

19 April 2020 Divine Mercy Sunday
Second Sunday of Easter Year A Part 1
“Doubt no longer but believe” (John 20: 27)

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

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

Sun 19 Apr	Second Sunday of Easter	Shay and John Fenton RIP	<p style="text-align: center;">NO PUBLIC MASSES</p> <p>Fr Antony will say Mass privately each day and include all requested Mass intentions</p> 
Mon 20 Apr	Second week Easter		
Tues 21 Apr	St Anselm	The Adams Family	
Wed 22 Apr	Second week Easter	Political and Scientific Leaders	
Thurs 23 Apr	St George	St George's School	
Fri 24 Apr	St Fidelis & St Adalbert	Care workers	
Sat 25 Apr	St Mark	Vocations	
Sun 26 Apr	Third Sunday of Easter	Those recently bereaved	
		<p>SUNDAY'S READINGS</p> <p>1st Reading: Acts 2: 42-47 Psalm: 117 2nd Reading: 1 Peter 1 3-9 Gospel: John 20:19-31</p>	<p>The Parish Office is closed.</p> <p>The Parish email is still checked regularly. For non -urgent matters please send an email to portswood@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk Enquiries re the Sacraments--please make an appointment by email.</p>

My Dear Friends:

Well, I hope you all had a truly Blessed Easter. It is certainly an Easter which will be seared into our memories and hearts like no other! Just like today's gospel, in which some of the apostles are in 'isolation', Jesus makes His appearance! Thomas is absent and insists he will not believe until he sees 'the mark of the nails in His hands and put my finger into the nail marks and put my hand into His side'...he will not believe.

Within the readings and gospel, we witness the unfolding of the early Church, and its response in its proclamation of the Risen Lord to the world. The images presented in the second reading, are very much those of joy, love, peace, harmony and a collective vision which seems more precious than life itself. However, human nature, being what it is, no doubt personal difference, personality clashes and cultural tensions added a certain spice to the mix – a bit like any Faith Family today!

Some years ago, I wrote a number of papers about ministries within a Faith Community. They drew upon the wisdom and insights of former professors and Religious Educators, Harris, Moran, and the writings of Groome and Cox. We are called to be *Easter People*, who have *entered the tomb with Christ*, and, within the Sacrament of baptism, we have *Risen with Him* to new life! Even in the woundedness and brokenness of our human weaknesses and frailties (which are wounds through which His Light can enter us!) we are called to minister to our community and world, as:

Koinonia (a welcoming community): *to be an inclusive community of faith, hope, and love; a truly "catholic" community that welcomes all with a fundamental equality and maturity, and invites each one's gifts in shared mission as members of the Body of Christ.*

Kerygma (a word-of-God community): *to preach and evangelise, and to teach (**Didache**) God's word in Jesus and about Jesus recounted in the New Testament; the word of God encountered through the Hebrew Scriptures; and the word of God mediated through Christian tradition.*

Leitourgia (a worshipping community): *to publicly worship God as an assembly of Christian faith, celebrating God's covenant with humanity through Jesus Christ and the universal hope of salvation for all humankind.*

Diakonia (a community of welfare): *to care for human need – spiritual, psychological, and physical – helping to build God's reign of peace and justice at every level of human existence, personal and social, with special favor for "the poor" and disadvantaged.*

Marturia (a witnessing community): *to bear credible public witness to Christian faith through lifestyle and example, living as sacrament – as an effective sign – of its own preaching, even to the point of suffering and death if necessary.*

Who was it said, "Fear knocked upon my door. Faith answered. No one was there"?!

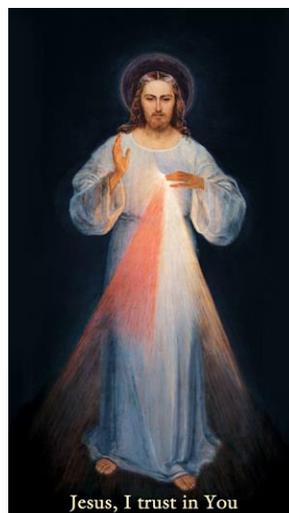
Remember the great mystic who said that each one of us is a bamboo flute which is raised and kissed by the lips of God. It is God's breath passing through us which produces the music of our lives. It is His breath within us which proclaims His Word. It is His Breath within us which enables us to go beyond ourselves in His ministry to embrace the world as a Faith Community which **Welcomes, Evangelises, Worships, Teaches, Serves and Witnesses** in His Name.

Remember me as Loving you,

Fr. Antony

A message from the Bishop

I'd like to invite you and your parishioners to join me for a live-streamed Chaplet of Divine Mercy from my chapel here in Bishop's House this Sunday 19th April at 3 pm. Go to this web site <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/> and scroll down to the Bishop's Chapel.



19th April 2020

Second Sunday of Easter Year A Newsletter Part 2

"Doubt not longer but believe" (John 20: 27)

Divine Mercy Sunday

FURLOUGH OF DIOCESAN EMPLOYEES

As with many business and charities across the country, the Diocese of Portsmouth is facing significant financial uncertainty around the future of its income as a result of the coronavirus outbreak. They have therefore taken the very difficult decision to furlough many of their employees, including myself, at least until the end of April when the situation will be reviewed again with parish priests, based on Government advice – out of the 280 staff across the diocese, only about 60 remain at work. Many other Dioceses have taken the same steps.

