

15<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2023

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

*"Look, there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world"*

*John 1:29*

**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 15 Jan  | <b>SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b> | 8.30 am<br>10.30 am            | Mass<br>Mass                            | Jimmy & Queenie Marmion RIP<br>Lawrence & Luigina Clegg RIP |
| Mon 16 Janc | Feria                                 | -                              | NO MASS                                 |   |
| Tues 17 Jan | St Anthony of Egypt                   | 9.30 am<br>10.00 am            | Eucharistic Adoration<br>Mass           | --  |
| Wed 18 Jan  | Feria                                 | 10.00 am                       | Mass                                    | -   |
| Thur 19 Jan | St Wulstan                            | 10.00 am                       | Mass                                    | -   |
| Fri 20 Jan  | St Fabian                             | 9.00 am<br>9.30 am<br>10.00 am | Eucharistic Adoration<br>Rosary<br>Mass | -   |
| Sat 21 Jan  | St Agnes                              | 10.00 pm                       | Mass                                    | -   |
| Sun 22 Jan  | <b>THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>  | 8.30 am<br>10.30 am            | Mass<br>Mass                            | Dan & Maureen McCarthy RIP<br>Veronica Keeney RIP           |



**THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Isaiah 49:3,5-6

**Psalm:** 39:2,4,7-10

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** Corinthians 1:1-3

**Gospel:** John 1:29-34

**TEA AND COFFEE AFTER MASSES**

Please join us on **Sundays after the 10.30 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.



**INTERNATIONAL MEAL**

Saturday 28th January

In the parish hall, from 6.30 pm.

**ALL WELCOME**

Tickets will be available for sale after both Sunday Masses during January, or contact Anastasia.

**Growing in Faith**

**Next session, Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

**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!!*

At the last session the evolving theme of discussion was around the sacrament of reconciliation, how various people understood it, how it benefits them as well as the difficulties and misunderstandings others have, including some helpful and insightful thoughts from Fr Anthony.

**ALL WELCOME TO COME AND DISCUSS ANY AREAS OF FAITH & SPIRITUALITY!**

**ANYONE 18 OR OVER PLEASE READ!**

**WE NEED YOU!**

Children's Liturgy at 10 :30 Mass on Sundays is in real need of more help to cope with the numbers attending. David and Sue are happy to run it but without more help we will have to either discontinue or restrict the numbers so PLEASE consider helping. With enough people we could have a rota. Listening to and encouraging the children in their journey of faith is rewarding and fun.

(Please note that due to the current lack of helpers and important safeguarding rules, we do require children aged 4 and under to be accompanied by a parent/carer until we have others to help)

**Please consider this and speak to Sue or David after the Sunday 10.30 am Mass if you can help.**

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS NEXT WEEK**

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

## Behold, the Lamb of God!

*John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." [John 1:29](#)*

Saint John the Baptist speaks these words about Jesus at the moment that he sees Jesus coming to him in the distance. John knew, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, that Jesus was the "Lamb of God." He knew, by this interior revelation, that Jesus would become the Sacrificial Lamb Who would lay down His life for the salvation of the world. Perhaps John did not know the details of how this would happen, but he didn't need to. He was content knowing this sacred mission of the Messiah, and he was content knowing that Jesus was that Messiah.

Today, as we ponder John's words, we are able to see them more clearly. Jesus is the One Who gave His life on the Cross for the remission of sins. He is the One Whom we now receive sacramentally in Holy Communion as the "Lamb of God." It is His flesh and His blood, poured out for us, that we now consume with the deepest reverence and love.

At Mass, these are the final words spoken by the priest after the consecration and prior to Holy Communion. Every time we participate in the Holy Mass, we relive this moment in which John saw our Lord coming to Him.

As we begin this season of Ordinary Time, we are invited to come to know this Lamb of God more fully through His many teachings, miracles and actions done during His public ministry. In the Liturgy of the Word at every Mass, we are called to unpack these words of John, coming to understand the mystery of the life of Christ more fully. And through our participation in the reception of Holy Communion, we come to know Him Who is the Lamb of God in the most personal and intimate of ways, when we enter into holy union (Holy Communion) with Him.

