

2017

WELCOME TO THE IMMACULATE



Parish Pastoral Council

Portsmouth Catholic Diocese

28-Feb-17

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A WARM WELCOME FROM FATHER ANTONY GATT



Immaculate Conception has a diversity of ethnicities, cultures, religious traditions and socio economic backgrounds each of which is in religiously creative dialogue with the “other”. This has enabled parishioners to experience enriching facets of Catholic tradition and enabled them to interface the missions, *ecclesia ad intra* and *ecclesia ad extra*.

The parish is dynamic, spiritual, creative and demonstrates impressive initiative, commitment and dedication. Because of our proximity to the University of Southampton, we are blessed with a number of students, current and retired faculty, and staff who have made this Faith Community their religious homes.

Almost every continent is represented in this parish associated with migration and university proximity. Standard services are in English. However, special events/feasts have been celebrated by the priest in Italian, Spanish, Fijian, Latin and Pidgin English.

A DIVERSE AND INTERNATIONAL PARISH



INTERNATIONAL WELCOME MESSAGES

 Benin		 Cameroon	
 China	欢迎 (Mandarin).	 Denmark	Velkommen til Immaculate Cnception kirke!
 England	Welcome to the Immaculate Conception.	 Egypt	
 Fiji	Ni bula vinaka. Au kidavaki kemuni kece sara ki na Parisi ni Immaculate Conception.	 France	Bienvenue a la conception immaculee eglise de Portswood.
 Ghana	Di zanim! (Kasem) Akwaaba! (Twi)	 Hungary	
 India	ഇമ്മാക്കുലേറ്റ് കോൺസെപ്ഷൻ ചുർച്ചിലേഖ് സ്വാഗതം! (Malayalam, spoken in Kerala)	 Italy	Benvenuti nella chiesa dell'Immacolata Concezione
 Kenya	Karibu kwa kanisa yetu Immaculate Conception. (Swahili)	 Lithuania	Sveiki atvykę į Immaculate Conception.
 Malaysia	Selamat Datang. (Malay)	 Malta	Mernba lill-knisja-Immakulata Kuncizzjoni to Portswood.
 Mexico		 Nigeria	Nnọọ n'ụlọ ụka anyị! (Igbo)
 Poland	Zapraszamy do niepokalanego poczenia kościoła w Portswoodw Southampton.	 Portugal	Bem-vindo a igreja de concepcão immaculate de Portswood.
 Republic of Ireland	Fáilte go hEaglais Mhuire gan Smál.	 Rwanda	Murakza neza muli kiliziya ya Immakurata Conception. (Kinyarwanda)
 Sierra Leone	Mi fambul dem, unna welcome to the Immaculate Conception Church.	 Slovakia	
 South Africa	Welkom by die Onbevleete Kerk van Portswood. (Afrikaans) Sad asiyongcamango ibandla yessimbo ePortswood. (Xhosa)	 South Sudan	
 Spain	Bienvenido a la Concepción Inmaculada.	 The Philippines	Maligayang pagdating sa Immaculate Conception Church.
 Uganda	Ba kutisto baganda baffe Tubaniriza ku kigwa ekitukuvu mmakulata concepcion keleziya. (Luganda)	 Ukraine	Ласкаво просимо
 Zambia		 Zimbabwe	Mauya! (Shona) Semukeleni! (Ndebele)

HISTORY OF THE CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

We are part of the larger Pastoral Area, within the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth.



The land on which the church and presbytery are built was bought in 1909. Fr Nagle, a priest from St Edmund's Catholic Church in Southampton, was appointed to the Portswood Mission, as it was then known. Within months, an iron church was built, still known by some as 'the old tin church', and this building was blessed by Bishop Cahill on February 20th, 1910.

We became a parish in 1931, and Fr Lindsay was appointed as our first Parish Priest. Fr Lindsay saw the parish through the war, and he had the statue erected in the garden in thanksgiving for the survival of the property despite the bombing. Fr Walter Lynch came in 1948 with the ambition of opening a new church alongside the 'tin church'. This was realised on March 25th 1955.

