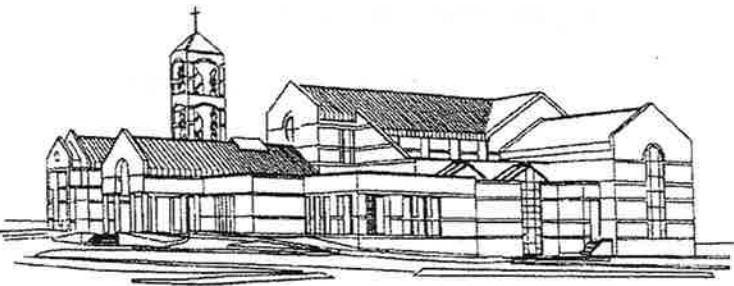


IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

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TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

August 24, 2025

Message from Fr. Shaiju

My dear brothers and sister in Christ Jesus,

This week we encounter the lives of two saints, a mother and her son, namely Monica and Augustine, who were both searching for meaning. Monica chose the path of perseverance and patient prayer, offering tears for her son. Augustine, on the other hand, sought meaning in life through pleasures and ambitions. These two saints mirror each of us in our spiritual journey: Monica reflects the loving mothers of every age, while Augustine represents the searching sons and daughters of all time.

Their story teaches us that God can intervene at any moment in our lives. It reminds us, too, that our Christian call is to search for the lost with tears, faith, and unshakable trust in the Lord, even when the way is hard and the doors are narrow. Augustine first chose the wide door to satisfy his desires, but Monica embraced the narrow door where faith was more secure.

The wide door offers countless colourful possibilities to enjoy life, yet in the end it leads to restlessness and disappointment. The narrow door, instead, is often marked by tears, suffering, misunderstanding, and even moments of feeling abandoned by God. But its final fruit is surrender: the peace of resting securely in the hands of the Lord.

Are we willing, like Monica, to walk the narrow path with patience and prayer? Are we, like Augustine, ready to turn from the wide, easy path to find true peace in God? Let these questions provoke our conscience in following the footsteps of Jesus.

Wishing you a blessed week ahead,
Fr. Shaiju Ponmalakunnel

Cari fratelli e sorelle in Cristo,

Questa settimana incontriamo la vita di due santi, una madre e suo figlio, Monica e Agostino, entrambi alla ricerca di un senso nella loro vita. Monica scelse il cammino della perseveranza e della preghiera paziente, versando lacrime per suo figlio. Agostino, invece, cercava significato nella vita attraverso piaceri e ambizioni. Questi due santi ci rispecchiano nel nostro cammino spirituale: Monica rappresenta le madri amorevoli di ogni tempo, mentre Agostino riflette i figli e le figlie in cerca di senso in ogni epoca.

La loro storia ci insegna che Dio può intervenire in ogni momento della nostra vita. Ci ricorda anche che la nostra chiamata cristiana è di cercare i perduti con lacrime, fede e fiducia incrollabile nel Signore, anche quando il cammino è duro e le porte sono strette. Agostino inizialmente scelse la porta larga per soddisfare i propri desideri, mentre Monica abbracciò la porta stretta, dove la fede era più sicura.

La porta larga offre molte possibilità colorate per godere della vita, ma alla fine conduce a inquietudine e delusione. La porta stretta, invece, è spesso segnata da lacrime, sofferenza, incomprensioni e persino momenti in cui ci si sente abbandonati da Dio. Ma il suo frutto finale è la resa: la pace di riposare sicuri nelle mani del Signore.

Siamo disposti, come Monica, a percorrere la via stretta con pazienza e preghiera? Siamo pronti, come Agostino, a lasciare la via larga e facile per trovare la vera pace in Dio? Lasciamo che queste domande scuotano la nostra coscienza nel seguire le orme di Gesù.

Vi auguro una settimana benedetta,
P. Shaiju Ponmalakunnel

Upcoming Baptisms

Our parish is delighted to welcome the following child to the Christian community through the Sacrament of Baptism:



*Simona Daniela Maria Maccani
Liliana Raponi
Theodore Malcolm Calacal Ganal
Giuliano Sabat
Lucas Eugenio Garro
Mila Valentina Todarello
Julian Rocca*

Congratulations to their parents and godparents.

This Weekend's Marriages



*Erica Carlascio & Marco Perricone
Alina Popova & Quan Vu
Celeste Iafrate & Stephen DiMarco
Sarah Capetola & Michael Tibollo
Claudia Dos Santos & Rafael Fernandes*

Mission Appeal 2025

Each year, our Parish invites a missionary priest to speak about the faith of our brothers and sisters in developing countries. This year, Fr. George Puramadathil, of the Congregation of the Sons of the Immaculate Conception in India will preach to us about the missions in India next weekend, August 30 & 31, 2025. The following weekend, **September 6 & 7, 2025** we will be having a **second collection** for the missions of the Congregation of the Sons on the Immaculate Conception in India.

Ogni anno, la parrocchia ospita un missionario che viene ad informarci sulla realtà dei cristiani in paesi in via di sviluppo. Il prossimo fine settimana del 30 & 31 agosto, 2025, P. George Puramadathil della Congregazione dei Figli dell'Immacolata Concezione in India ci parlerà delle missioni in India. Nel fine settimana del 6 & 7 settembre, 2025, avremo una seconda colletta a vantaggio delle missioni della Congregazione dei Figli dell'Immacolata Concezione in India.

Weekly Mass Intentions

Monday August 25

7pm	Maria Diruscio
8pm	Anna Tari

Tuesday August 26

7pm	Tulio Sgambelluri
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Wednesday August 27

St. Monica

7pm	Antonio Marchese
8pm	Maria Teresa Pasqualino

Thursday August 28

St. Augustine

7pm

Friday August 29

The Passion of St. John the Baptist

7pm	Mario & Anna Scenna
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2026 First Holy Communion Dates

- Saturday May 23, 2026 at 11:00am – *St. Catherine & Others*
- Saturday May 23, 2026 at 1:00pm – *St. John Bosco*
- Saturday May 23, 2026 at 3:00pm – *St. Gabriel*
- Sunday May 24, 2026 at 2:30pm – *Immaculate Conception*

Registrations will open on August 25, 2025. A fee of **\$50.00 (cash or cheque only)** will be applied to cover the expenses. A copy of the Baptismal certificate of the candidate is required at the time of registration. Forms can be returned to the parish office during office hours.

2026 Confirmation Dates

- Thursday April 16, 2026 at 7:00pm – *Immaculate Conception*
- Friday April 17, 2026 at 7:00pm – *St. John Bosco*
- Thursday April 23, 2026 at 7:00pm – *St. Gabriel*
- Friday April 24, 2026 at 7:00pm – *St. Catherine & Others*

Registrations will open on August 25, 2025. A fee of **\$60.00 (cash or cheque only)** will be applied to cover the expenses. A copy of the Baptismal certificate of the candidate is required at the time of registration. Forms can be returned to the parish office during office hours.