

6TH NOVEMBER 2022

THIRTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C

“Now he is God, not of the dead, but of the living; for to him all men are in fact alive”

Luke 20:38

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

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 06 Nov	THIRTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Bamenda Sunday)	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Deceased relations of the White family Anna Babagbeto RIP
Mon 07 Nov	St Willibroard	-	NO SERVICES	
Tues 08 Nov	Feria	9.00 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration Mass	Anna Zepler RIP
Wed 09 Nov	The dedication of the Lateran Basilica	10.00 am	Mass	John Coyne RIP
Thur 10 Nov	St Leo the Great	10.00 am	Mass	Luis Greaves RIP
Fri 11 Nov	St Martin of Tours	9.00 am 10.00 am	Rosary & Adoration Mass	Pauline Grocki RIP
Sat 12 Nov	St Josaphat	10.00 am	Eucharistic Service	Kevin McGloin RIP
Sun 13 Nov	THIRTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Remembrance Sunday)	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Jennifer Holmes RIP Neal Cookson RIP



THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

1st Reading: Maccabees 7:1-2,9-14

Psalm: 16:1,5-6,8,15

2nd Reading: Thessalonians 2:16-3:5

Gospel: Luke 20:27-38

TEA AND COFFEE AFTER MASSES

THIS SUNDAY - Please join us in the hall for refreshments **after 10.30 am Mass this weekend.**

TUESDAYS - Please join us in the hall on Tuesdays after Mass for coffee. A friendly welcome awaits you.



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY - 13th November 2022

In preparation for our Remembrance Sunday Mass, if you have relatives who have died as a result of war, conflict or terrorism, please do let us know so that we can include them on the 'roll of honour' this year. Any names are needed in the parish office by Tuesday 8th November – e mail, phone or just drop a note in. We will be joined by our local Scouting and Guiding groups for this Mass and will reserve some seating for them near the front. It may be wise to ensure you get to Mass a little early to ensure there are no issues with the organisation of seating!

PARISH OFFICE HOURS NEXT WEEK

Tues, Weds, Thurs, Fri 9.00 am – 1.00 pm

SICK, HOUSEBOUND OR IN HOSPITAL

If you or a friend or relative are not able to get to Mass because of illness, frailty or disability, please do let us know, so that we can ensure you/they are offered a visit from Fr Anthony or one of our visiting group who can bring Holy Communion. If you are in hospital, do also remember that there is a hospital chaplaincy team available to visit/bring communion to you. They can be contacted at the hospital on the following number: 023 8120 8517 (always at the top of this newsletter)

PLANNED ROAD WORKS starting from Monday 7 November for approximately 6 weeks. This will require the closure of the junction of Mayfield Road and Thomas Lewis. Please bear this in mind if you would normally use this junction to travel to the church.

STUDENT WELCOME EVENT

THIS FRIDAY 11th November, 7 pm In the Church Hall
All students - new and continuing - are invited to our annual student welcome event with food and refreshments. Come along and meet other students and find out more about your parish!

The Dead Will Rise

“That the dead will rise even Moses made known in the passage about the bush, when he called ‘Lord,’ the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob; and he is not God of the dead, but of the living, for to him all are alive.” [Luke 20:37-38](#)

As we draw close to the end of this Church year, our readings begin to focus more clearly upon the final things to come. The following is an excerpt from [My Catholic Faith!, Chapter 5](#), regarding the resurrection of the dead: The third and final coming is when Jesus returns to Earth in splendor and glory. It will be “the end of the world as we know it.” It will be a time when His permanent Kingdom is established. There is much to say about this moment in history and it is actually quite fascinating to reflect upon.

If you were to read the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* paragraphs #671-677, you would discover that it almost reads as a deeply intriguing futuristic science fiction mystery novel. The only difference is that it’s all true, it’s all glorious, and it’s all beyond any mystery we will ever be able to comprehend until it actually takes place. And it will take place at one definitive moment in time to come!

So what does this all mean? It means that Jesus will be returning in all His splendor and glory. He will physically return to Earth one day radiant and glorious. We will see Him, and the world as we currently know it will come to an end. At that moment in time God will establish His permanent Kingdom and both Heaven and Earth will be united as one. It will be “a new Heaven and a new Earth” ([Revelation 21:1](#)). The former Heaven and Earth will pass away and the new order will be established.

But that’s not all! At that moment in time all the dead shall rise. That’s right, all people who have ever died will rise. This means that everybody who has been “laid to rest” in a cemetery or elsewhere will be brought back to life, given a new glorified body, and that body will be rejoined to his or her soul.

