

21st March 2021

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR B

“If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my Servant will be there too”
(John 12:26)


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: office@immaculateconception.church
Facebook: Immaculate Conception Church, Portswood
Twitter: @icportswood

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 .

ALL MASSES ADVERTISED BELOW ARE AVAILABLE TO JOIN LIVE, ONLINE AT
www.churchservices.tv/portswoodchur
SEE BELOW FOR DETAILS OF HOW TO BOOK WEEKEND MASSES IN LENT

Date	Solemnities & Feast days	Mass Times	Mass details & intentions	 THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS 1st Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34 Psalm: 50:3-4,12- 2nd Reading: Hebrews 5:7-9 Gospel: John 12:20-30
Sun 21 Mar	FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT	10.00 am 5.30 pm	Attendance bookable †Thelma Ridley RIP Attendance bookable	
Mon 22 Mar	of the 5 th week of Lent	-	No Mass	
Tues 23 Mar	of the 5 th week of Lent	10.00 am	ONLINE ONLY	
Wed 24 Mar	of the 5 th week of Lent	10.00 am	ONLINE ONLY	
Thurs 25 Mar	The Annunciation of the Lord	10.00 am	ONLINE ONLY	
Fri 26 Mar	of the 5 th week of Lent	10.00 am	ONLINE ONLY	
Sat 27 Mar	of the 5 th week of Lent	10.00 am	Attendance bookable Denis & Naomi Philpot RIP	
Sun 28 Mar	PALM SUNDAY of the Passion of the Lord	10.00 am 5.30 pm	Attendance bookable 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

BOOKING TO ATTEND MASS

Bookings for the weekend Masses must be made by the Wednesday beforehand by e mail or by phone (if you don't have internet access). Please let us know your name, and how many seats you would like.

E mail: icmassbookings@gmail.com

Tel: 08002461372 (only for those without internet)

The Parish Bank Account details are:

Name: PRCOTR 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

Parish office hours

Tues, Weds, Thurs 9.30 am – 4.00 pm

The Call to Die

“Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit.” [John 12:24](#)

Death does not necessarily sound all that inviting to most people. So, how should we look at death?

First of all, death, literally speaking, is a passing from this world to the next. When our time comes in accord with the will of God, we should welcome it and anticipate our full immersion into the life of God.

But this Scripture passage speaks of death on another level. We should see ourselves represented by the grain of wheat that achieves its potential only by falling to the ground and dying. In that natural act, it is planted in the fertile soil and grows, producing an abundance of good fruit.

How should we see ourselves represented in this natural action? We do so by embracing death to self so that we can be planted in the fertile soil of the grace of God and produce an abundance of good fruit.

Dying to oneself means that we let go of all selfishness in life. First, all intentional acts of selfishness must be let go, but then even unintended selfishness must be let go. What is “unintended selfishness”?

Unintended selfishness is a way of referring to everything in life that you hold on to and cling to simply because you want it for yourself. This could include even good things such as a loving relationship. It’s not that we should do away with good things in life, such as loving relationships; rather, we must not cling to anything, even good things, for selfish motives. Love, when it is authentic love inspired by God, always is detached and selfless, looking only toward the good of the other. This is the purest death to self that we can live. When this level of love is lived, that of complete selfless detachment, God enters into our lives and into each particular situation of our lives, bringing forth an abundance of good fruit. This is a gift that is more powerful than anything we can do on our own, because it is the fruit of a total death to self, transformed by God into new life.

Reflect, today, upon your calling to die. First, reflect upon the literal death from this world that you will one day experience. Do not fear that moment; rather, see it as a glorious transition into the fullness of life. Second, look for ways that you can die to yourself, here and now. Identify practical and concrete ways that God is calling you to this form of death. Know that in this act, glorious gifts of new life await.

Lord, I give myself to You and Your holy will in a total and sacrificial way. I choose to die to self so that You can bring forth new life from this act of selfless surrender. Take me, dear Lord, and do with me as You will. Jesus, I trust in You.

A reflection for the 5th Sunday of Lent 2021
From ‘Catholic Daily Reflections’

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SECOND COLLECTIONS -

If you are able to make a donation to the following you can bring your donation to the church next time you are here, in an envelope marked with the cause you are donating to, or drop it in the presbytery letter box. Alternatively you may use the online donation links listed below.

