

11TH DECEMBER 2022

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR A

“Are you the one who is to come or have we got to wait for someone else?”

Matthew 11:3

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

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

Date	Solemnities & Feast days	Times & Liturgies		Mass Intentions
Sun 11 Dec	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Pat & Stella MacDonald RIP Gerard Perrin & Houdikin Godfroy RIP
Mon 12 Dec	of the 3 rd week of Advent	-	NO MASS	
Tues 13 Dec	St Lucy	10.00 am	Mass	-
Wed 14 Dec	St John of the Cross	10.00 am	Mass	-
Thur 15 Dec	of the 3 rd week of Advent	10.00 am	Mass	-
Fri 16 Dec	of the 3 rd week of Advent	9.30 am 10.00 am	Rosary Mass	-
Sat 17 Dec	Liturgy of the Day	10.00 am	Mass	Ivan Melynk
Sun 18 Dec	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Bill & Una Chandler RIP Alfred Rosario RIP



THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

1st Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6,10

Psalm: 145:6-10

2nd Reading: St James 5:7-10

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

TEA AND COFFEE AFTER MASSES

Please join us on **Sundays after the 10 am Mass** in the hall for tea and coffee. **TUESDAYS** - Please join us in the hall on Tuesdays after Mass for coffee. A friendly welcome awaits you.



**** TODAY ****

NATIVITY PLAY & CHRISTMAS CAROLS

FOR EVERYONE, ALL WELCOME!

Sunday 11th December, 2.30 pm in the church

Followed by refreshments

CHRISTMAS ARTWORK COMPETITION

FOR ALL YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 0 - 16

All children and young people are invited to take part in our Christmas Artwork competition. It will be judged in school year groups and paper is available at the back of the church after Masses during advent to create a piece of 'holy' art based on anything related to the Christmas story. Judging takes place on Saturday 17th Dec. Please pick up further details from the church porch.

A PARISH CHRISTMAS SOCIAL EVENING AND TALENT CELEBRATION

Sunday 18th December, 5 pm in the parish hall

Come to share and celebrate your skills and talents! **Adults and children** of all ages and backgrounds - If you can sign a song or two, play some music, tell a story or some jokes, share a dance routine, do some magic, read a poem, perform a short play or sketch... it can be about Christmas or something else.

We would love you to share your skills and talents. We will provide the Stage, Mics, teas and coffees. Please bring other food and drinks, as you wish. Please talk to Steve Deadman for further information.



Even if you don't plan on joining the talent show, please come along for the social and to watch the acts and join in some singing!

PLEASE COME AND JOIN US FOR A FUN EVENING.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS NEXT WEEK

Tues, Weds, Thurs, Fri 9.30 am – 1.30 pm

Change and Newness in Christ

When John the Baptist heard in prison of the works of the Christ, he sent his disciples to Jesus with this question, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" [Matthew 11:2-3](#)

Why did Saint John the Baptist send his disciples to Jesus to ask this question? Recall that John had previously stated about Jesus, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" ([John 1:29](#)). So if John knew that Jesus was the "Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world," then why would he send his disciples to ask Jesus if He is the one who is to come?

The Church Fathers explore many reasons, but most arrive at the conclusion that John did this not because he didn't know Who Jesus was, but for the sake of his disciples, so that they would come to follow our Lord once John was killed by Herod. So this was a way of trying to point his disciples to Jesus and to encourage them to embrace this new change in their life of faith.

Jesus understood the reason John sent his disciples to Him. As a result, Jesus gave these disciples what they needed so as to come to believe themselves. He points them to the works that He has done as the Christ so that they would be able to interpret these works on their own and, thus, come to the newness of faith. Jesus points out that the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. Who could argue with such miraculous signs from Heaven? But Jesus goes even further and states something very subtle. He says, "And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me." This line appears to be one way that Jesus gently reproached these disciples for what appears to be their own personal struggle with this change of spiritual leaders. Jesus identified a certain "offense" that they were dealing with. They were "offended" by the fact that Jesus was indeed increasing while John was decreasing.

In many ways, this is a common experience any time there is a change in our spiritual lives. When something is new, we often struggle with various aspects of the change and newness. But the Christian life is all about change, transformation and newness of life. And this is good. We must seek to change, be transformed, build better and new relationships, learn new ways of loving and reaching out, and become very comfortable with any and every new experience that our Lord places in our lives.

Reflect, today, upon any way that you have struggled with changes in your spiritual life. Oftentimes, those things we struggle with are actually glorious opportunities to live our Christian faith and charity on a new level. Seek out the changes God is calling you to embrace in your life and know that even if they are difficult, they are the surest pathway to a life of greater holiness for you.

