

12<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2023

**THE SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A**

*“Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish, but to complete them.”*

*Matthew 5:17*

**Immaculate Conception Church**

(Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth, Reg Charity No: 1199568)

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: [office@immaculateconception.church](mailto:office@immaculateconception.church)

Facebook: Immaculate Conception Church, Portswood

**Parish Priest: Fr Anthony Chiatu**

**Parish Deacon: Dcn Gerard Dailly**

**Hospital Chaplaincy:** (023 8120 8517)

**University Chaplain:** Sr Emelliana Silva (07426 000213)

**Safeguarding Officer:** Pat Saunders

**Parish Secretary:** Rachel Brady (023 8055 5470)

**Confessions:** After 10 am Mass on Saturdays

**Hall Bookings:** contact the parish secretary

**ALL MASSES ADVERTISED BELOW ARE AVAILABLE TO JOIN LIVE, ONLINE AT**

[www.churchservices.tv/portswoodchur](http://www.churchservices.tv/portswoodchur)

Date	Solemnities & Feast days	Times & Liturgies		Mass Intentions
Sun 12 Feb	<b>SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Rem Treacy RIP Olive Cook – Birthday blessings
Mon 13 Feb	Feria	-	NO MASS	
Tues 14 Feb	St Cyril & St Methodius	9.30 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration Mass	-
Wed 15 Feb	Feria	10.00 am 1.30 pm	Mass Funeral	- Margaret Hallford RIP
Thur 16 Feb	Feria	10.00 am	Mass	-
Fri 17 Feb	The seven holy founders of the Servite Order	9.00 am 9.30 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration Rosary Mass	-
Sat 18 Feb	Our Lady on Saturday	10.00 pm	Mass	-
Sun 19 Feb	<b>SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Sr Mary de Sales RIP -



**READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Sirach (Ecclesiasticus) 15:15-20

**Psalm:** 119:1-2,4-5,17-18,33-34

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** 1 Corinthians 2:6-10

**Gospel:** Matthew 5:17-37

**TEA AND COFFEE AFTER MASSES**

Please join us in the hall on **Sundays** after the **10.30 am Mass** for tea and coffee. **And also after Mass on**

**TUESDAYS** –A friendly welcome awaits you.



**Growing in Faith**

**Final meeting before Lent**

**Tuesday 21st Feb 2023, 7.30 pm – 9.00 pm in the hall**

Understanding the biblical basis of the teachings of the Catholic church

*An opportunity for all to explore, question, discuss and grow in your relationship with God, wherever you are in your faith journey.*

**ALL WELCOME!**

**FIRST RECONCILIATION**

This Saturday and next, our children currently preparing for First Holy Communion will be celebrating the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. Please remember them and their families in your prayers as they continue to grow in faith at this particular stage of life's journey.

**NEW REPAIR CAFÉ VENUE**

**Coming to**

**Immaculate Conception Church Hall**

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2023, 10.30 am – 1 pm**

Do you have anything which you need help repairing? Most items tackled including, electrical items, sewing, computers, bikes, jewellery, etc etc.

Bring it along and have a cuppa and home made cake while you watch your repair being done.

Please see poster in the porch and hall for further dates and venues.

**PLEASE BRING IN LAST YEAR'S PALMS!**



Do you have any palms/palm crosses from last year's Palm Sunday. Please bring them to the church and leave them in the porch so that they can be used to make ash for Ash Wednesday this year.

**PARISH OFFICE OPEN NEXT WEEK**

Tuesday – Friday, 9.30 am – 2.00 pm

## The Fullness of Righteousness

Jesus said to his disciples: "I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven." [Matthew 5:20-22](#)

The scribes and Pharisees were masters of the Old Law. Now that the Messiah had arrived, they were unwilling to go deeper and move beyond the Old Testament teachings that they often misrepresented. They preferred a black-and-white approach to morality that had been with them for centuries and did not want to change when presented with Jesus' new and higher calling.

