

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

**15<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Year A**

*'Speak Lord, your servant is Listening'*

**Immaculate Conception Church**

Within the Pastoral Area of Southampton East  
346 Portswood Road, Southampton, SO17 3SB  
Tel: (023) 8055 5470  
Website: [www.immaculateconception.church](http://www.immaculateconception.church)  
Email: [portswood@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto: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)

**Enquiries re the Sacraments:**



please make an appointment by email.

**Hall Bookings** are **not** being taken at present .

**BOOKING TO ATTEND MASS**

**PLEASE NOTE** due to current government guidelines, available capacity in the church is limited to 40 persons / 14 households except Saturday when it is 24. Therefore, attendance at mass is through the BOOKABLE SYSTEM ONLY

**Details of how to book a place for Holy Mass are on the last page of this newsletter and on the parish website.**

<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July. 1000</b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time</b>	Maureen Howard RIP	 <p><b>SUNDAY'S READINGS</b>  <b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b> Isaiah 55 10-11  <b>Psalm:</b> 64  <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b> Romans 8 18-23  <b>Gospel:</b> Matt 13 1-23</p>  <p><b>Weblink for this week:</b>  <a href="#">Children's Liturgy Video 12.07.20.mp4</a></p>
<b>Sun 12<sup>th</sup> July 1730 (5.30pm)</b>	<b>Sunday Mass available on:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youtube</li> <li>• Facebook</li> <li>• Parish Website</li> </ul> from 1000 Sunday. <b>*Saturday</b> Mass is recorded for Sunday		
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> July	St Henry	No service	
Tues 14 <sup>th</sup> July 1000	St Camillus of Lellis		
Wed 15 <sup>th</sup> July 1930	St Swithun	Special intention	
Thurs 16 <sup>th</sup> July 1200 noon	Our Lady of Mount Carmel		
Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> July 1930	St Bonaventure	Special intention	
*Sat 18 <sup>th</sup> July 1000*	Our Lady		
<b>Sun 19<sup>th</sup> July. 1000</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	John Coffey RIP	
<b>Sun 19<sup>th</sup> 1730- 5.30pm</b>	<b>Ordinary Time</b>	Sheila Goreham RIP	



**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***

**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 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*

**Contacting the parish .....**

While the Parish Office is often physically closed, the Parish email is still checked.  
For non-urgent matters please send an email to [portswood@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto: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.

My dear Friends

How many times have we heard this incredibly beautiful gospel about the sower of the seeds?! I can almost hear your thoughts: I know what he is going to say next...our words and actions are the seeds we plant, and then the fruit, or crop, we harvest!!! Jesus does explain the parable to the disciples about what can block us from 'receiving' the Word of God – hearts which have become coarse and hardened, and lock out his love; ears that no longer 'hear' *his* voice, but have tuned into other, easier-to -listen-to, 'stations'; and eyes which have been blinded by *ego*, *greed* and *power*. Welcome to the human condition!

However, Fr. Dennis Hamm, S.J., unfolds other facets for understanding the symbols of *sower* and *seeds* in this gospel: ...*There is reason to make seed serve as a double-duty symbol. Indeed, Matthew, in the scene immediately preceding this parable's discourse, **has provided an episode illustrating how a community of people is created by their response to the word of God*** (bolding of font, mine!). *When Jesus is told that his mother and brothers are standing outside asking to speak with him, Jesus stretches out his hand toward his disciples and says, "Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of my heavenly Father is my brother, and sister, and mother" ([Mt 12:49-50](#)).*

If I am not mistaken, the *will of my heavenly Father* is that we truly *Love* one another! Please bear with me patiently here, as I remind us that when Jesus speaks about 'Love' it has nothing to do with a warm, fuzzy sentiment! It is the **AGAPE**, the *foundation, translation, interpretation*, of our love for, and relationship with God, and others. This is embodied in the ways in which we **Care, Respect** and are **Just** towards others...and I guess, ourselves, too!

