



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

SUNDAY 2nd – SUNDAY 30th November 2025

*How blessed are the poor in spirit; the kingdom of Heaven is theirs
Matthew 5:3*

**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

Email: 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

(safeguarding@immaculateconception.church)

Parish Secretary: Vacant position (023 8055 5470)

Confessions: After 10 am Mass on Saturdays

Hall Bookings: contact the parish secretary

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

**ALL MASSES ADVERTISED BELOW ARE AVAILABLE TO JOIN LIVE, ONLINE AT
www.churchservices.tv/portswoodchur**

REGULAR MASS TIMES

Sunday 8.30 am & 10.30 am
Monday No Mass
Tuesday 10.00 am
Wednesday 10.00 am
Thursday 10.00 am
Friday 10.00 am
Saturday 10.00 am

Holy days of Obligation 10 am & 7.30 pm

MASS INTENTIONS THIS MONTH

Sat^h 1st Nov Joe Gobbi RIP
Sun 2nd Nov 8.30 am Lawrence & Luigiana Clegg RIP
Thursday 6th Nov Lorance Perera RIP
Friday 7th Nov Anna Zepler RIP
Sat 8th Nov Luis Greaves
Wed 12th Nov Kevin McGloin RIP
Thurs 13th Nov Sueverina Biniz RIP
Sat 22nd Nov Cecilia Randall RIP
Tues 25th Nov Dead relatives of the White family RIP
Sun 30th Nov 8.30 am Ellen Gobbi RIP
Sun 30th 10.30 am Mavis Rosario RIP

OTHER REGULAR LITURGIES & DEVOTIONS

Tuesday 9.00 am Eucharistic Adoration
Wednesday 6.00 pm Eucharistic Adoration
Friday 9.00 am Eucharistic Adoration
9.30 am Rosary

SUNDAY READINGS FOR NOVEMBER

2ND NOV 1st Reading: Revelation 7:2-4,9-14
Psalm: 24(23):1-2,3b-4,5-6
2nd Reading: 1 John 3:1-3
Gospel: Matthew 1-12a

9th NOV 1st Reading: Ezekiel 47:1-2,8-9,12
Psalm: 46 (45) 2-3,5-6,8-9,15
2nd Reading: Corinthians 3:9c-11, 16-17
Gospel: John 2:13-22

16TH NOV 1st Reading: Malachi 4:1-2a
Psalm: Ps98(97):5-6, 7-8a, 8b-9b, 9cd R cf
2nd Reading: 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12
Gospel: Luke 21:5-19

23RD NOV 1st Reading: 2 Samuel 5:1-3
Psalm: 122(121):1-2-3-4a-5, R Cf.1
2nd Reading: Colossians 1:12-20
Gospel: Mark 11:9, 10



SECOND COLLECTIONS

THERE ARE NO
SECOND
COLLECTIONS
THIS MONTH

MASS INTENTIONS

If you would like to ask for a Mass Intention, please give details to Fr Anthony until the Parish Office re-opens.

OTHER REGULAR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES IN THE PARISH

All Welcome to join.....

Mon - Cooking with Confidence – 11 am – 1 pm – church hall kitchen
Tues - Tea & Coffee after 10 am Mass – church hall
- RCIA – 7 pm – 8.30 pm in the church hall
Weds - Parent & Toddler Group (term time only)
10.30am – 12 noon, church hall
- **Choir Practice** 7 pm in the church.
Thurs - Maintaining the parish gardens – from 10 am
- **Caritas Activity Event** – 11 am in the church hall
Sun - Refreshments after 10.30 am Mass- church hall

**PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES DURING NOVEMBER, TO
OUR REGULAR SCHEDULE OF EVENTS IN THE PARISH:**

No changes to our usual schedule this month,

TODAY'S GOSPEL REFLECTION:

Commemorating All Souls

"For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life, and I shall raise him on the last day." [John 6:40](#)

Yesterday's Solemnity of All Saints gave us an opportunity to celebrate and rejoice in the fact that there are countless people who have gone before us who are now enjoying the glories of Heaven. These faithful souls lived lives that were grounded in God's grace and have been fully purified of all sin. They now gaze at our good God face-to-face.

Today, we commemorate the fact that many who die in a state of grace are not immediately ready to stand before the glorious throne of God and see Him face-to-face. The only way this is possible is if every sin and every attachment to sin is purged from our souls. We must have nothing but pure charity alive within us if we are to enter the eternal glories of Heaven. But how many people die in such a state?

The Church, in her wisdom and holiness, has taught clearly through the centuries that when a person passes from this world to the next while still attached to less serious sin, they need to be fully purified in order to enter Heaven. This is Purgatory. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states: "All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven. The Church gives the name Purgatory to this final purification of the elect, which is entirely different from the punishment of the damned" (#1030–31a).

For some, Purgatory can be a frightening and even confusing thought. Why doesn't God, in His infinite mercy, simply take all our loved ones who followed Him straight to Heaven? The answer is simple. He does! And the path for them to Heaven is this incredible mercy of their final purification.