Furloughing is where staff are asked to stay at home and not do any work, but will continue to be paid 80% of their normal salary by the Government. Staff will continue to be employed by the Diocese so that they can return to their jobs once we are on the other side of this crisis. It is hoped that this will substantially reduce the impact on parishes of the temporary closure of our churches.

Therefore, any urgent administrative and financial business will be dealt with by the Pillar leads and appropriate volunteers and Fr Antony will be available on the telephone. The e mails will continue to be monitored on a regular basis, so please do e mail in the first instance if possible so that volunteers can help you with queries, otherwise this situation potentially puts a much bigger work load on Fr Antony.

Thank you for your help and patience with what is a very odd situation on all counts! I very much look forward to being back in the office again soon! **(Message from Rachel, Parish Secretary)**

We would all like to thank Rachel for her cheerful, friendly and helpful work for the Parish and look forward to seeing her back in action as soon as possible.

PEACE WALK 2020 IS CANCELLED: Due to the Coronavirus outbreak we have had to cancel the Peace Walk in July. However, we are hoping that we shall be able to have the Steps for Peace in November.

RESOURCES TO HELP ON THE WEBSITE : On the website under the section 'documents' we have a host of resources for everyone! Go to 'documents' and then click 'resources'.

<https://www.immaculateconception.church/downloads>

CHILDREN'S LITURGY AND ACTIVITIES

FROM CAFOD FOR THIS SUNDAY. <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Children-s-liturgy>

Colouring, word searches and activity Sheets on the web site and attached to this email.

https://sermons4kids.com/doubting_thomas_wordsearch.htm

EASTER ART COMPEITION: The Easter Art competition is still open - so please send your artwork as soon as possible. We are looking forward to seeing them! Prizes available for all entries. Please send a photo or slide of your finished artwork to both Milly and Maria at the following e mail addresses: nekeh@hotmail.com and mariadavem@gmail.com

DID YOU KNOW THERE IS A SAINT CORONA? (Corona is the word for Crown)

There are many legends about Saint Corona, she is the Patron saint of treasure hunters and was martyred with Saint Victor in Syria about about 170-AD https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=1968



DIOCESAN SPIRITUAL SUPPORT: Diocese Prayer and Listening Service

In addition to our own parish prayer buddy scheme, the Diocese have now launched a Prayer and Listening Service. The diocese team are those who have experience in both praying with others and in spiritual listening. All of the volunteers have been trained for this service and have been through the essential Safeguarding Training and other checks. The Service offers the following to anyone **over the age of 18:-**

- **Key Workers** – they can give us their name and we will pray for them and their work place daily by name
- **Prayer Support** – a trained Prayer Minister can pray with or for the person
- **Spiritual Listening** – a trained Prayer Minister can listen to their story

To access the Service, go to the **Home** page of the Diocesan website and beneath “**Coronavirus**” click on the **Prayer Support** box and the three prayer options will display i.e. **Prayer Support, Key Workers and Spiritual Listening**. People leave their name and phone number and preferred time of being called, and we ring them back within 24 hours. The same sex team member will ring back, and calls are usually about 15 minutes. Here is the link <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/prayer-support>
Also remember the Diocesan e news can be found at this site.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION- notes from the Liturgy Office - There are times when people are unable to receive the Body and Blood of Christ, through illness or due to their personal disposition. Even though some may not receive 'sacramental' Communion, all are united in some way by the Holy Spirit. The traditional idea of 'spiritual' Communion is an important one to remember and reaffirm. A deep spiritual communion is possible even when we do not share together the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ. (cf. Celebrating the Mass 212)

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. based on a prayer of St Alphonsus Liguori

Attached to the newsletter is a handout from the Catholic Liturgy Office with some 'prayers during a pandemic or flu outbreak'. Also found on the resources section of the website.

QUIZ CORNER: Answers below!

1. What is the symbol of St Mark the Evangelist whose feast day is April 25th? Name the Italian City where he is Patron.
2. According to tradition, when did St George live? Which King adopted him as the Patron Saint of England? What famous Battle is associated with St George's Day?
3. In which of Shakespeare's plays do these words appear? "The **quality of mercy** is not strain'd, It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven/Upon the place beneath" (Act-IV, Scene-I).
4. What does the word 'Ciborium' mean?
5. What does the word 'tabernacle' mean?¹

A message from the Bishop: I'd like to invite you and your parishioners to join me for a live-streamed Chaplet of Divine Mercy from my chapel here in Bishop's House this Sunday 19th April at 3 pm.

Go to this web site <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/> and scroll down to the Bishop's Chapel.

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

The Parish Bank Account details are
Sort Code 30-93-04 Account No 00887995

For donations give a reference

RF= roof fund

ERF= Emergency Relief Fund

followed by your gift aid number if you donate in this way

Thank you for your support and patience at this time

¹ **Answers:**

- (1) A lion- Venice (2) St George was born in Cappadocia (in modern Turkey) and was martyred in AD303 in what is now Israel. During the Crusades, Richard 1 adopted him as the Saint for England. Following Henry V's famous win at the battle of Agincourt on 23rd April 1415, St George's Day became a national feast day.(3) The Merchant of Venice- Portia (4) 'covered container' - which contains the Hosts. (5) Dwelling place- in Church the Tabernacle is the 'dwelling place' of the Body of Christ (Host)