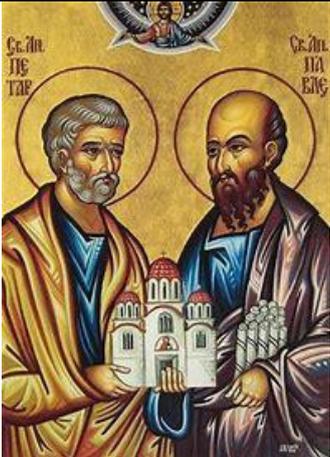


28th June 2020

St Peter and St Paul -Sunday: Year A Part 1

"I sought the Lord and he answered me; from all my terrors he set me free". Psalm 33

<p>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</p>		<p>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</p>	
Sun 28th June	Sts Peter and Paul	Vocations, Martin Plunkett intention	
Mon 29th June	Feria		
Tue 30th June	First Martyrs of Rome		
Wed 1 st July	St Oliver Plunkett		
Thurs 2 nd July	Feria		
Fri 3 rd July	St Thomas		
Sat 4 th July	Our Lady	Hugh Slevin RIP	
Sun 5th July.	14th Sunday Ordinary	Jim Shine RIP	
<p>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!</p>	<p>SUNDAY'S READINGS</p>  <p>1st Reading: Acts 12 1-11 Psalm: 33 2nd Reading: Timothy 4 6-8 17-18 Gospel: Matthew 16 13-19</p>	<p>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 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.</p>	

Weblink for mass: <https://youtu.be/DF8L7GHYWKU> available from 1000 Sunday

Weblink for children's liturgy

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/5xi8y4azybb8lcp/Children%27s%20Liturgy%20Video%2028.06.20.MOV?dl=0>

The Church will be open for private prayer on:
 Sunday 28th June from 1600-1800 (4-6 pm) Monday 29th June 1400-1600 (2-4pm)
 Wednesday 1900-2100 (7-9pm)

Please look out this week for further details on the arrangements for when Public Mass recommences.
Please turn over

My dear Friends:

Today, we are celebrating the feast of Saints Peter and Paul! Two men, fiercely strong in their faith; passionate, in their love for God; visionary, in their desire to make Jesus known...and, often determinedly entrenched in their understanding of faith and its traditions. Both of their souls burned with a furnace-like, evangelising zeal. However, they were two very different characters and personalities!

Peter's mission/remit was to the Jews. Paul's mission was to us, the gentiles! Peter believed that anyone who wanted to become a follower of Jesus, should first become a Jew, then a Jesus Follower. There was a raging debate that any male who wanted to be a follower of Jesus, should first be circumcised according to the rites of Jewish custom. Paul sidestepped this potentially, 'inconvenient' prerequisite with 'circumcision of the spirit'! They were certainly men of *vision*. However, although they were looking in the same direction, their view was through differing lenses!

Passion for God is a *passion* which should *hollow* the soul (just as a woodcarver scoops out wood to create a space in a carving)! This sometimes involves a painful digging into the *dross* of the ego, a dross which can make us hard, brittle, and ruthless. This hollowing to create a sacred space can then facilitate a *hallowing* (*making sacred or holy*) of the soul. This enables us to see through Christ's eyes. It empowers us to see God in the other. It opens the eyes of the soul to respond to that sacred presence, no matter what the circumstances, with *Love, Respect, and Reverence*. Gibran describes the dangers of an ego-fuelled passion when he writes: '*passion, unattended, is a flame that burns to its own destruction*'. Tragically, also, it often sears those around us, creating disharmony, woundedness and pain. As we have seen around our world, this is when 'great atrocities are committed in God's name'.

I believe Peter and Paul's rock-solid faith, and the diverse ways in which their lives were lived out with evangelical passion...their apostolic vision; their titanium strength and determination...indicated that each one of them was convinced that *his* approach was the vital, and '*his*' the *only* approach, to achieve God's sacred mission! So, although they loved each other, they were often at loggerheads! After 43 years in the priesthood, I have the feeling that the same could be said of all Faith Communities: there are dimensions of Peter and Paul in each one of us.