Table 1: Time line of import events in the Immaculate Conception Church

Year	Event
1909	Land on which the church is build was bought.
1910	Construction of the old tin church.
1931	Immaculate Conception church becomes a parish.
1948	Father Walter Lynch becomes Parish priest.
1955	A new church is opened alongside the tin church.
1960	
1970	
1980	
1990	
2000	
2015	
2010	
2015	
2017	

PRAYER CARD



Hail Mary, full of grace.

Our Lord is with thee.

Blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb,
Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.









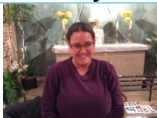
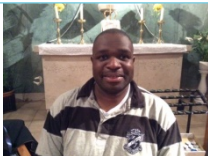

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

We have a very active Parish Council which strives to address the life of this Faith Community including financial, structural, charitable, personnel, etc. Each person has a specific remit, or chairs a subcommittee to address the multiplicity of issues involved in nurturing and developing the spiritual and religious life of a community. The Parish Pastoral Council consists of the Parish Priest, the Parish Treasurer, and up to twelve elected members, who each serve for a period of three years. Meetings of the Parish Council are held monthly, usually on the first Wednesday of the month.

Items are raised face to face with members of the PPC, as well as letters or emails sent to the PPC. These are addressed, discussed and acted upon at the monthly meetings. Minutes are published on the parish website with copies are available in the church porch.

You can email the Parish Council at ppc@catholic-portswood.org.uk or write to the Chair care of the Parish Office.

The Parish Council for the Year 2016-2017 is:

Member name and Area of responsibility			
			
Father Antony Gatt Parish Priest	Roy Budden	Steph Churchill	Tom Churchill Chair & Property
			
Amber Cook, President of University Catholic Society; University Liaison	Mary Gobbi Deputy chair & Liturgy	Chris Gough Treasurer & Finance	Amie Kamanda
			
Deidre Michels	Simba Tanyanyiwa Fundraising and Human Resources	Anne Work Outreach	

PARISH GROUPS AND CONTACTS

Within Immaculate Conception Faith Community, we have a multiplicity of groups which enthusiastically address the Church's missions *ecclesia ad intra* and *ecclesia ad extra*. The groups in the parish are: liturgy, support, young people, mission, devotional and social, and general groups.

Liturgy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liturgy Coordinating Group • Choir • Altar Servers • Children's Liturgy • Eucharistic Ministers • Readers 	Support Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Luke's (Bereavement) Group • Luncheon Club • Society of St Vincent de Paul • Sunday lunches for the homeless 	Children and young people's Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rainbows, Brownies and Guides • Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers • Dance and Drama • I C Cools
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offertory Procession • Flower Arrangers 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Choir
Mission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Association for the Propagation of the Faith • Justice and Peace Group 	Devotional and Social Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prayer Group • Ramblers • Roselands House Group • Churches Together in Swaythling and Bassett Ladies' Group • Union of Catholic Mothers (UCM) 	General <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bookshop and Repository • Church maintenance

LITURGY GROUPS



There are two liturgy groups. The first addresses the liturgical celebration of Christmas and Easter. The other, (i) coordinates the multiplicity of groups within the parish to ensure that there are no conflicting events or liturgical celebrations; (ii) co-ordinates the various music of the traditional, international and youth choirs; create liturgies and their IT presentation on the church screens; (iii) strives to enrich, expand and develop the collective and ethnic community's experience of God, and develop the spiritual and devotional lives of the community; and, (iv) endeavour to

help the community to be better informed Catholics by the educational and catechetical programmes within the parish and pastoral area.

ALTAR SERVERS

Servers have the important role of ensuring the smooth running of the celebration of the Eucharist. Boys and girls who have made their First Communion are eligible to become servers. Training takes place at regular intervals, usually on a Saturday morning. Servers must attend Mass regularly, and it is helpful if it is one particular Mass, in order to establish teams who know one another and co-operate well. Experienced servers take on positions of responsibility and may be called upon to serve at extra Masses, Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals.