A reflection for the 3rd Sunday of Advent, Year A
My Catholic Life, www.mycatholic.life.com

SECOND COLLECTIONS:-

TODAY SUNDAY 11th December 2022 – Life Group

NEXT SUNDAY 18th December 2022 – No second collection

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

INCOME FOR NOVEMBER 2022

Planned Giving	419.00
Standing Orders	3400.00
Envelopes Parish	120.00
Offertory income	1100.87
Dona Collection parish	206.49
Building Fund	91.00
Gifts/Donations	20.00
Sunday Coffee	40.00
Cake Sale	74.00
Xmas Fayre	1217.77
Total	6689.13

Special Collections:

Missio Sunday	14.12
CAFOD Harvest	20.00
Bamenda	744.21
Total	778.33

BAPTISM PREPARATION

Saturday 18th February 10.30 am – 1 pm

For parents of any children to be baptised in the parish. If you would like your child to be baptised, please contact the parish office as soon as possible to register on the course and arrange a date for your child's baptism.

Growing in Faith Group

Tuesdays 10th and 24th January 2023 and ongoing with further dates to be set next year.

7.30 pm – 9.00 pm in the hall

An opportunity for all to explore, question, discuss and grow in your relationship with God, wherever you are in your faith journey. No questions excluded!!

More details to come

ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE

20th December, 7.30 pm

Please come along to this opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and/or to spend some reflective time before the Lord during the preparations for Christmas.

Other services in our neighbouring parishes:

- St Boniface, 13th December, 7pm
- St Edmunds, 19th December, 7.30 pm
- St Brigids, West End, 17th December 2 pm
- St Patrick's, Confessions, Saturdays, 5 pm – 5.40 pm

**OUR PARISH BASED
CARITAS GROUP ACTIVITIES
at Immaculate Conception church Hall**

COOKERY CLUB

We run a small cookery group in the Parish hall on a Thursday lunchtime where we teach recipes from a variety of cultures. Currently we are purchasing our ingredients, but we would love to be able to use locally grown produce. Therefore, we would like to ask, if you are growing vegetables for the new year could you keep us in mind? We'd love to take your surplus veg or any that you would like to donate to us! If you're interested in joining us and sharing recipes and cookery skills, we would love to hear from you.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY CLUB

Monday 19 December, 10.30 am – 3.00 pm

- For children & young families
- Christmas activities
- Cooking health & nutritious food
- Free meal
- Registration by 15 December

WARM SPACE

Every Tuesday, 2.00 pm – 5.00 pm

10 January – 28 February

- Open to the local community
- Providing free coffee/tea/biscuits & cake, wifi and use of computers to access the internet

We would very much appreciate volunteers from the parish to support us with all of these activities. If you can help with any of them, please do get in touch with us! You'll usually find us onsite on a Tuesday or a Thursday. Alternatively you can email us at vmayuto@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or phone us on 07919956975 or contact the parish office.

Many thanks!

Jo and Victoria (Caritas)

FOUND – PHOTOS

A wallet of lots of old family photos found inside a photo album donation to the Christmas Fair. If it is yours or you know who's it might be please contact the parish office.

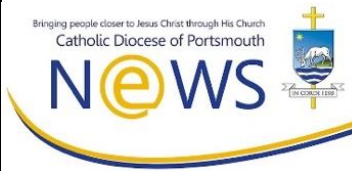
TO FOLLOW BIDDING PRAYERS DURING ADVENT

Marian Anthem

*Mother of Christ! Hear thou they people's cry
Star of the deep, and portal of the sky!
Mother of him who thee from nothing made
Sinking we strive, and call to thee for aid:
Oh, by that joy which Gabriel brought to thee
Thou Virgin first and last, let us thy mercy see.*

CHRISTMAS CARDS AVAILABLE TO BUY IN THEPORCH

All proceeds to support the running of our parish



**PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE
E NEWS**

Activities, events, news and job vacancies from around the Diocese, locally and further afield.

<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue388?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

JOB VACANCIES

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

Caritas – Head of Charity

Salary up to £45k, depending on experience

Full details on this post plus other current vacancies within the diocese can be found on the noticeboard in the church porch or at the following link

<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/current-vacancies>

Springhill Catholic Primary school

ELSA / Home Link Support Worker

We are looking to appoint an enthusiastic, passionate and caring ELSA / Home School Link Worker to join our busy team.

- 3 days/week with some flexibility at times to extra hours or change of hours, term time only.
- Hours 8.00am – 4:30pm

Lunchtime Supervisor

- 11.45 am – 1.25 pm, term-time only.
- Permanent contract
- £20,258 - £21,189 FTE (£4,262 - £4,458 actual pay)

If you are interested in either of these positions at Springhill, please request an application pack, which includes a detailed job description, from the school office or full details can be found on the school website.

www.springhillcatholic.co.uk/staff-vacancies

E-mail: info@springhillcatholic.net

Telephone 023 8033 3954