- **THIS SUNDAY– Flowers for Easter**

Flowers to decoration the church over Easter

https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/donate?cid=155922&utm_campaign=Donatebutton&utm_content=155922&wl=1&br=5&bc=1f75e6

- **NEXT SUNDAY- Poor and Housebound**

Easter Gifts for the poor and housebound in the Parish.

https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/donate?cid=155922&utm_campaign=Donatebutton&utm_content=155922&wl=1&br=5&bc=1f75e6

- **EASTER SUNDAY – Clergy Offering**

The Easter Sunday Collection traditionally supports our parish priests, in recognition for all the dedication, guidance and care they give across our Diocese and in each parish.

If you would like to give a gift to support Father Antony in his vocation and mission this Easter, please visit:

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/southampton-immaculate-conception-easter-sunday-collection>

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION



First Holy Communion will be starting again with a new group later this year, once Covid restrictions are lifted. The dates therefore are not as yet fixed but

in the meantime we are sending out appropriate pre-course learning materials to any children we know of who would like to be part of the next programme, so that they are already well in tune with the faith and the church when they start the formal programme.

If you have a child in year 4 or above who would like to make their First Holy Communion, please contact the parish office for a registration form which can be e mailed or sent in the post to you. We can then add your child to our mailing list and to the list of participants for the formal programme starting in a few month's time.

CLOSING DATE: 1st April 2021

LENT THIS WEEK.....

Stations of the Cross

A recording from our church is available on our Church Services TV page to join at your convenience. It will also be showing on our page at 3 pm on Sundays during Lent.

Lent Reflection Talk

Fr Antony's talks have now finished but are available to watch as recordings on our Church Services TV page.

Individual Absolution



Fr Antony will be offering individual absolution after the weekend Masses on the weekend of 20th & 21st March for anyone who would like this.

Rosary

Live on our Church Services TV page on Friday after 10.00 am Mass.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Online for much of the time when services are not taking place. Please visit the church at any time of the day or night to spend a few minutes with the Lord

A NOTE ABOUT PALM SUNDAY MASSES NEXT WEEKEND

The Vatican have approved a slightly shorter format for this Mass during this pandemic. There will be no procession of the palms, but blessed palms will be distributed after you leave the church.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES

Good Friday

Please note that this year there will be no morning service in the church for children but some links for Good Friday activities for children will be e mailed out during Holy week.

Mass bookings for the Triduum

Don't forget to book your seats for Mass on either Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil & Easter Sunday. As we are so limited on the number of people allowed in the church at any one time, we need to ask you to only book one of these services to allow everyone to visit the parish at some point over the Triduum if they wish to – see details for booking on the front of this newsletter.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS NEEDED



We will be commencing a short training programme after Easter for anyone interested in becoming a Eucharistic Minister. If you could help the parish in this way please contact the parish office or speak to Fr Antony after Mass.

PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE E NEWS

<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue314?e=34c55ac6ce>

SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKSOUTHAMPTON/bulletins/2c69e6b>

CARER REQUIRED

Live in or live out, to look after my Mum who is bed bound most of the time and has mild dementia. For further details please call Jon on 07709105141.



Give as you Live®

Online >

DONATE AS YOU SHOP ONLINE

The above link has been added to the home page of our parish website

(www.immaculateconception.church)

There are hundreds of retailers who will make a small donation to a charity of your choice if you shop on line with them via the Give as you Live website. If you are buying anything on line, log into the store website by clicking on the Give as you live link on our website to enable your purchase to make a small difference to our parish fundraising. You can click on the link above to try it!

NEW PARISH EMAIL ADDRESS



Please note that there is a new parish office email address to tie in with some new diocesan IT protocols and procedures. It is now:

office@immaculateconception.church

The old address will still work but will automatically re-direct to this e-mail. When you receive future emails from the Parish Office they will come from this new address.

DO PLEASE SHARE A COPY OF THIS NEWSLETTER with other parishioners who may not have access to the internet. If anyone without internet access would like a copy sent to them each week while we do not have regular access to the church, please let the parish office know.