CHURCH CHOIR

The Parish Choir leads the music at the 10.30 Mass on Sunday mornings and other important liturgies such as those at Christmas and Easter. In some pieces the choir is accompanied by the organ alone; in others by the piano and other instruments. New members, both players and singers, are welcome. An ability to read music is not essential.

INTERNATIONAL CHOIR

This group sings at 10.30 Mass every **xxx Sunday** in the month, and also contribute to masses on special occasions. The group also serves as a social network for the African Community of the parish. All members of the parish are welcome.

FLOWER ARRANGERS

This group is responsible for the flower displays in the Church. Less experienced flower arrangers will be teamed up with someone who has more experience. Time commitment is only once a month, a couple of hours on a Friday or Saturday, whichever best suits the volunteer. Every one of all ages and abilities is welcome to join.

MISSION GROUPS



ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROPAGATION OF FAITH

This is a Missionary organisation that provides practical help, in the form of medical supplies, education, well building, irrigation etc., in poorer countries.

Supporting their work is as simple as requesting a Red Mission Box from the Parish organiser and putting in what you can afford, when you can afford it. Volunteer 'promoters' are also needed to collect the money when required.

JUSTICE AND PEACE GROUP

The group meets at least four times a year. Subjects studied include bio-piracy, climate change, sustainable development, militarism, and globalisation. The group welcomes new members. Their work includes:

Amnesty International: Every year the Parish encourages individuals to send messages of support and solidarity to the victims of torture, human rights abuses and unjust imprisonment.

Pax Christi: The parish arranges appropriate liturgies and prayer vigils, especially in relation to Peace Sunday annually in January. Members promote peace education and campaign against Arms Trade.

Traidcraft: We are a Fair Trade Parish, agreeing to serve only fairly traded tea and coffee at parish events, and promoting Fair Trade goods after Masses on the first Sunday of the month.

CAFOD: This Catholic aid organisation provides practical help and medical aid in the Third World. Parishioners hold monthly cake sales after Masses on the first Sunday of the month to raise money for CAFOD.

SUPPORT GROUPS



ST. LUKE'S GROUP

St Luke's Group aims to help the recently bereaved to deal with their loss, and offer a listening ear, friendship or practical help, and to support the priest and the family at the funeral.

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

The SVP is a Care Society whose members visit people in their own homes, in Nursing and Residential Homes and in Hospitals. As

well as offering a good listening ear, the SVP offer practical, personal and sometimes financial support in many different, confidential ways. The **Society in Portswood meets most Thursday evenings at 8.15pm in the Presbytery, and new members are always welcome.**

SUNDAY LUNCHES FOR THE HOMELESS

Every Sunday of the year (except Christmas) two teams of volunteers (gather at the United Reform Church in Freemantle and the Institute in Victoria Road in Woolston, to provide free Sunday Lunches for the homeless. **The time commitment required from volunteer helpers is approximately 4 hours, between 10am and 2pm, once every 7 weeks. New helpers are always needed.**

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S GROUPS



CHILDREN'S LITURGY

At the 10.30 Mass on most Sundays children aged 4-7 (prior to First Communion) are invited to go to the Church Hall to celebrate their own Liturgy of the Word. This is interactive, simple and full of faith. There are trained catechists to lead the sessions. Children leaven after the entrance hymn and return to join the Mass after the offertory. All children, including visitors, are welcome, and parents may go with their children if they wish. More helpers are always welcome. For more info contact Sue Deadman.

YOUTH GROUP

The current youth meets on Mondays from 5-7pm in the Parish Hall for a sharing of faith, fun and friendship. It is led by 3 trained experienced Youth leaders. The group explores and discusses faith topics, play games and

enjoy some food and drinks. The age ranges from 6 to 14 years. During the year, it supports various Parish events. The group welcomes new members. For more information contact Steve Deadman.

