

# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH



25th September 2023,

Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

*"Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why should you be envious because I am generous? Thus the last will be first and the first will be last."*

Matthew 20: 15-16

**WEEKLY  
INFORMATION  
& UPDATES**

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

**Bank details:** CDP, Immaculate Conception Church  
Sort Code: 30-93-04, Account No: 00887995

**Parish Priest:** Fr Anthony Chiatu

**Parish Deacon:** Dcn Gerard Dailly

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

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

**Safeguarding Officer:** Laura Sparmann

**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 24 Sept	<b>TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Stephen White RIP Keneth Thipthorpe RIP
Mon 25 Sept	Feria	-	NO MASS	
Tues 26 Sept	Ss Cosmas & Damian	10.00 am	Eucharistic Service	
Wed 27 Sept	St Vincent de Paul	-	NO MASS	
Thurs 28 Sept	St Laurence Ruiz & Companions	-	NO MASS	
Fri 29 Sept	The Holy Archangels Michael, Gabriel & Raphael	9.30 am 10.00 am	Rosary Eucharistic Service	
Sat 30 Sept	St Jerome	10.00 am	Mass	-
Sun 01 Oct	<b>TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	- A Special Intention

## READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY



**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Isaiah 55:6-9

**Psalm:** 144:1-3

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** Philippians 1:20-24, 27

**Gospel:** Matthew 20:1-16

## TEA AND COFFEE AFTER MASSES

Please join us in the hall for tea, coffee & biscuits:

- **Sundays after the 10.30 am Mass**
- **The first Sunday of each month after the 8.30 am Mass.**
- **Tuesdays after the 10.00 am Mass**

## CAFOD NEEDS YOU!

- As a result of retirement, we need ONE OR TWO PARISH VOLUNTEERS to help at times during the year with this work. It is very flexible and not a weekly/monthly commitment.
  - In our Diocese, we also need some SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS, to which special training and support is given.
- For 50 years our parish has supported CAFOD in our Diocese with Lent and Harvest collections and various campaigns for the Developing Countries in our world. It would be great to be able to continue this work. If you could assist, please give your name to Fr Anthony, Deacon Gerard or the parish office. If you would like to ask further questions, please speak to Steve on 07540229973.

## BECOMING A READER AT MASS

I would like to invite you to consider becoming a reader for our parish. This is an important role and it is a great privilege to read and proclaim the Word of God to the assembled congregation. A good reader breaks open the Word of God in their presentation of the scriptures, and to do this well it needs training and preparation. We are planning to offer some training for readers – current and new – and I am hopeful that many of you will come forward so that our Readers rotas for 2024 will be full of new life.

(Although being on the rota is a commitment, if you are unable to read on a particular date it is always possible to swap with others on the rota)

In the porch are forms on which you can register your interest in reader training. Please post completed forms through the presbytery door and we will be in touch with you about dates for training.

*Fr Anthony*

**PLEASE NOTE - No weekday Masses next week** as Fr Anthony will be on a retreat. Eucharistic Services will take place on Tuesday and Friday.

## Desiring the Fullness of Grace for All

“When it was evening the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Summon the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and ending with the first.’ When those who had started about five o’clock came, each received the usual daily wage. So when the first came, they thought that they would receive more, but each of them also got the usual wage.”

Matthew 20:8-10

Is life always fair? It would seem not. We have all experienced situations in life when we felt as though we were cheated. Children are especially sensitive to this and will often complain to a parent when they feel as though they have been treated unjustly. From an earthly perspective, it is true that life is not always fair. But we ought not live by an earthly perspective. We are called to live according to the divine perspective. From that perspective, everything is fair in the end, and true justice is meted out to everyone.

When we consider the question of whether or not life is fair, we should always begin with the Son of God. Jesus was certainly not treated fairly. In fact, it is hard to conclude that anyone who has ever lived received a more unjust treatment than Jesus, at least from an earthly perspective. He was perfect in every way. He treated everyone throughout His life with perfect virtue. He never lied, cheated, stole, etc. Yet we all know what happened to Him. He was falsely accused, dishonestly judged, brutally abused, and murdered on a cross. From an earthly perspective, it is clear that this was not fair.

Jesus’ life, along with ours, must not be evaluated from the perspective of earthly justice. It’s not that treating others unjustly is permissible by the will of God. Each of us has a moral responsibility to act in justice as a minimum requirement. But we are also called to exceed earthly justice and live by the new standard of supernatural grace. From that perspective, Jesus’ suffering and death was not tragic; it was glorious. His Cross was not an instrument of injustice, it was His throne upon which He established His new Kingdom. Once grace enters the picture, all apparent injustice is turned upside down and must be looked at from a different perspective.

