbytery or signing up to internet banking!

¹ (1) Mount of Olives; (2) St Francis Xavier (3) The Pieta by Michelangelo. Made of Carrera marble and found in St Peter's Basilica in Rome (4) the Island of Rhodes, Knights of St John, (5) Dorothy Day was a famous American social activist who founded the 'Catholic Worker Movement'.

Have you changed your email address?

Some of the emails are 'bouncing back' as 'undeliverable'. Please could you let us know if you have changed your email address –or other details? Many thanks.

How about joining the whats app group?

A CALL FOR TALENTS and EXPERTISE- (subject to social distance of course!) help us to take Jesus to others: we need your professional and skilled help in these areas to help us address the needs of many within this crisis: (don't be backward in coming forward please!)

- Producing media materials as we cannot meet face to face;
- Hosting webinars/zoom etc /live streaming encounters for catechesis, spiritual and personal development;
- Finding useful resources (free and catholic);
- Managing data bases confidentially;
- Making short films/videos for adults and children;
- Producing quizzes and finding games;
- Running the weekly children's activity sheet.
- Helping with maintenance!

POETS CORNER:

DIVINE SUPPORT

"Lord, when I chose to follow You, You promised you would stay

And walk with me, and talk with me, each step along the way:

And so, when most I needed You, I cannot understand

Why I could only see one set of footsteps in the sand?"

He answered me, "My précieux child, know this, I love you still:

I never have forsaken you, and leave you never will;

And when you needed me the most, and noticed in your track

A single set of footprints there, I bore you on my back."

Dennis B. Wilson

Next **Tuesday, 19th May, marks the 138th anniversary of the formation of our Diocese** of Portsmouth, as we celebrate the feast of the Dedication of our Cathedral Church of St. John the Evangelist. It was on that day in 1882 that Pope Leo XIII created the Diocese of Portsmouth from the western portion of the Diocese of Southwark (founded in 1850). Southwark had become too large for one bishop, extending as it did from London to Bournemouth, and from Oxford to Dover and to the Channel Islands.

WhatsApp Group for Young Catholic Adults

A new nationwide Young Catholic Adult Network UK (YouCAN) WhatsApp Group has been set up for young Catholic adults from 18 to 35ish to share faith and prayer. There are already nearly 80 in the group from across the country who share their faith and pray together. Such fellowship is especially important at the present time when so many are isolating in their homes and are out of their usual routines. To join, please send your mobile number to Rina Bird at rinabird@outlook.com Find out more at <https://youngcatholicadultnetwork.uk/>