YOUTH CHOIR

All young people 8-25 years are welcome to join the youth choir as it prepares and lead the music for the 3rd Sunday of each month. The choir sings all styles and play various instruments. It is fun, using talents of youths in the parish. For more information, please contact Steve Deadman.

DANCE AND DRAMA GROUP

For young people aged 5 to 14 years. The group meets in the Parish Hall on Wednesday evenings 6 to 8 pm to develop dance skills in a fun way. The focus is on ballet, tap dance and modern dance. A variety of styles of music and technique are used. All training is free. The group aims to do 2 shows a year at Christmas and summer for the Parish and local community. For more info contact Sue Deadman.

SCOUTS, CUBS AND BEAVERS

The 'Twenty Ninth' Scout Group is a mixed group for boys and girls, and meets at the Scout Hut in Brickfield Road:

- Beavers meet on Wednesdays from 6.15-7.15pm (for 6-8 year olds)
- Cubs meet on Tuesdays from 6.30-8pm (for 8-10 year olds)
- Scouts meet on Fridays from 7.15-9.15pm (for 10-15 year olds)

The groups offer outdoor activities, camping, hikes, badge work (with emphasis on First Aid and Safety) and above all the opportunity to make new friends.

GUIDES, BROWNIES AND RAINBOWS

The 6th Southampton Guide Company **meets in the Church Hall on Thursdays** in term time:

- Rainbows meet from 4.30-5.30pm (for girls aged 5-7)
- Brownies meet from 5.30-7.30pm (for girls aged 7-10)
- Guides meet from 7.30-9pm (for girls aged 10-15)

Guides and Brownies learn a wide variety of skills and are awarded badges for their achievements. There are also opportunities for camping/pack holidays and activity events with other Guide companies. Rainbows are a less formal group, aimed mainly at enjoyment in the context of learning activities. The groups depend for their continued existence upon committed adult help. Volunteers, including teenagers are welcome.

DEVOTIONAL AND SOCIAL GROUPS



This group consists of: Prayer Group; Ramblers; Roselands House Group; Churches Together in Swaythling and Bassett Ladies' Group and Union of Catholic Mothers (UCM).

RAMBLERS GROUP

All are welcome to this informal walking/social group, young and old, families and individuals, anybody who enjoys walks in the countryside. The walks are not usually more than 5 miles. There are no elected 'leaders' and anyone who wishes to may lead a walk. Walks and events are advertised in the parish newsletter, and members usually meet in the Church car park before walks. In addition to the walks the group also have a dinner in the New Year

and an occasional social event such as a skittles evening.

COVENANT LADIES' GROUP

This is a social group within the Swaythling and Bassett Covenant of Churches. Meetings are monthly, usually on the second Friday of the month, and are held at the Churches in the group in rotation. A diary of events is posted at the back of the church, and details of forthcoming events are published in the newsletter. Events have included guest speakers, quiz evenings and a garden tea amongst other things. There is also always a joint Christmas celebration. New members are especially welcome and suggestions for events are always helpful.

ROSELANDS HOUSE GROUP

The Roselands Group meets to foster Christian fellowship by discussion of current religious and social topics affecting us and the Church. Meetings are held monthly, usually on Tuesdays, in members homes in an informal manner. Meetings are advertised in the newsletter, and new members are always welcome.

GENERAL

BOOKSHOP AND REPOSITORY

The shop, which is on the right as you enter the church, displays a variety of books on a wide range of topics. The stock is ordered through Redemptorist Publications, on a sale or return basis. The shop also stocks cards for all occasions, statues, crucifixes, rosaries etc. A team of parishioners, working on a rota system, opens the shop before and after Sunday Masses. If you wish to order a particular book/article, please enquire.

CHURCH MAINTENANCE (FABIRC GROUP)

This is a small group of people who look after the fabric of the church buildings – church, hall and presbytery – and arrange for repairs and maintenance to be carried out. Volunteers are always welcome to join this group, particularly those with any experience in buildings maintenance.