The parable we read today presents to us the scenario in which God has chosen to bestow His grace and mercy in abundance to all who turn to Him. We can never earn the right to His mercy. Nothing we can do will ever give us the right to the gift of eternal salvation. Therefore, this parable especially challenges us to look at Heaven and the life of grace on earth from the perspective of “gift.” All is a gift from God. Whether we convert at the end of our lives, after living sinful lives, or whether we have spent our whole lives serving the will of God, all is a gift in the end, all is grace.

Only when we comprehend God’s goodness and infinite generosity will we be able to overcome our temptations

toward jealousy and selfishness. Those who have dedicated their entire lives to the love of God, if it is a genuine love and service of God, will, as a result, take on the perspective of the mind and heart of God. Part of that perspective is the burning desire to generously bestow God’s infinite grace and mercy upon everyone who turns to Him. Even the most hardened sinner who has been the source of much hurt in life is a candidate for the fullness of God’s grace if they repent. This must be our desire. We must be like the landowner in this parable who rejoices when laborers show up in the last hour and then lavishes a full day’s wages upon them. Not only is this fair from the divine perspective, it must become our personal desire as we labour through life.

Reflect, today, upon how deeply you desire to see those who have not yet given their lives to God to come to Him and receive the fullness of grace. Look at them within the context of this parable. Examine how you feel about those laborers who have not yet begun their service of God. Examine, also, your feelings toward those who seem undeserving of the fullness of God’s grace. If you find that you have jealousy, or judge others from the perspective of earthly justice, work to eliminate that perspective so that your heart’s deepest desire is to see God bestow the fullness of mercy upon everyone in this world when they turn to Him with a contrite heart.

[www.mycatholic.life](http://www.mycatholic.life)

*A reflection for the 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time*

### SECOND COLLECTIONS:

THIS SUNDAY -17<sup>th</sup> September – SVP (non GA)

NEXT SUNDAY - 24<sup>th</sup> September – No 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection

### CIVIC SERVICE WITH THE LORD MAYOR

**TAKING PLACE HERE, SUNDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> OCT AT 10.30 AM MASS**

All are invited to stay for refreshments and food afterwards in the hall. **If you are staying for food afterwards, please add your name to the list in the church porch** to help us cater for the appropriate number of people. Thank you.

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE A CANDLE LIT** but cannot come to the church at a time when it is open, please let the office or Fr Anthony know. We will light one for you after Mass, take a picture and put it on our Facebook page

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

- **Christmas Fair – Saturday 18 November 2023**  
(Please let Anastasia know if you are able to help)
- **Christmas Games Night (for aged 16+) – 28 Oct 2023**
  - Refreshments & light snacks – you are very welcome to bring along food for your group
  - Prizes for best fancy dress – anything Christmas related
  - Entry will be cash at the door on the day
  - There will be plenty of prizes up for grabs and a mini auction.

**ADORATION FOR STUDENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE**  
Every Wednesday, 6 – 7 pm in the Lady Chapel

### ROSARY IN OCTOBER

Every Wednesday in October, 7 pm  
Lady Chapel at Immaculate Conception

On October 7th, the Church celebrates the feast day of Mary, Queen of the Holy Rosary. The feast day was established by Pope Saint Pius V. on the anniversary of the victory at Lepanto on October 7 1571, which was attributed to the Virgin Mary whose intercession was entreated through the recitation of the Holy Rosary.

The Church then proceeded to dedicate the entire month of October to the Holy Rosary so that individuals, families, and communities would pray the Holy Rosary, if possible, on a daily basis for peace in the world.

**Please join us in October for the Rosary, the best known of all Catholic devotions.**



### A DAY WITH MARY

Saturday 7 October, 1.30 – 6 pm,  
Immaculate Conception Church & Hall

Celebrate a Marian festivity through the eyes of the Filipinos. A day dedicated to Our Lady of the Holy Rosary. Marian talks, Exposition, Benediction, Living Rosary with the procession of Marian statues and icons. Finishing with Sunday vigil Mass at 6 pm, followed by food and refreshments in the hall.

This is an event for all parishioners across any of the parishes in our deanery, facilitated by the City Centre parish Diversity Group.

### LECTIO DIVINA (Praying with the Scriptures)

Verbum Dei Southampton invites you to join a group to Pray with the Scriptures.

7.30 – 8.30 pm, fortnightly on Fridays  
6A Grosvenor Gardens, Highfield SO17 1RS.

(or it is possible to attend by Zoom if you wish)

This is a new group and the next meeting will be 29<sup>th</sup> Sept. Autumn focus: The presence of the Holy Trinity in our lives, followed by Advent in the Gospels.

For more info call 0735 023 949

or e mail Yadira ([mayabecalderon@yahoo.com.mx](mailto:mayabecalderon@yahoo.com.mx))

or Dominic at ([d.tildesley7@gmail.com](mailto:d.tildesley7@gmail.com))

### BOOKSHOP

We are urgently in need of assistance with opening the bookshop on Sundays after both Masses. It is a very easy task of simply unlocking and locking the shop, taking money and noting down what is sold. If we can get a number of volunteers we can work out a rota to make this a very small commitment all round.

