



# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

04 February 2024

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also.  
For this purpose have I come."

Mark 1:38

**WEEKLY  
INFORMATION  
& UPDATES**

**Our Parish vision is to bring people closer to Christ  
by inviting, welcoming, nurturing and nourishing everyone**

**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 Daily  
**Hospital Chaplaincy:** (023 8120 8517)  
**University Chaplain:** Sr Emelliana Silva (07426 000213)  
**Safeguarding Officer:** Laura Sparmann  
(safeguarding@immaculateconception.church)  
**Parish Secretary:** Rachel Brady (023 8055 5470)  
**Confessions:** After 10 am Mass on Saturdays  
**Hall Bookings:** contact the parish secretary

**PARISH OFFICE OPEN: Tuesday – Friday, 9.30 am – 2.30 pm**

**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 04 Feb	<b>FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME FOURTH</b>	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Dan & Maureen McCarthy Jim & Kathleen Earl RIP
Mon 05 Feb	St Agatha		NO MASS	
Tues 06 Feb	St Paul Miki & Companions	9.00 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration Mass	Anna Zepler RIP
Weds 07 Feb	Feria	10.00 am 6.00 pm	Mass Eucharistic Adoration	Yaroslav Buzukin & Mihaylo Zaliskoviy – called up last week to fight with Ukraine Army
Thurs 08 Feb	St Jerome Emiliani	10.00 am	Mass	-
Fri 09 Feb	Feria	9.00 am 9.30 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration Rosary Mass	-
Sat 10 Feb	St Scholastica	10.00 am	Mass	-
Sun 11 Feb	<b>SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Patrick & Martin Conway and Kenneth & Anne Redmond RIP Karenza & Alex Michels RIP

 <p><b>READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY</b> 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Job 7:1-4,6-7 Psalm: 147:1-6 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:16-19,22-23 Gospel: Mark 1:29-39</p>	<p><b>NEXT WEEK IN THE PARISH:</b> Tues 6<sup>th</sup> - Next RCIA meeting – 7 pm in the hall Weds 7<sup>th</sup> - Adoration for students and anyone else who would like to join us – 6-7 pm in the Lady Chapel Thurs 8<sup>th</sup> - Choir Practice. Anyone is welcome to join - 7.30 pm in the Church Fri 9<sup>th</sup> - Baptism Preparation – see newsletter item 7.30 pm in the hall Sun 11<sup>th</sup> - Childrens Mass 10.30 am Cake Sale after 10.30 am Mass in the hall</p>
	<p><b>SECOND COLLECTIONS:</b> THIS SUNDAY – No Second Collection NEXT SUNDAY – 11 Feb – Caritas</p>

**TODAY'S GOSPEL REFLECTION: Enthralled by Jesus**

When it was evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were ill or possessed by demons. The whole town was gathered at the door. He cured many who were sick with various diseases, and he drove out many demons, not permitting them to speak because they knew him. [Mark 1:32-34](#)

Jesus was in the home of Simon Peter whose mother-in-law He had just cured. "The whole town gathered at the door" when evening came. This was Jesus' first time being in Capernaum after beginning His public ministry, and already people were flocking to Him in droves. The next morning, Jesus got up before dawn and went away alone to pray. Soon, some of the disciples found Him and told Him that, once again, the whole town was looking for Him.

The excitement was great. So many were amazed. And their amazement at Jesus was not simply a form of curiosity. It was an amazement fueled by faith, which is why Jesus was able to perform so many miracles there. The people quickly realized that Jesus was the One of Whom the prophets of old had spoken. He was the Messiah, and the people gave Him their full attention.

This is a good image for us to ponder. As you think of the crowds and their unwavering desire to be near our Lord, consider your own desires pertaining to God. Do you regularly find yourself consumed with a desire to find our Lord, to be with Him, to listen to Him and to receive His grace and mercy? Or are you tempted to see Jesus and the practice of your faith as boring and uninteresting? One of the unfortunate effects of modern technology is that we easily become fascinated by and intrigued with many superficial things. Perhaps it's the latest short video on a mobile app, or the latest episode of a favorite television series, or a new post by a friend on social media. There are many things today that compete for our attention, intrigue us and even amaze us. Is Jesus one of those things in your life?

In our modern world of constant stimulation and entertainment, we need to understand the difference between being amazed at the latest pop trend and being amazed by the grace and divine actions of our Lord. When we come face-to-face with the power of God in our lives, we will be amazed in a way that fulfills and satisfies us on the deepest level. It will be a spiritual amazement, which is a gift of the Holy Spirit. And the satisfaction we receive from this form of amazement is transforming, deep and sustaining. But when we turn to lesser and more sensory "amazements" common within our world today, we will find that they last only for a moment, and we are quickly left dry and wanting for more.