CONTACTS

		Email	Telephone
Support Groups			
St Luke's Group	Audrey Campbell		
Hospitality Group	Sue Deadman		
St Vincent de Paul Society	Anne Dempsey		
Sunday Lunches	Steve Deadman		
Devotional and Social Groups			
Ladies' Churches Together	Pat Walker		
Buildings and Grounds			
Site management	Eleanor Gough		
Church cleaners	Eleanor Gough		
Brass cleaners	Ann Dunkley		
Hall bookings	Christina O'Riordan	portswoodpa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk	8055 5470
Garden maintenance	Kathy White		
General			
Repository	Clare Lindfield		
Porch organisation	Church Office	portswood@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk	8055 5470
Parish Pastoral Council Members 2016			
Priests/Deacons in the Pastoral Area/Deanery			
St Patrick's, Woolston	Fr Claro Conde	eastside@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk	8044 8671
Christ the King,	Fr James Carling	ckscolasb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk	80449088

Bitterne			
Deacon at Woolston	Peter Silsbury	psilsbury@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk	8047 7158
St Edmund's	Mgr Vincent Harvey	southamptoncitycentre@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk	8033 3589

Note: For all other enquiries, please contact the parish office.

VOLUNTEERING

You can become an active member of the Immaculate Conception Church by volunteering with the groups in the parish. Why not join the Parish Council, act as Eucharistic minister, reader, or be part of our friendly “welcomers” team?

REFRESHMENTS AFTER 10.30AM MASS



Volunteers are needed to join the rota for providing tea and coffee in the hall after 10.30 Mass on Sundays. Usually each person (or people) on the rota take on responsibility for a month, but arrangements can be flexible. It can be a family or a group of friends. Please contact Sue Callinan (sue.callinan@yahoo.co.uk) if you can help.

MINISTERS AND READERS



EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Eucharistic Ministers help with the distribution of Communion at Mass, and lead Eucharistic Services and take Communion to the sick or housebound when needed. Parishioners who undertake this ministry follow a course of training.

READERS

These are parishioners that have committed themselves to read on a regular basis at weekday and Sunday Masses, and on other special occasions. Parishioners who are willing to join a team are very welcome. Training is available, if needed. Please contact Veronica White (email:

veronica.3@sky.com) for 8.30 mass and Rob Callen (email: robchoin@hotmail.com) for 10.30 mass or Rosemary Spencer for either masses.

WELCOMERS

We are in need of volunteers to welcome people as they come to Mass on Sundays and make sure that visitors and new parishioners are made to feel welcome.

GARDEN

We are privileged to have a lovely garden round the church, and helpers are always welcome to help keep it tidy - weeding, sweeping, hedge trimming etc. (Grass cutting and tree lopping are done professionally).

CHURCH CLEANERS

Four teams of parishioners are employed on a 4-weekly rota basis to clean the Church, including the Sanctuary, Lady Chapel and Sacristy. Volunteers are always needed.

BRASS CLEANERS

Cleaning of the brass in the church is done once a fortnight. There are at present 6 teams of 2 people whose turn comes round about once every two months. Volunteers are welcome.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION: CAN YOU HELP?

The following groups exist within our parish and can be found in the Parish Directory. Please have a look at the list and tick any group **You** would be happy to join....

