

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

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TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

September 7, 2025

Message from Fr. Shaiju

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus,

Today, we often become uneasy when our comforts, pride, or personal dreams are challenged. The words of the Gospel on this 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time trouble us even more, for Jesus calls us to follow Him wholeheartedly, taking up our cross and walking behind Him without complaint.

Discipleship is not about adding Jesus to *my* plans, but it is about allowing *His* plan to become my life. It means choosing Him even when it hurts, trusting Him when the path feels dark, and loving Him above all else. True discipleship is costly, it may appear as losing the world and its comforts, but in reality, it is gaining Christ eternally.

To “carry our cross” is not simply to endure hardships; it is to make Christ the centre of my every choice, my every relationship, and my every plan. Our faith is not a hobby or a part-time activity. It is the foundation of who we are and the measure of our priorities. Jesus does not ask for something from us. He asks for everything. It is not to burden us, but to free us. When Christ is first, everything else finds its proper place. He tells us clearly that we cannot cling to half-hearted loyalties or live by convenience if we wish to be His true disciples. The Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary celebrated on September 8th, reminds us that discipleship begins with a **yes**. Mary lived her whole life centred on God’s will, showing us that putting Christ first often requires surrendering our own plans.

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, let us ask ourselves: *What am I still clinging to that prevents me from giving myself completely to Jesus? Do my plans take precedence over doing the will of the Lord?* May the Lord give us the courage to answer with Mary’s faith-filled yes and to follow Him without reserve.

Wishing you a blessed week ahead,
Fr. Shaiju Ponmalakunnel

Cari fratelli e sorelle,

Oggi, spesso ci sentiamo a disagio quando vengono messi in discussione le nostre comodità, il nostro orgoglio o i nostri sogni personali. Le parole del Vangelo di questa 23^a Domenica del Tempo Ordinario ci turbano ancora di più, perché Gesù ci chiama a seguirlo con tutto il cuore, prendendo la nostra croce e camminando dietro a Lui senza lamenti. Essere discepoli non significa aggiungere Gesù ai miei progetti, ma permettere al Suo progetto di diventare parte della mia vita. Significa scegliere Lui anche quando fa male, fidarsi di Lui quando la strada sembra oscura e amarlo sopra ogni cosa. Il vero discepolato è costoso: può sembrare di perdere il mondo e le sue comodità, ma in realtà è guadagnare Cristo per sempre.

“Portare la nostra croce” non significa semplicemente sopportare le difficoltà; significa fare di Cristo il centro di ogni mia scelta, di ogni mia relazione e di ogni mio progetto. La nostra fede non è un passatempo o un’attività a metà tempo. È il fondamento di ciò che siamo e la misura delle nostre priorità. Gesù non ci chiede qualcosa, ma tutto. Non per opprimerci, ma per liberarci. Quando Cristo è al primo posto, tutto il resto trova il suo giusto ordine. Egli ci dice chiaramente che non possiamo aggrapparci a lealtà a metà o vivere nella comodità se vogliamo essere suoi veri discepoli. La festa della Natività della Beata Vergine Maria che si celebra l’8 settembre, ci ricorda che il discepolato comincia con un “sì”. Maria ha vissuto tutta la sua vita centrata sulla volontà di Dio, mostrandoci che mettere Cristo al primo posto spesso richiede di rinunciare ai nostri progetti.

Perciò, cari fratelli e sorelle, chiediamoci: A che cosa mi sto ancora aggrappando che mi impedisce di donarmi completamente a Gesù? I miei progetti hanno la precedenza sul compiere la volontà del Signore? Che il Signore ci dia il coraggio di rispondere con il “sì” pieno di fede di Maria e di seguirlo senza riserve.

*Vi auguro una buona settimana,
P. Shaiju Ponmalakunnel*

Upcoming Baptisms

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



*James Parker Frangos
Ethan Yeonwoo Chau
Ashton Harrison Lall
Emma Lily Reame
Andrew Sengar
Claire Sengar Romero*

Congratulations to their parents and godparents.

This Weekend's Marriages



*Patrizia Costa & Anthony Dal Bello
Rachel Naji & Steven D'Aloisio*

Mission Appeal 2025

Today, we will be having a **second collection** for the missions of the Congregation of the Sons of the Immaculate Conception in India as preached by Fr. George Puramadathil last weekend.

Oggi, si farà una seconda colletta a sostegno delle missioni della Congregazione dei Figli dell'Immacolata Concezione in India del quale ha parlato, P. George Puramadathil la settimana scorsa.

Rosary Apostolate

The Rosary Apostolate in the schools is seeking volunteers who have a great devotion to the Mother of God and who are willing to visit our elementary schools to pray the Rosary with the children once a week from October to May. Training and screening will be provided. If you are interested, please contact Rose at 905-856-6035.

Registration for the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) is the process through which interested unbaptized adults and older children (catechumens) are introduced to the Roman Catholic faith and become members of the Catholic Church. The OCIA pro-gram is a time of reflection, prayer, study, and discernment leading to the celebration of becoming full members at the Easter Vigil. During the Easter Vigil, catechumens are baptized, confirmed, and participate in the Eucharist for the first time. If you are interested in the OCIA program, please contact the parish office.

Weekly Mass Intentions

Monday September 8 The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

7pm	Anna Chiarlitti
8pm	Maria Principe

Tuesday September 9

7pm	Antonio Di Ruscio
8pm	Francesco Volpe

Wednesday September 10

7pm	
8pm	

Thursday September 11

7pm	
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Friday September 12

7pm	Teresa Cusato
8pm	Sandra Censoni

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 are now open. 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. Incomplete registration forms will not be accepted. 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 are now open. 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. Incomplete registration forms will not be accepted. Forms can be returned to the parish office during office hours.