Today's Gospel continues Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, which began with the Beatitudes. In today's portion of Jesus' sermon, we are taught about anger, adultery and oaths. In every case, Jesus refers to the Law as it was taught in the Old Testament but then elevates it to an entirely new level. The line quoted above makes it clear that the only way to accept these new teachings of Jesus was to surpass the "righteousness" of the scribes and Pharisees. And the dire result of not surpassing their righteousness was the loss of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Jesus begins by recalling the Old Testament commandment, "You shall not kill." But then He takes that commandment further by saying that "whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment." Of course, killing remains a grave sin. But now Jesus explains that the interior attitude of anger, even if not acted upon, is a sin. He goes on to teach a similar lesson about adultery and swearing oaths.

It is helpful to understand these new teachings in the context of the approach that the scribes and Pharisees took in regard to the Old Testament. About that, Jesus says, "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill." Thus, the primary problem with the scribes and Pharisees is not that they failed to teach the Old Testament Law properly. The primary problem is that now that the Messiah has arrived and has ushered in a new time of fulfillment and righteousness, they would not go deeper and would not embrace the fulfillment of the Law of God. They are not willing to grow in holiness and embrace the fulfillment of all that had been taught before.

Reflect, today, upon the calling given to you by our Lord's new and glorious teachings. If you are to truly embrace the Gospel of our Lord and live in His New Law of grace, then you must be willing to go deep, become truly radical in your faith, and allow God to transform every part of your life. The New Law is one of the fullness of love, mercy, surrender, zeal, conversion and transformation. Commit yourself to surpassing the old and limited righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, and God will do glorious things in your life.

A reflection for the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A  
My Catholic Life, [www.mycatholic.life.com](http://www.mycatholic.life.com)

## SECOND COLLECTIONS:-

TODAY SUNDAY 12<sup>th</sup> February 2023 – Earthquake disaster appeal

NEXT SUNDAY 19<sup>th</sup> February 2023 – Earthquake disaster appeal

**Any donations can be made in cash or by cheque via the collection baskets in the church or using our card payment machine in the church porch.**

**The Parish Bank Account details are:**

Name: CDP, Immaculate Conception Church,  
Sort Code: 30-93-04, Account No: 00887995

## INCOME FOR JANUARY 2023

Planned Giving	419.00
Standing Orders	3402.00
Envelopes Parish	120.00
Offertory income	1613.82
Dona Collection parish	235.98
Building Fund	91.00
Gifts/Donations	0.00
Sunday Coffee	57.21
<b>Total</b>	<b>5939.01</b>

## SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Cathedral	£300.73
Holy Places	£52.90
Pax Christi	£306.41
SVP	£1,250.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,910.04</b>

## RECENTLY DIED:



### Gordon Cox RIP

Died on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

Funeral date to be arranged.

### Stuart Thompson

Husband of Chris Thompson an active member of this parish until they moved away a few years ago. Died 25<sup>th</sup> Jan, aged 94. Funeral 20<sup>th</sup> February in Sussex. Details available next week from parish office.

## OUR PARISH LANTERN OPPORTUNITY

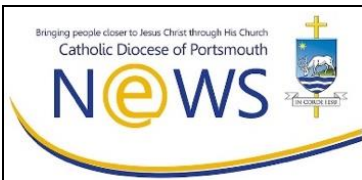
This Lent the Verbum Dei community will be running a **Lectio Divina course** in the parish.....

### "Turn to the Lord with all your heart"

Starting on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March  
and every following Wednesday during March.  
7 pm – 8 pm, In the parish hall

This five week Lenten course aims to introduce participants to prayer with the scriptures. Each session will last around an hour and include a short input, some helpful background information and tips, and a time of prayer.

We would love for you to join us. Just turn up, but if you would like more information please contact Issy and Dom from the Verbum Dei community on [verbumdei.soton@gmail.com](mailto:verbumdei.soton@gmail.com)



## PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE E NEWS

Activities, events, news  
and job vacancies from  
around the Diocese,

locally and further afield.