Liturgy	Young People	Support Groups	Building & Grounds
<input type="checkbox"/> Liturgy coordinating group	<input type="checkbox"/> Rainbows	<input type="checkbox"/> St Luke's group (Bereavement)	<input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance Group
<input type="checkbox"/> Altar servers	<input type="checkbox"/> Brownies	<input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality Group	<input type="checkbox"/> Church Cleaners
<input type="checkbox"/> Children's Liturgy	<input type="checkbox"/> Guides	<input type="checkbox"/> Life Group	<input type="checkbox"/> Brass Cleaners
<input type="checkbox"/> Eucharistic Ministers	<input type="checkbox"/> Scouts	<input type="checkbox"/> St Dismas Society	<input type="checkbox"/> Garden Maintenance
<input type="checkbox"/> Readers	<input type="checkbox"/> Cub scouts	<input type="checkbox"/> Lent Lunches	<input type="checkbox"/> Health & Safety
<input type="checkbox"/> Offertory Procession	<input type="checkbox"/> Beavers	<input type="checkbox"/> Sunday Lunches	<input type="checkbox"/> Bookshop
<input type="checkbox"/> Preparing Bidding Prayers	<input type="checkbox"/> Dance & Drama	<input type="checkbox"/> St Vincent de Paul Society	<input type="checkbox"/> St. Michael's Room books
<input type="checkbox"/> Sacristan team	<input type="checkbox"/> Youth club	<input type="checkbox"/> Men's group	<input type="checkbox"/> Display boards
<input type="checkbox"/> Musicians		<input type="checkbox"/> Welcoming on Sundays	<input type="checkbox"/> Tidy up after 10.30 Mass
<input type="checkbox"/> Choir		<input type="checkbox"/> Ushers	
<input type="checkbox"/> International Choir		<input type="checkbox"/> Christmas Day lunch	
<input type="checkbox"/> Flower Arrangers		<input type="checkbox"/> Altar linen laundry	
<input type="checkbox"/> Spirituality Group			
<input type="checkbox"/> Screens operator/IT			
Missions	Devotional & Social Groups	Councils & Committees	
<input type="checkbox"/> A.P.F. (Red Mission Boxes)	<input type="checkbox"/> Ramblers	<input type="checkbox"/> Parish Pastoral Council	
<input type="checkbox"/> Justice & Peace group	<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday Coffee & chat group	<input type="checkbox"/> Pastoral Area Council	
<input type="checkbox"/> Amnesty International	<input type="checkbox"/> Roseland House Group	<input type="checkbox"/> Gift Aid	
<input type="checkbox"/> Pax christi	<input type="checkbox"/> Ladies' Covenant Group	<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative Assistance	
<input type="checkbox"/> Covenant of Churches	<input type="checkbox"/> Rosary Group	<input type="checkbox"/> Finance Committee	
<input type="checkbox"/> CAFOD	<input type="checkbox"/> Sunday Teas & Coffees	<input type="checkbox"/> Collection Counters	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Christmas Fayre Group	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Fund Raising	

Your details:

Name:.....

Phone No Date:

E-mail

Address:

Please use the space overleaf for any comments or suggestions that you wish to make.
Thank you

MASS TIMES

Mass	Sun 08:30; 10:30 (<i>sung</i>); Holy day 10:00; 19:30
Rosary	said weekday mass on Wednesday, starting 25 mins before Mass
Reconciliation	Saturday 10:30 (<i>After Mass</i>)
Confessions	Saturday at 10.30am after morning Mass

Changes to Mass times and special services are advertised in the weekly Parish Newsletter.

PARISH DIRECTORY



If you need to speak to the Parish Secretary, the Parish Office is usually open on Tuesdays from 9.00am until 12.30pm and on Fridays from 9.00am until 2.30pm (see 'Parish News' for any alterations).

Role	Name	Contact
Parish Priest	Father Antony Gatt	(023) 8055 5470
University Chaplain	Sister Catherine Cruz	(023) 8059 4622
Hospital Chaplain	Father Michael Cronin	(023) 8079 8517
Hall Bookings	Parish Assistant - Christina O'Riordan	(023) 8055 5470 (Wed & Thu 09:00-12:30) or outside these times email enquiries (date/day & time) & your contact details to portswoodpa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Health and Safety Officer	Killian Mandiki	(023) 8073 3081
Safeguarding Officer	Pat Saunders	(023) 8044 2189
Disability Representative	Reena Kelleher	(023) 8055 1038
Parish Secretary	Rosemary Spencer	(023) 8055 5470



Immaculate Conception Church, Portsmouth Catholic Diocese

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