Reflect, today, upon these very familiar words of Saint John the Baptist. As you do, begin by prayerfully pondering the knowledge that John might have had about Christ the first time he saw Him. Why did John say these words? How fully did he understand their meaning? Did he know that his words would be echoed throughout time? As you prayerfully ponder the interior knowledge that John might have had at that time, try also to reflect upon all that we now know about these holy words. Reflect especially upon the suffering and death of the Lamb of God and the way in which He has transmitted His Saving Sacrifice to us in Holy Communion. What a gift! What a mystery! What a joy! Behold the Lamb of God within your heart, mind and soul, and prayerfully seek to know Him more fully this day.

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

### SECOND COLLECTIONS:-

TODAY SUNDAY 08<sup>th</sup> January 2023 – Pax Christi

NEXT SUNDAY 15<sup>th</sup> January 2023 – Cathedral

**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

### CHOIR

**We are still looking for members of the congregation who can play musical instruments to join the choir.**

Practices take place every Thursday in the church at 7.30pm. Please consider this if you can play an instrument, even if you can't come every week!

Everyone is welcome.

### BAPTISM PREPARATION

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

### HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE GROUP

A group for those who work or volunteer in the Health & Social Care sector is being formed to enable members to discuss together common challenges at work and seek advice from one another. The first meeting will take place in February - date and time to be finalised. If you are interested in joining this group, please email the parish office with your name, contact number and also stating if you are happy to be part of a Whatsapp group. This will then be passed on to the group organiser to contact you with further details.

If you have any queries, please contact the parish office.

### FOR INFORMATION: LITURGY COMMITTEE

I remain profoundly grateful for the tremendous commitment that has gone into making Immaculate Conception Parish the success that it is, as well as for all the everyday sacrifices that each of us makes. I have requested Deacon Gerard to oversee the formation and development of a Liturgy Committee as we move forward in order to share the workload as we continue to prepare for significant liturgies in the future. We want to establish a group that organises liturgical celebrations with the goal of assisting the congregation in having an encounter with the Lord. This is in line with Pope Paul VI's analogy of the Liturgy as a sturdy tree whose beauty is derived from the continuous renewal of its leaves but whose strength is derived from the old trunk, with solid roots in the ground. As we begin to anticipate Lent and Easter, it is hoped that we will be able to put this in place within the upcoming weeks.

**Fr Anthony**

### YOUR OLD CHRISTMAS CARDS.....

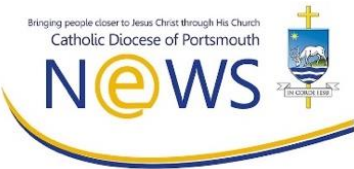
We are Collecting old Religious Christmas cards  
Please place in the box in the porch

### RECENTLY DIED:



**Peter Street RIP**, died 24<sup>th</sup> December 2022, aged 92. His funeral is to be held on 24<sup>th</sup> January, 12.15 pm at Southampton Crematorium

**Mario Magalhaes RIP**, died 26<sup>th</sup> December 2022, age 75. Funeral to be held on 24<sup>th</sup> January, 11 am in the church, followed by a burial at Hollybrook Cemetery.



### PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE NEWS

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

locally and further afield.

<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue392?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)

### VOCATIONS

*"To you who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be a holy people."*

Could it be that you or someone in your family is being called to consider priesthood or consecrated life?

Contact Cn. John Cooke.

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

or call 01329 318 869

### 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.

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

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

### SEEKING ACCOMMODATION.....

A room in a student house or a spare room with a family for a quiet, hardworking student parishioner, aged 19. On first year of Mechanical Engineering degree at Southampton University. Can provide an excellent reference. If you can help, please contact Rachel in the parish office.

### VACANCY AT SPRINGHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

#### LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT

Term time only, 8.30am - 3.15pm

Working with children in school, either in class or on a 1:1 basis.

Full details and an application form can be found on the school website -

<http://www.springhillcatholic.co.uk/staff-vacancies/>

Closing date Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January.

### CAFOD LENT PLANNING MEETING

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February, 10.30 am – 12.30 pm

Immaculate Conception Church Hall

Come and find out more about CAFODs work in Bangladesh which is the focus story for Lent fast day (3<sup>rd</sup> March), explore the resources and meet other parish volunteers.

### THANK YOU FROM

#### SOUTHAMPTON STELLA MARIS SEAFARERS CENTRE

Many thanks for your outstanding support for our local Stella Maris Christmas Appeal which this year surpassed all our expectations. Your generous response has enabled us to bring the spirit of Christmas to thousands of seafarers, far from home, by brightening up their seagoing Christmas trees with your colourful presents.



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*John 1:29*