I think the challenge for all of us, blessed with the richness of our diverse ethnicities, cultures, and religious traditions, that makes us a Faith Family and Community, can be summed up in three words: *Love, Respect and Reverence*. This is a dimension of the Eucharist which *fuses* us into *Oneness*. There is a *oneness* which can be celebrated and lived out in our differences and diversity.

Burning with evangelical zeal and sacred passion, how can we, blessed with our cultural, religious and traditional differences, and personal histories, achieve this *oneness*? Essentially, this is a journey of *dialogue* in which people can acknowledge there is a

sameness of goals, yet a separation caused by a number of *differences*. It is not a question of trying to drag the other person into **my** way of thinking, but reverently listening, respectfully responding, and gently sustaining the differences in an environment of tolerance, cooperation and understanding. Peter and Paul resolved their differences by doing everything for the *Greater Glory of God*. Their *hollowing* and *hallowing* was also a journey of love, reverence and respect for the 'other'.

I think Kahlil Gibran sums up this sacred, and passionate quest when he wrote, '*work with Love, it is to weave the cloth with threads drawn from your heart*'.

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.

28th June 2020

St Peter and St Paul -Sunday: Year A Part 2

"I sought the Lord and he answered me; from all my terrors he set me free". Psalm 33

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

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

A message from Fr Antony

My dear Friends:

Rejoice! Rejoice! As I am sure you have heard, from July 1st we shall be 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 in a vulnerable group**.

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

1. We will let you know, this week, about the arrangements for coming to Mass. Numbers are limited at each Mass, according to governmental and diocesan requirements. Watch this space for more detailed information.
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 private prayer on:

Sunday June 28st from 1600-1800 (4-6pm).

Monday 29th June 1400-1600 (2-4pm)

Wednesday 1st July 1900-2100- (7-9-pm)

We-**urgently**- need stewards (3 per mass) for Sunday or weekday masses.

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! Thank you to Clare and Liz for helping with signage. A special thank you to Phil and Norman for reclaiming the church grounds from the jungle! Thank you also to our volunteer gardeners. Enjoy the outside green space if the weather is fine! At a social distance of course!

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 there are two attachments to the newsletter, one from the Bishop and one from the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales.

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 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/>

FORTHCOMING ONLINE EVENTS

28 June-3 July: **Telling A Better Story: Why Faith and Science Belong Together.** Summer course. For full details see www.faraday.institute/summercourse2020. This course will be online and is free. Talks will be recorded and made available.

Monday 29 June 7-8.15pm: **Peace, pandemics and plastic bottles – prioritising the future?**

When it feels as if different priorities are competing, how can we respond with integrity to God's call for justice and peace? Register [here](#) for the annual Beckly Lecture, delivered by Revd Dr Inderjit Bhogal, President of the Methodist Peace Fellowship.

Tuesday 30 June at 12.30pm: **Dominican Forum - 'Courage: neither Nick Leeson nor FTSE Tracker'**. An introduction to the cardinal virtue of courage. Talk by Fr Toby Lees OP looking at some of the ways that we are called to be courageous in contemporary society, at work and in the public sphere. To register please see [here](#).

Thursday 2 July (see website:US/UK timing unclear) **'What happened to the Second Coming?'**. A livestreamed lecture by Fr Richard Ounsworth OP of Blackfriars Oxford: <https://thomisticinstitute.org/quarantine-lectures>.

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>

Prayer for Vocations. Each week during June, Bishop Philip has asked us to say a prayer for vocations. This week: "That men and women called to proclaim the kingdom of God as priests, deacons and in the consecrated life, will be given the strength to overcome every obstacle to their response through prayer and the practice of virtue, we pray to the Lord. AMEN."

'Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it'

Could God be calling you to follow after Him in this life and into the next?