The *Catechism* also states:
When he comes at the end of time to judge the living and the dead, the glorious Christ will reveal the secret disposition of hearts and will render to each man according to his works and according to his acceptance or refusal of grace. (#682)

This is a fascinating thought, and a bit scary, too! It means that all that is hidden will come to light. This can be good or bad depending upon what is hidden. The thought should both fill us with a bit of holy fear, and it should also fill us with a holy joy. The holy fear is actually a gift from God to help us eliminate any secret and hidden sin we have now or have struggled with in the past. Since it will in fact all come to light one day, we might as well deal with it now so that our sin is no more. If we do, even

our sin is turned into virtue and grace. And then, at the end of time, that grace and virtue is what will be made manifest. This manifestation of our virtue will be the cause of holy joy not only for us but also for others to whom it is manifested.

We will be judged, then, based on what is there within our conscience. It will no longer just be exterior. We will not be able to put on a good face and pretend we are someone we are not. The full truth will come out and will be made manifest for all to see in accord with God’s plan.

Another thing to note is that at the Final Judgment even those who are in Hell will rise. Why? Because as humans we are meant to eternally be united with our bodies. We are, in essence, body and soul. So even the dead will receive their bodies back. But sadly, they will then suffer eternally not only spiritually but also physically. What this actually entails we do not know. But it will be a real pain of loss. Loss of God and loss in that the body and soul will not be able to share in life with God. This can seem harsh and unfair but we should remind ourselves that God is perfectly just and perfectly loving and however this eternal loss and eternal suffering is lived, it is right and just.

What will this new life look like for those who share in the Resurrection to new life? It will be life with God, physically and spiritually, as well as life with each other. The Book of Revelation speaks symbolically of this new life as a city where God is on the throne in the center of the city. Light shines forth from Him so there is no need for the sun or moon. The streets are gold. The gates filled with precious stones. And so much more. This symbolic language should not be taken literally, rather, it should be seen as imagery that helps us understand the beauty, splendor, and magnificence of the life that awaits us. It’s the new Heavens and new Earth.

*A reflection for 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C
My Catholic Life, www.mycatholic.life.com*

SOME WEEKLY THOUGHTS ABOUT THE MASS.....

A quote from St John Vianney:

“There is nothing so great as the Eucharist. If God had something more precious, He would have given it to us”

ANNUAL BEREAVEMENT MASS

Saturday 19th November, 10 am

November is the month dedicated to the Holy Souls and we invite you to attend our annual Mass. All are very welcome. Please do come along to remember and pray for anyone close to you who has died. We especially invite those who have suffered bereavements over the past year.

Refreshments will be served in the hall afterwards. **If any parishioners are available to help with welcoming and serving tea and coffee your help would be very much appreciated.** Please let Mary Gobbi or the parish office know if you could help.

NOVEMBER – THE MONTH OF THE DEAD

November is the month in which we remember the dead. During this time, we continue to pray for those who have gone before us in faith, that they might be embraced by God. We invite you to remember relatives and friends who have died by writing their names down on the purple paper slips at the front of the church or in the porch and leaving them in the basket in front of the Altar to be remembered and prayed for at Masses during this month of Holy Souls.

MASS INTENTIONS

You will find new Mass intention envelopes which have been made more accessible for you and easier to make any donation you are able to, in the church porch. Please remember however, that if you cannot afford to make a donation, you can still request a Mass intention using the envelope.

Do remember to let us know via these envelopes, if you have people you would like the parish to pray for - friends or family, sick, deceased, in difficulty or perhaps celebrating an occasion. We can then add them to the Mass Intentions list. If you would like to attend the Mass we can ensure it is on an available day which is convenient to you.

THANK YOU, FROM FR ANTONY GATT

My dearest Friends:

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! I am rarely lost for words. However, I was so deeply touched, and moved, by the Farewell Party you gave me, that I was emotionally 'blown out of the water'!

Never, in my wildest dreams did I anticipate anything like it! Your love and appreciation unfolded like the multi leafed lotus, in your messages, words, speeches, cards, gifts, screen visuals and a reception, and decorated hall, which looked like a wedding banquet. I know an incredible amount of love, preparation, creativity, expertise, sacrifice and time were invested in this party. To you all, each and every one of you, with whom I have had the privilege of walking this spiritual, and often challenging journey: I love you. Thank you.

The transactions for the apartment in Bournemouth will be hopefully completed in the next few weeks. I shall keep you up to date on developments.

For now, please remember that you have been woven into the very fabric of my heart and soul.

With sincere thanks, gratitude and appreciation,
Remember me as loving you,
Fr. Antony

SECOND COLLECTIONS:-

TODAY SUNDAY 6th November 2022 - Bamenda

Our Second Collection this Sunday is for our sister Diocese of Bamenda, Cameroon.

Since 1974, the Diocese of Portsmouth has enjoyed a rich and close relationship with our partner Diocese of Bamenda, involving prayer for one another; practical and financial support for projects; the organisation of exchange visits; the promotion of the link in our schools and parishes, and the sharing of news and information.