One of the tragedies of a distorted, *passionate love of God* can be the ways in which, in our quest to embody his message, we can become ruthlessly *hardened, deaf and blind* to the **foundational Agape** of God's Love! Globally and communally, this is experienced in the '*atrocities committed in God's name*'. A consuming passion for what one person perceives God wants, can result in the 'other' becoming mere collateral damage to this distorted quest.

I guess, today, we have to reflect on, not just the seeds we plant, but the **care, respect and justice** required in planting them.

Remember me as loving you,

Fr. Antony

## SAINT OF THE WEEK: ST JOHN PLESSINGTON

### Continuing the Series on the 40 Martyrs of England and Wales (thank you Dudley)

Ordained under the assumed name of Scarisbrick in 1662 in Spain, St John (feast-day 12 July) ministered in Wales, at the Holywell shrine of St Frideswide, and then in the Wirral, where he pretended to be tutor to a family of children. Following the fabrication of the Titus Oates plot, he was arrested in 1679 as one of more than 25 innocent Catholics who were accused of treason and executed. His speech from the scaffold proclaimed his innocence of any crime in being a priest, 'But I know it will be said that a priest ordained by authority derived from the See of Rome is, by the Law of the Nation, to die as a Traitor, but if that be so what must become of all the Clergymen of the Church of England, for the first Protestant Bishops had their Ordination from those of the Church of Rome, or not at all, as appears by their own writers so that Ordination comes derivatively from those now living.' He also declared, 'I protest in the sight of God and the court of Heaven that I am absolutely innocent of the plot so much discoursed of and abhor such bloody and damnable designs.... I had rather die than doubt any point of faith taught by our holy Mother, the Roman Catholic Church.... God bless the King..., and grant His Majesty a prosperous reign here and a crown of glory hereafter.' This is the material of which martyrs are made, whose only goal was the restoration of the country to the true faith, so that his merits and intercession are part of the treasury of grace available to us today through our prayers. St John, pray for us.

#### QUIZ CORNER (answers below)<sup>1</sup>

1. *Where am I?* I have been moved several times over the last 2000 years. I was taken from Jerusalem to Constantinople and then gifted to Louis 1X of France in about 1238. I survived the French Revolution and a recent fire. What am I and Where am I now?
2. *Who am I?* I was born in Galilee and, with my brother, witnessed Jesus' ministry. My bones lie in Rome. I asked a question at the Last Supper. Of what am I the patron saint?
3. *What am I?* Tradition has it that I was built in the 4<sup>th</sup> century on the remains of a sacred but sorrowful trail. Today, I am owned by many ecclesial organisations.
4. *Who said?* "You don't love someone for their looks, or their clothes, or for their fancy car, but because they sing a song only you can hear."

#### Do you know how to use hand sanitizer properly?

Here is a useful World Health Organization video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZnSjFr6J9HI>

#### Do you know how to wear a face mask/covering properly? These two videos may be of help!

<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>

All these links can be found on the parish website Documents + Resource Links menu objects.

<sup>1</sup> (1) Notre Dame of Paris until the fire and now the Louvre- the crown of Thorns (2) St Jude Thaddaeus brother of James

[https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint\\_id=127](https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=127) patron saint of lost /hopeless causes

(3) Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Jerusalem (4) Oscar Wilde

## **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.

### **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/>

### **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](mailto:headoffice@ksc.org.uk), or visit their website [here](#).

### **Weekly newsletter from the diocese**

Perhaps you might like to sign up to this?

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

This week:

- the Bishop has attached the Litany of the Precious Blood

<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/litany-of-the-precious-blood>.

- there is an exclusive scholarship offer (B Divinity) at Maryvale Institute for 50% first year fees see

<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/exclusive-maryvale-institute-scholarship-offer-for-2020-21>

### **This week's Catholic Bishops' News**

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/news-and-media/news/> has items on climate change, the new Papal Nuncio and a reminder for European citizens not to forget to apply for 'settled status'.