Contact Fr John Cooke vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or call 01329 318 869

QUIZ CORNER (answers below)¹

1. *Where am I?* Jesus performed three miracles here, one on the shore and two on/ in the water. What were the miracles?
2. *Who am I?* Jesus performed a miracle for my servant who was ill
3. *What am I?* Jochebed placed her child in this and sent him down the river Nile
4. *Who said?* "We become what we love and who we love shapes what we become. If we love things, we become a thing. If we love nothing, we become nothing. Imitation is not a literal mimicking of Christ, rather it means becoming the image of the beloved, an image disclosed through transformation. This means we are to become vessels of God's compassionate love for others."

Topic: Sacred Heart Novena Time: Jun 26, 2020 07:00 PM London- Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88643538515?pwd=MldNcnpyTUQwa0dScysxT21SYmxIUT09>

Meeting ID: 886 4353 8515 **Password:** 923045

One tap mobile

+442030512874,,88643538515#,,,0#,,923045#

Dial by your location 0203 051 2874 , 0203 481 5237 0203 481 5240

0131 460 1196

FEAST OF THE WEEK: Continuing the 40 Martyrs of England and Wales St Oliver Plunkett

St Oliver (feast-day 1 July) was a scholarly Irishman man who spent his early years as a priest and professor in Rome, until in 1669 he was suddenly appointed Archbishop of Armagh and sent back to Ireland to lead the pastoral work of the Church. He responded heroically to the challenge, since Ireland at that time was woefully short of priests and the people deprived of the sacraments. Hunted by the authorities, he travelled in disguise around the country building up the work of the Church through confirmations, establishing schools and seeking to correct the behaviour of lax priests. The effectiveness of his work won him further enemies, and eventually false witness was brought against him, accusing him of fomenting rebellion against the English crown and even of planning to organise a military invasion of Ireland by French soldiers. He was brought to trial in London, in the atmosphere of suspicion prompted by the fake Titus Oates plot, but he was deprived of the opportunity to bring witnesses to his defence and was condemned to death for the high treason of setting up a 'false religion'. His execution, by being hanged, drawn and quartered on 1 July 1681, was immediately recognised by many to have been completely unjustifiable, and in fact led to the suspension of capital punishment for priests from that time. He was the last Catholic martyr to be put to death in England. His body rests in a shrine at Downside Abbey. St Oliver, pray for us.

¹ (1) Sea of Galilee. Feeding 5000, walking on water, calming the storm (2) Roman Centurion (3)the Moses basket (4) St Clare of Assisi

SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL HELP AND SUPPORT

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

Just launched: The **Discretionary Grant Fund** is primarily aimed at small and micro businesses not eligible for the Small Business Grant or the Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Grant and suffering financial hardship as a result of COVID-19. <https://www.southampton.gov.uk/news/article.aspx?id=tcm:63-428872>

Poets Corner: (Thank you Dennis) SMALL TREASURES: GREAT RICHES

Whatever wealth may come our way, whatever lives we live,
Naught else can match the happiness a little child can give;
A child whose tiny, trusting hand is placed within your own,
Whose happy laughter while at play would melt a heart of stone;
A child who chatters knowingly and innocently charms;
A tired, or hurt, or frightened child who seeks your folding arms;
A child who takes a favoured book and clammers on your knee,
Or one whose upward stretching arms say, "Lift me up to see,"
And with those arms will hug your neck and o'er your shoulder peek,
And place a moist, but loving kiss upon your grateful cheek.

Dennis B. Wilson

We have received an update from Street Pastors who request prayers for the street people and also the re-opening of pubs on Saturday 4th July! This is now on the web.

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/5xi8y4azybb8lcp/Children%27s%20Liturgy%20Video%2028.06.20.MOV?dl=0>

In the Portsmouth E bulletin the following items may be of interest-

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

- Refugee Day <https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/refugee-day-caritas-portsmouth>
- CAFOD news <https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/cafods-summer-of-hope>
or cafod.org.uk/SummerofHope

Taken from the enews, for the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul!

The smallest city and state in the world with under 1000 population!