The Portsmouth Bamenda Committee supports, directs and develops this relationship, raising more than £1,000,000 to date. If you would like to give a gift to this collection, you can donate here:

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/campaign/bamenda> or by using one of the methods below

NEXT SUNDAY – No second collection

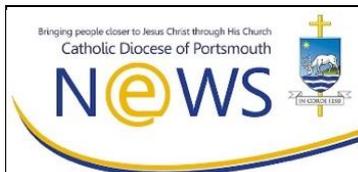
Any donations can be made in cash or by cheque via the collection baskets in the church or using our card payment machine in the church porch.

The Parish Bank Account details are:

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

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

9.00 am on Tuesdays and Fridays before Mass.
All are welcome.



PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE E NEWS

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

<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue383a?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

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday 26th November, 2.30 pm – 4.30 pm

We are collecting the following items.

Toys, Bottles (for the bottle tombola), Gifts, Raffle Prizes, Hand made festive goods, Items for a silent auction.

There will be boxes in the porch next Sunday for any donations.

If you would like to run your own stall please contact Annatasia to book a place.

BIG CHANGES COMING IN OUR PARISHES

Last weekend Anastasia presented the proposed 10 year plan for the diocese, called 'You will be my witness' on which parishes are being asked to consult. As you consider your thoughts and responses to this, the following is a reminder of the key points:

Numbers around the diocese have fallen significantly in terms of parishioners, income, clergy and the use of some of the buildings

The solution proposed by 'You will be my Witness' encourages us to really focus more on what the church means to us and how we in turn respond to the Christian calling. Additionally, it proposes significant changes to the pastoral structures in the diocese to ensure the viability of our presence, so that our mission as a church is able to continue in the long term. The proposal is to form one large parish out of each of the pastoral areas.

For us this would mean amalgamating the 6 parishes on the West side of Southampton, including Immaculate Conception, St Edmunds & St Josephs, St Boniface, Holy Family, St Vincent de Paul, plus St Theresa's in Totton.

What could this potentially mean?

- A central, shared finance and administration structure
- Shared Evangelisation Strategy
- Addressing what to do with vacant buildings
- Repurposing of buildings
- Shared priests

The changes present us with some positive opportunities but also perhaps some risks and questions

We are asked to seriously consider the situation of decline as mentioned above and add our thoughts and suggestions to those put forward in the consultation as summarised above and in the more detailed plan which can be accessed from the home page of the diocesan website or by going to the following link – this is the full version which details in full the reasoning for this gives all the relevant statistics details the structural changes in full from p55 onwards

https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/You-Will-be-My-Witnesses_V5_Website.pdf

The feedback form is available in the porch and at the following link:

https://www.immaculateconception.church/_files/ugd/850ccc_b9e5961cd46540a489e5b4f8aa50ffbb.pdf

Opportunities to give feedback will also be advertised after Masses at the weekend.

St Anne's Catholic School and Sixth Form College

RECENT OFSTED RESULT

remains

OUTSTANDING!

Local Catholic school St Anne's has been judged to be **Outstanding** for the second time in a row since the previous inspection in 2016.

Inspectors described the school as a **"lively, diverse and inclusive school"** where **"pupils are well cared for and have excellent opportunities"**. Staff described to inspectors how they felt **"valued"** and **"love working"** at the school. The report describes how **"parents are very positive about their experience, describing the school as 'amazing' and 'wonderful'"**.

More information, including a link to the full Ofsted report, can be found at:

<https://sway.office.com/qp87xAZe2W8VAdwK?ref=Link>

HOMES FOR UKRAINE – Matching Service

Caritas have recently launched a service to bring together Ukrainian people displaced by war with people in the Catholic community willing to host them in their homes for 6 months. If you have room in your home and heart to offer a room in your home, please visit <https://sjog-homesforukraine.uk>.

More details on the poster in the church porch.

PERFORMANCE OF HANDEL'S MESSIAH

O2 Guildhall, Southampton

Saturday 10th December 2022 at 7.30pm

Performed by Southampton Philharmonic Choir and Southampton University Philharmonic Choir, together with The Hanover Band

Tickets are available online at

o2guildhallsouthampton.co.uk

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

REPAIR CAFE at St Denys Community Centre

Saturday 19 November, 10.30 till 13.00.

Bring along your items for repair...

electrical, mechanical, IT, jewelry, sewing....fixed for a small donation (to pay for hall hire). Delicious homemade cakes available whilst you wait.

CHRISTMAS CAKES

Homemade rich Christmas cakes for sale, ready for you to ice and decorate.

Large cake 23 cm - £20

Small cake 20 cm - £15

Please contact Lesley Newman on 07504455925 or 023 8047698

LOST SMALL PURSE

A small purse has been found in the hall. If you have lost one here, please come to the parish office where it is waiting for you!