

23rd May 2021
PENTECOST SUNDAY, YEAR B

“When the spirit of truth comes he will lead you to the complete truth..” John 16:13

<p style="text-align: center;">Immaculate Conception Church</p> <p>Within the Pastoral Area of Southampton East 346 Portswood Road, Southampton, SO17 3SB Tel: (023) 8055 5470 Website: www.immaculateconception.church Email: office@immaculateconception.church Facebook: Immaculate Conception Church, Portswood Twitter: @icportswood</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Parish Priest: Fr Antony Gatt</p> <p>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)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Enquiries re the Sacraments: please make an appointment by email. Hall Bookings are not being taken at present .</p>
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ALL MASSES ADVERTISED BELOW ARE AVAILABLE TO JOIN LIVE, ONLINE AT
www.churchservices.tv/portswoodchur
SEE DETAILS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE TO BOOK TO ATTEND WEEKEND MASSES

Date	Solemnities & Feast days	Mass Times	Mass details & intentions	
Sun 23 May	PENTECOST SUNDAY	10.00 am 5.30 pm	Attendance bookable †Owen & Norma Graffy RIP Attendance bookable	 SUNDAY'S READINGS 1st Reading: Acts 2:1-11 Psalm: 103:1,24,29-31,34 2nd Reading: Galatians 5:16-25 Gospel: John 15:26-27; 16:12-15
Mon 24 May	The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church	-	No Mass	
Tues 25 May	St Bede the Venerable	10.00 am	Open to attend No need to book	
Wed 26 May	St Philip Neri	10.00 am	ONLINE ONLY	
Thurs 27 May	Our Lord Jesus Christ the Eternal High Priest	10.00 am	ONLINE ONLY	
Fri 28 May	Blessed Margaret Pole	10.00 am	ONLINE ONLY	
Sat 29 May	Our Lady on Saturday	10.00 am	Attendance bookable	
Sun 30 May	THE MOST HOLY TRINITY	10.00 am 5.30 pm	Attendance bookable †Una Collings RIP Attendance bookable	

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 23rd MAY – No Second Collection
- NEXT SUNDAY 30th MAY – No second collection

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

WEEKDAY MASS

A reminder that the church is now open on Tuesdays for the usual 10 am weekday Mass for anyone who would like to attend. No need to book, just turn up. Note that track & trace and all other Covid related precautions do still remain in place. Anyone at this Mass who is available to help with sanitising around the church afterwards would be very much appreciated.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY MASS BOOKING

Please book by the preceding Wednesday, 12 noon, by sending an email to icmassbookings@gmail.com (or if you do not have internet access, phone 0800 246 1372. Please ensure you leave the following:

- Name & contact details
- No of people in your group
- No of children under aged 10
- Any special circumstances

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 9.30 am – 4.00 pm

My dear Friends:

Happy Pentecost! The readings of Pentecost are indeed inspiring. Do you remember those *Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit: Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge Piety and Awe* (referred to as 'fear' of the Lord)? The scriptural scenes in today's readings are filled with images of vibrant spiritual change, growth and transformation.

An anxious group of Jesus' disciples are huddled together in fear and confusion. Their spiritual, social and political worlds have been imploded by the death of Jesus, their Leader, Guide and Inspiration. Their doors are barred. Their windows are locked. Panic and Confusion reign! Then, into this scene of leaderless, fraught confusion...

*...And suddenly there came from the sky
a noise like a strong driving wind,
and it filled the entire house in which they were.
Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire,
which parted and came to rest on each one of them.
And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit
and began to speak in different tongues,
as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim....
...Jesus came and stood in their midst
and said to them, "Peace be with you."
When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side.
The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.
Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you.
As the Father has sent me, so I send you."
And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them,
"Receive the Holy Spirit.*

The disciples then fling open the doors and windows to embrace the world with God's transforming and healing love. They realised that love means letting go of fear. It also means, *loving* people into *change*, growth and transformation, because the Holy Spirit works *in* and *through* each and every one of us.

Sometimes, however, we can become imprisoned in private fears, confusion and gnawing, self-doubt. Perhaps, these seeds of self-doubt were sown by embarrassing, childhood experiences; possibly, cynical, belittling, comments made by insecure and ambitious 'colleagues'... or ego-inflated 'friends' wanting to be the centre of attention at any cost.

But remember, each one of us is God's Glory, God's unique Creation! Remember the words of St. Irenaeus: *The Glory of God is the person who is fully alive!* We can experience that same *healing growth, and transformation* as the disciples did, by allowing the Holy Spirit to dwell within us, and work through us. It is then, we too, become the midwives and artisans of each other's souls, lives, gifts, talents and potential! It is then, we, too, become sacred channel of God's love and Spirit into the lives of those around us. It is then, in the often-repeated words of Rumi, that, *the beauty of what we love becomes what we do!*

Our Self-Worth, Self-Value and Self-Esteem are all-too-often impacted by our own limiting thoughts, and the words and actions of those around us. Our challenges today are (i) saying a 'yes' to the Healing, Transforming, Loving action of the Holy Spirit within our hearts and lives; (ii) in our own words and actions are we going to help those we meet to realise they are God's Glory and *unique* Creations?; (iii) are we going to heal and build the other's Self-Worth, Self-Value and Self-Esteem by affirming their God-given gifts, talents and potential?

The word *humility* is often misunderstood! It does not mean to deny the gifts and talents with which God has blessed us. Like Mary's example in the *Magnificat*, it means to acknowledge those God-given gifts and use them for the *Greater Glory of God*. Pentecost is the realisation of the glorifying presence of God's divine potential within us and within others.

Remember me as loving you,

Fr. Antony