<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue396?e=34c55ac6ce>

**To keep up to date with the news of the Diocese and the Bishop please follow us on:**

- Facebook: @PortsmouthRC
- LinkedIn: Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth
- Twitter: @PortsmouthRC

**The Diocesan website:**

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

**If you have news that you would like to share with the rest of the Diocese, please contact:**

[communications@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:communications@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

### WHAT IS A DEACON?!

As we have never had a permanent Deacon in the parish, I felt it could be of interest to explore and share with you over the coming weeks, who and what a deacon is.

A Catholic Deacon is a member of the clergy, In the Catholic Church, "the clergy" consists of three groups of ordained ministers: bishops, deacons and priests. Whilst we are all called to minister to others by virtue of our baptism, some Catholics are also ordained to specific forms of ministry to the rest of the Church. The title "deacon" comes from the Greek word diakonos, which means "servant". A deacon is ordained by the Bishop into the Order of Deacons (sometimes known as the "diaconate"). Once ordained a deacon by the bishop, the deacon enters into a new set of relationships: He is permanently and publicly configured to Christ the Servant, he shares in the overall pastoral responsibility of the bishop to care for all of the people in the diocese, and he becomes an integral part of the clerical structure of the Church, in partnership with the priests, serving the needs of the entire diocese.

I was ordained a Permanent Deacon on 28 June 2009 by Bishop Emeritus Crispian Hollis. I would like to ask that you pray for me as I will for you.

To be continued next week!

*Deacon Gerard*

### CATHOLIC FAMILY DAY OF REFLECTION

Saturday March 11<sup>th</sup>, 10am - 2pm

St Dominic's Priory, Sway

This day is aimed at families with children up to the age of 7. For more information or to book a space for your family, email [catholicmotherssoton@gmail.com](mailto:catholicmotherssoton@gmail.com)

Suggested donation £20

### A GAP YEAR OPPORTUNITY

- Are you 18-30, or do you know someone who is?
- Do you want to develop a wide range of skills including leadership while learning about global justice and inspiring others to use their faith in action?

CAFOD, the Catholic Agency for Overseas

Development, believes in equipping and inspiring young adults to contribute to a more just and peaceful world. Step into the Gap is a fully funded year of volunteering, with food, accommodation, stipend and training within a UK placement plus a Rome and Assisi pilgrimage.

Visit the CAFOD website for more information:

[cafod.org.uk/gapyear](https://cafod.org.uk/gapyear)

### HELP MARRIAGES

**Would you like to improve communication in your marriage?**

Holidays, children and work can put stresses on relationships. **Retrouvaille** is a course that shows you new ways of dealing with them. Please use the following links to find out more. Next course starting in February.

[www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk)

[www.retrouvaille.ie](http://www.retrouvaille.ie)

### RETREAT DAY

11<sup>th</sup> March, 10.30 am – 4.30 pm

At Verbum Dei Retreat Centre,

Nunnery Lane, Carisbrook, Isle of Wight.

**“LOVE POURED OUT –  
BEING EUCHARIST FOR EACH OTHER”**

Starting with coffee at 10.30, a light lunch provided by the community and we will end with tea and cakes. The cost is £20 for the day. For further information and to book a place please contact

Patricia (Trish) Yandell on 07835948435, or

Sr. Margarida on 07970083252 or

email [patriciam-c@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:patriciam-c@hotmail.co.uk).

For those travelling from the mainland we use the 9.00am vehicle ferry to East Cowes and return on the 18.00 ferry.

### PRAYER VIGIL FOR THE WAR IN UKRAINE

**Friday 24th February**

6.30 pm beginning at the Bargate, there will be a candlelit procession to the Peace Fountain

7 pm – At the Peace Fountain, Prayers for Peace and Justice in Ukraine and for the fallen.