Reflect, today, upon the people in today's Gospel who were so enthralled by Jesus that they continually sought Him out. Consider their excitement, their hope and their genuine joy at their discovery of the Messiah. As you think about them, consider whether you share in their excitement about Jesus. If that excitement is lacking, recommit yourself to seeking out our Lord. And where you see that excitement present, rejoice and give glory to God.

*A reflection for the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Yr B*  
[www.mycatholic.life](http://www.mycatholic.life)

## PARISH NOTICES

**TEA & COFFEE AFTER MASSES** Work continues on the hall kitchen but tea and coffee is still be available after the 10.30 am Mass on Sundays. Please join us.

### CAKE SALE

**After 10.30 am Mass next Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> Feb**

We would very much appreciate donations of cakes, homemade or shop bought, to sell. Please bring any contributions to the hall before Mass.

### ASH WEDNESDAY COMING UP.....

#### • PALM LEAVES/CROSSES – DO YOU HAVE ANY AT HOME?

Traditionally these are burned for the ashes used at Mass on Ash Wednesday (14<sup>th</sup> Feb this year). If you have any from previous Palm Sundays, please leave them in the Church Porch when you are next here.

### BAPTISM PREPARATION SESSION

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February, 7.30 pm in the hall

For parents who would like their child (under aged 7) to be baptised during the next few months. This is a prerequisite for infant baptism. Please contact the parish office before Friday 9<sup>th</sup> Feb, for a registration form if you would like to attend.

### MEMORIAL MASS FOR FR ANDREW MCMAHON RIP

**Immaculate Conception Church**

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February, 10.00 am**

Followed by refreshments in the hall, a short talk about Fr Andrew and the opportunity to put your memories of him in a memorial book. More info next week.

### CHILDREN'S MASS

Next Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> Feb at 10.30 am

All welcome, especially families with young children

## CONFIRMATION

**For young people aged 14-18**

We will be starting a Confirmation programme for young people, over the next few weeks. If you would like to be Confirmed, please fill in a registration form available in the church porch or download one from our website. The link can be found at the bottom of the following page:

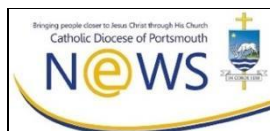
<https://www.immaculateconception.church/confirmation>

**Please return forms by Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February**

### GIFT AID

If you gift aid your donations to the parish, please don't forget to complete a new Gift Aid form as soon as possible. We are unfortunately now unable to claim any further gift aid on your donations, unless we have a new Gift Aid form signed with our new diocesan charity number on it. Forms can be picked up from the church porch.

A reminder also that purple envelopes can no longer be accepted. Any cash or cheques to be gift aided must be given in a white envelope with your details on it.



### PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE E NEWS & JOB VACANCIES

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

<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue432?e=34c55ac6ce>

## HELPING IN THE PARISH

Over the past year I have been listening to people and having consultation meetings, gradually building a structure for our parish. We now need more people to volunteer their help. Some tasks require just a small amount of time, some can be done from home, some are one offs, others temporary. And then there are also more time consuming roles.

The parish belongs to the community and it is only through your time and commitment that it is able to grow. If you have a particular interest or skill you are willing to use in the life of the parish, I would love to hear from you. Some examples could be:

- **Building trades and general maintenance**
- **Gardening**
- **Cleaning**
- **Music**
- **Taking communion to the sick and housebound**
- **Reading at Mass**
- **Church shop**
- **Refreshments after Masses**
- **Events & Fundraising planning team**
- **Health & Safety advice**
- **Finance/property team**
- **Flower arranging**
- **Welcoming and hospitality team**
- **IT and Audio Visual equipment in the church**
- **Photography**
- **Social Media**
- **Visiting housebound**
- **Providing soup for soup lunches**
- **Helping with sacramental preparation – Baptism, First Holy Communion, Confirmation, RCIA, Marriage (you don't need to be an expert on the Catholic faith but just be practicing with a genuine interest)**

Thank you for all you do and for what you could do in the future!

*Fr Anthony*

## CREATING THE PERFECT WELCOME

A FREE WEBINAR from the National Churches Trust  
13th February 2 – 3pm.

One of the goals withing our Diocesan Mission Plan is to: 'Develop a comprehensive approach to welcome in each church community to enable participation for all'.