Unfortunately without some parishioner assistance we are not be able to make this facility available. Please contact the parish office if you could help.

*Thank you*



### CHRISTMAS SHOE BOX SCHEME

Christmas presents for disadvantaged and displaced children in Eastern Europe.



More boxes available to take away and fill with presents. Please also take a leaflet to guide you.

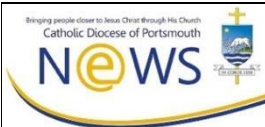
**PLEASE RETURN YOUR FILLED (TOGETHER WITH £2 ATTACHED) AS SOON AS YOU CAN, AND BY SUNDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> OCTOBER AT THE LATEST, TO HELP THE ROTARY CLUB IN PREPARING THEIR DELIVERIES.**

*Thank you*

### SUNDAY LUNCH PROJECT - Helpers urgently needed

Helping as part of a team to set up and serve Sunday lunch to the poor, for about 60 people every Sunday from 9am – 1 pm – There are 7 teams working from St Deny's Church and you would be on a rota ONLY ONCE EVERY 7 WEEKS. Full support given.

Speak to Val Laurent or Steve (07540229973)



LATEST EDITION OF  
PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE  
E NEWS & JOB VACANCIES  
Activities, events, news and

job vacancies from around the Diocese.

<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue420?e=34c55ac6ce>

### BABY & TODDLER GROUP

MEETING AT ST BONIFACE CHURCH HALL, SHIRLEY  
9.30 – 11 am, alternate Tuesdays during term time.

This is a new group starting on Sep 26<sup>th</sup>. Dates for the rest of the term are: 10 & 12 Oct, 14 & 28 Nov, 12 Dec.

£1 per family. Contact: [catholicmotherssoton@gmail.com](mailto:catholicmotherssoton@gmail.com)

### ST ANNES CATHOLIC SCHOOL

OPEN DAY, Wed 27<sup>th</sup> Sept, 9 am – 11 am & 6 pm – 8 pm

For parents with daughters in Years 4, 5 and 6. Please book free tickets via Eventbrite

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/year-4-5-and-6-open-morning-tickets-681427206117?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

### ST GEORGE CATHOLIC COLLEGE

OPEN EVENING, Thurs 5<sup>TH</sup> Oct, 5.30 pm – 8.00 pm

For parents and children in Years 4, 5 and 6

PLEASE COME AND SEE WHAT WE HAVE TO OFFER!

### Job Vacancy:

Part-time Caretaker required at Springhill Catholic Primary School. Full details on the school website - <https://www.springhillcatholic.co.uk/> or you can call the school on 02380 33395

**COUCH/SOFA:** A parishioner is in urgent need of storage for a sofa bed. Already dismantled and wrapped in plastic. If anyone is willing and able to help out it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact the office if you can help. Many thanks.

**The following Charity events are being hosted by the Lord Mayor over the next few months.** There are a variety of fun enjoyable events to choose from depending on your interests and your budget. Why not get a group together for an evening out....!

All Proceeds to be split between the Lord Mayor's chosen charities for this year:

- Saints Foundation
- Southampton City Farm
- Southampton Sea Cadets

**CHARITY FASHION SHOW**  
**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023, 6 pm – 8 pm**  
**At the Place to Eat, John Lewis, West Quay, tickets £20.**

- Prosecco on arrival
- A £5 John Lewis Voucher
- Free draw ticket with a special prize
- Charity Auction

**VAULTS & VINO SOIREE**  
**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2023, 5 pm**  
**St Michaels Square, Southampton**  
**Tickets £35**

- Guided tour of the underground medieval wine vaults in the city centre
- Wine tasting session with food

**A DAY AT SEA, ON-BOARD MS BOLETTE (WITHOUT LEAVING PORT)**  
**Sunday 29 October 2023, 9.30 am – 3.30 pm**  
**Location – TBA**  
**Tickets £55**

- Welcome drink
- Guided tour of the ship
- See the stunning cabins
- 3 course meal with wine
- Onboard entertainment and fun activities
- Raffle and stunning auction prizes

**WINE DISCOVERY EVENING**  
**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023, 6.30 – 9 pm**  
**Figurati! Ocean Village, Southampton**  
**Tickets £59.**

- Learn about the production of wine, the grape varieties.
- Sampling a range of wines
- Enjoy some light bites
- Opportunity to purchase any wines you have enjoyed

**NEPALESE CURRY EVENING**  
**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2024, 7 pm**  
**Everest Cuisine, 1 Queensway, Southampton**  
**Tickets £40**

- 3 course buffet
- Live music & dancing
- Raffle
- Dress to impress!

**For any further information, please see the leaflets in the porch, or talk to the Lord Mayor – our own parishioner Val Laurent!**



**PARISH OFFICE OPEN NEXT WEEK:  
Tues – Thurs, 9.30 am – 2.30 pm**