8 pm onwards – Prayer vigil at  
Above Bar Church 69 Above Bar Street SO14 7FE

All Christians and others invited to join us at this first sad anniversary of the War in Ukraine

### SOUTHAMPTON STREET PASTORS

For over 13 years our teams have been patrolling the streets of Southampton offering reassurance, safety and support through listening, caring and helping. **Volunteers come from over 50 churches, giving 4-6 hours for a patrol only once a month** to show the love of Jesus in the City and suburbs in various ways, from the practical to the spiritual. We now have more patrols than ever going out at various times and to a variety of places. **With the growth and requests for patrols we are in need of more volunteers for night-time patrols, evening community patrols and for afternoon community patrols.**

To gain an insight into what it is to be a street pastor why not come on an observation with a patrol. To book up a convenient date just contact our office (details below) You could also watch the video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d2lA8pBKilg>

Next Training session: Friday evening, 17<sup>th</sup> March

If you are interested in finding out more just get in contact with us in the office on 023 8033 3387 or by email, [southampton@streetpastors.org.uk](mailto:southampton@streetpastors.org.uk), and we are happy to help.

### CONCERT

**MUSIC BY VAUGHAN WILLIAMS & HOWARD GOODALL**  
*Performed by Southampton Philharmonic Choir and Southampton University Philharmonic Choir, together with Docklands Sinfonia*

O2 Guildhall, Southampton  
Saturday 18th March 2023 at 7.30pm

Tickets are available online at  
[o2guildhallsouthampton.co.uk](http://o2guildhallsouthampton.co.uk)

but you are also welcome to contact Mags (Moules) by email at [boxoffice@southamptonphil.org](mailto:boxoffice@southamptonphil.org) who can give further information and facilitate ticket purchases for you, should you be interested.

### VACANCIES:

#### **Music Team Leader**

**St Peter and the Winchester Martyrs Parish, Winchester**

- Part time: 21 hours per week, including weekends and major feasts (for Masses)
- Salary: Competitive. Further details on enquiry.

We are seeking an experienced pastoral musician to build and grow a strong music team at St Peter's, while also developing existing volunteer music leaders in their own roles and skills.

To achieve this, they will

- Be able to develop good relationships with the clergy and the people in the parish,
- Be open to feedback
- Liaise with music teams at the other churches in the parish
- Set a personal example, through their own life of prayer and their attitude of service.

We welcome applications from anyone with an active Christian faith, though candidates will be expected to demonstrate a readiness to engage with the Catholic Church's teaching and directives regarding music and liturgy.

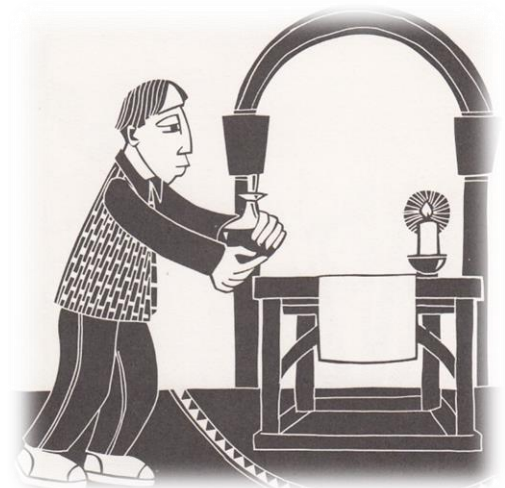
For a full details and to apply, please contact: [recruitment@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

For an informal discussion please contact: [office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk](mailto:office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk), or by

Telephone: 01962 852804

Closing date for applications: Thursday 16th February 2023, 12 Noon

**FULL DETAILS OF THIS POSITION AND OF OTHERS AROUND THE DIOCESE ARE ALSO AVAILABLE FROM E NEWS – SEE LINK IN THIS NEWSLETTER**



“If your virtue goes no further than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the Kingdom of Heaven”