**The Pope's prayer intention for July** is that "families be loved, respected, guided." To watch the video- <https://www.popesprayer.va/>

**Poets Corner: (Thank you Dennis )**  
**Words and Actions**

When toil, want or grief make a difficult road,  
There are those who will join in the weeping;  
But the one who takes action to lighten the load  
Is the friend who is really worth keeping.

There are those who stay mute, or but mildly protest,  
When they hear a friend unjustly slighted;  
But the one worth his salt is the one who won't rest  
'Till he knows that the wrong has been righted.

While a 'thank-you' in words is a courtesy due,  
And no more if repeated or shouted;  
Yet a simple return by a service or two  
Proffers thanks that can never be doubted.

There is love that is told, and there's love that is shown,  
As from deep in the heart it comes welling;  
But worthless is love that is told but not shown;  
While love that is shown needs no telling.

Dennis B. Wilson

**A prayer for our time found by Una.**

**THE BEATITUDES by Jamaican Jesuit Rohan Tulloch**

Blessed are those who stayed indoors for they protected others.

Blessed are the unemployed for they recognised their dependence on God.

Blessed are the postal workers and delivery persons who brought us essential needs.

Blessed are the front line workers who stood between us and the grave  
- May they see the Face of God.

Blessed are the garbage collectors who, when faced with mountains of rubbish,  
still could discern the handiwork of God.

Blessed are the single parents who kept on being responsible 24/7. God does not forget them.

Blessed are those who are alone - may they never forget they are God's children.

## Arrangements for attending Mass

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

**Sundays: 1000 and 1730 (5.30pm)**

**Tuesdays 1000**

**Wednesdays 1930-7.30pm**

**Thursdays 1200 (noon)**

**Fridays 1930 (7.30pm)**

**Saturday 1000 – for those with special circumstances- recorded Sunday mass**

**Email booking : [icmassbookings@gmail.com](mailto:icmassbookings@gmail.com) (preferred)**

**080024613720 for those with no internet.**

**If you have not already booked your normal 'weekly mass time' then:**

- i) Send an email request to this email address: [icmassbookings@gmail.com](mailto:icmassbookings@gmail.com) and state
  - a. Your name and address.
  - b. The total number in your household coming to Mass (let us know if there are under 10s).
  - c. The preference for the day of the week and mass time you wish to attend. (If you can give a second choice that will help if there are too many requests for one Mass time).
  - d. Whether there is a special circumstance (e.g. wheelchair access, working hours)
- ii) Call this number **0800 2461372** and leave a message. We provide this option for those who have no access to the internet. If you have internet access, please email us.

**You must specify the day of week and time you would like to attend Mass.** This will be your usual Mass time each week. For the time being, *you cannot book more than one Mass a week* to allow as many people as possible to attend Mass. We are asking those who are retired, and those who can attend a Mass during the week, to sign up for a weekday Mass. Please do not 'swop' mass bookings, rather cancel them through the booking system, so we can release seats for those on shift work etc. Those who work unpredictable shifts should email us on a Wednesday for the following week. When your booking is confirmed, you will receive details of your seat and row number in Church. Numbers 1-10 are on the Sacristy side and 11-20 on the Lady Chapel side. Please try to arrive at the recommended time so we can prevent a queue.

**There will be no toilet facilities available.**

**Each mass must have 3 stewards**, so please volunteer if you can by emailing the office.

**Attending mass:** There is a one-way system operating in the church, with the entrance through the main porch and exit through the side fire exits. Please see the details on the website and the noticeboard as you enter church. Please feel free to wear a face covering /gloves in church except to receive Holy Communion. Collection boxes are available for offerings on the way out. 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. Diocesan / Government guidance states that:

- You will need to sanitize your hands on the way in and out of church.
- The congregation should not stand or kneel during mass as this reduces social distance.

Capacity for Mass: Sunday- Friday included – 40 people or 14 households

Capacity for Saturday mass (recorded) excluding households- 27

**Portsmouth R.C. Diocesan Trustees Registered Charity No 246871**