This is the ideal session for anyone involved in church hospitality and driving repeat visits to places of worship. Themes covered include: · Why should you welcome visitors and what have you got to offer them? · How to meet and greet church visitors. What are people interested in when they visit your church or chapel? · Why is interpretation important? · How can we interpret and share our stories; simple and effective things you can do? Book your FREE place here: Creating the Perfect Welcome :

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=g-LefJx8vEqfaVNQsT7rzhtLEHoDbZPowE-wZWC03ZUQUIESokxVUI1ToZIM1ZJMUIIWDBVMFBLTC4u>

## FAITH DISCUSSION GROUP

**Wednesdays in the Church Hall at 7 pm, starting 21<sup>st</sup> Feb.**

We will be restarting the faith discussion group sessions this Lent which we began last year. All are invited to this opportunity to listen, share and learn more about our faith from each other. We have had some suggestions for discussion themes. If you have others, please do put them in the suggestion box in the church porch.

## NEXT REPAIR CAFÉ

**At Immaculate Conception Church Hall**

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February, 10.30 am – 1.00 pm.**

Do you hve anything you need help repairing?

Most items tackled including electrical, sweing, computers, bikes etc. Bring it along and have a tea/coffee & cake while you wait/watch your repair being done.

## WINTER NIGHT SHELTER

Taking place in the city centre during February. Volunteers needed to help. Details available on the hall noticeboards.

## CAFOD



**SATURDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> FEB 11 AM - 1 PM**

**STARTING AT ST EDMUNDS CHURCH**

Join other Catholics from around the Southampton parishes to walk together up to and around the Common, advertising the Lent Fundraising campaign. Tea, Coffee, Cakes served afterwards in St Edmunds Hall. Further details of the full CAFOD Lent Challenge to walk 200 km in 40 days to help fight Global Poverty, can be found on the poster in the church porch or check the CAFOD website.

## Lord Mayors Charity Masked Ball

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024, 6.30 pm – 1.00 am**

**Mike Channon Suite, St Mary's Stadium, Southampton**

A reminder about this exciting event coming up soon. A night of glamour with a three course meal and wine, live music, dancing, table magic with Colin Phillips and hosted by compere Mike Osman. All proceeds are to support three local charities, City Farm, Sea Cadets and the Saints Foundation. So far, we already have enough parishioners to book a table for 10 – there is still plenty of time to book more! Tickets £60/person for table of 10 or £65 each. Bookings at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lord-mayors-hollywood-glamour-masked-ball-tickets-64013118407>



## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE HUMAN?

### Medical Ethics and Social Care Today

The Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth invites all practitioners working or interested in medicine and clinical ethics, regardless of religious affiliation, to join us for a Symposium considering the various perspectives including legal, medical and religious, needed to provide holistic patient care from conception to end of life. (More details on poster in church porch)

The Arc, Winchester, Sat 16<sup>th</sup> March 10.30 am – 4.14 pm  
Tickets £20 (includes light lunch & refreshments) available:  
[what-does-it-mean-to-be-human-symposium.eventbrite.co.uk](http://what-does-it-mean-to-be-human-symposium.eventbrite.co.uk)



**LENTEN  
RETREAT**  
PREPARING FOR EASTER

ST VINCENT DE PAUL RC CHURCH  
LORDSWOOD, SOUTHAMPTON  
SO16 5ST  
**SATURDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024**  
**10- 4PM**

LED BY THE DOMINICAN SISTERS  
TO INCLUDE TALKS, MASS, THE  
ROSARY AND ADORATION.

DONATIONS £10 PER PERSON  
(TO INCLUDE LIGHT REFRESHMENTS)

For More Details & To Book Your Place Please Contact  
[SVPOFFICE@PORTSMOUTHDIocese.ORG.UK](mailto:SVPOFFICE@PORTSMOUTHDIocese.ORG.UK)

All are invited to participate in our Lenten retreat on **Saturday 16th March, 10-4pm**. The day will include talks, Mass, the Rosary and Adoration. Hot drinks and biscuits will be served during breaks. Participants should bring a packed lunch. A Tesco Express is opposite the church if you would like to use it. Free parking is available. Donations of £10 per person should be made before the event to secure your place. To book your place and for payment details please contact [svpoffice@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:svpoffice@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)



• INVITATION •

Abbot Xavier Perrin invites you to the launch of the exhibition

LITURGY AND LANDSCAPING:  
**MONASTIC LIFE**  
at Medieval Quarr Abbey

Saturday 17th February 2024 – at 2.00pm  
meet in the courtyard adjacent to the art gallery

RSVP  
Tracy Osborn  
[tracy.osborn@quarr.org](mailto:tracy.osborn@quarr.org)

RESPONSORIA

Quarr Abbey

On Saturday 17th February, Quarr Abbey on the Isle of Wight invite you to an historical exhibition that they are putting on at 2 pm. The exhibition is part of a reflection on the past in preparation for the 900th anniversary of the foundation of the Old Quarr Abbey in 2032. If you wish to take part, please email Tracy Osborn [tracy.osborn@quarr.org](mailto:tracy.osborn@quarr.org)