Purification of all attachment to sin within our soul is a mercy beyond what we can imagine. Through this final purification, God prepares the holy souls who have died for an eternity of joy. But this purification is necessary because God, in His love, does not want any soul to live eternally with even a minor attachment to sin. God wants us all free. The truth is that every sin on our soul, even the smallest one, is reason enough for us to be excluded from Heaven. So Purgatory must be seen as a final mercy from God by which He lifts every last burden that keeps us from perfect love, so that our eternity will be one of utmost freedom and ecstasy. God wants us to be filled only with the purity of love forever. Thus, upon our death, we are graced to enter into a final and intense purification of every minor sin, so that when we see God in all His glory, we will see Him with the perfection to which we are called. Purgatory is a gift, a grace, a mercy. It will be painful to go through in the same way that overcoming any sin is painful. But the good fruit of freedom from sin makes every final purification we must endure worth it a hundredfold and more.

Reflect, today, upon the spiritual truth that God wants you to be a saint. If you are among those few who die in a state in which you are purified from every sin, then be assured that you have already completed your purgatory on earth. But if you or your loved ones are among the many who still hold some minor attachment to sin at the time of death, then rejoice that God is not done with you yet. Anticipate with much gratitude the final purification that awaits and look forward to the freedom that ultimately comes from that purification.

A reflection for the Feast of All Souls, Year C

www.mycatholic.life

If you like to read these Sunday Gospel reflections, future weeks this month can be found at

<https://mycatholic.life/upcoming-reflections/#cal>

PARISH NOTICES

WELCOME & THANK YOU to Fr Antony Gatt who is celebrating our Sunday Masses with us this weekend in Fr Anthony's absence.

NOVEMBER – THE MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

This month of November, is dedicatd to the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

9TH NOVEMBER IS REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY – there will be the usual scouts & guides parade before the 10.30 am mass so please ensure you take your seats early. If there are any veterans who would like to participate in the service through the Act of Remembrance or carrying the poppy wreath please let Fr Anthony or Mary know. Similarly if there are any names to be added to the roll of honour please let us know before 1st November.

ANNUAL BLESSING OF THE GRAVES

Remembrance Sunday, 9th November 2025.
Time and meeting place TBC

SAVE THE DATE:

CHRISTMAS FAIR, Saturday 22nd November.

Thank you for your generous donations so far - please keep them coming! We're still collecting items for the auction, bottle stall, tombola, toys, books, games, and bric-a-brac (all in good condition). Let's work together to support Street Pastors and The Sunday Lunch Project.

YOUNG VOICES

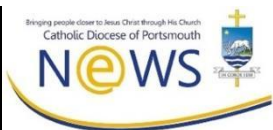
We are looking for readers from Years 6-13 to join our young voices team, we will be hosting special liturgies at our 8.30am and 10.30am masses. As a young voice you'll get to read scripture and prayers during mass, be part of a fun and supportive team whilst developing your public speaking skills. Please contact Mary if interested.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING CATHOLIC? OR WANT TO DEEPEN YOUR FAITH?

Our **RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)** program begins on **Tuesday 4th November**, and we warmly invite:

- Those who are not baptised and are exploring the Catholic faith,
- Christians from other traditions who feel drawn to the Catholic Church,
- Baptised Catholics who have not yet received First Holy Communion or Confirmation,
- And anyone who wants to grow in understanding and love of the Catholic faith.

Sessions take place on **Tuesdays from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm** — just 1½ hours each week — in a welcoming and supportive environment. If you've been thinking about the Church, or if someone you know is feeling called to take the next step, this is a wonderful opportunity to explore the journey of faith. To register or find out more, please email the parish office office@immaculateconception.church and also speak to Fr Anthony or Deacon Gerard after Mass.
"Come and see..." (John 1:39)



PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE E NEWS & JOB VACANCIES

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

<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue509?e=34c55ac6ce>

CLEANER AVAILABLE

A parishioner (Norbert's mum) is currently seeking cleaning work. If you or someone you know could benefit from her services, please email the parish office for more details or speak to Fr Anthony.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY – GROWING TOGETHER IN FAITH

We are blessed to have so many children actively taking part in our parish liturgies. To help them continue growing in faith, we encourage those who have received their First Holy Communion to remain in church during Mass, since they are now full communicants sharing fully in the Eucharist with the parish family. Please be assured that every Mass will continue to include children in prayer, song, and reflection, so that their faith is nourished week by week. In addition, starting in November, every third Sunday of the month, we will celebrate a special Children's Liturgy at Mass. On these occasions, the children will take part more visibly through the readings, prayers, and a homily prepared especially for them. In this way, our parish liturgies will always make space for our children's voices, while also helping them to grow more deeply into the full life of the Church.

WELCOME TO ALL UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

A warm welcome to the parish for all our students returning for another year and to all new students. If you would like to know more about what is going on at Immaculate Conception parish and how you could get involved, please do speak to Fr Anthony or Deacon Gerard after Mass.

READER REFRESHER SESSIONS

All current and new readers are invited to attend one of the upcoming refresher sessions:

- **Sunday 23rd November** – after **10:30 a.m. Mass**
- **Saturday 29th November** – after **10:00 a.m. Mass**

These sessions are a great opportunity to review best practices and prepare for the season ahead.

LOOKING AFTER OUR MINDS MENTAL HEALTH

AWARENESS Saturday 1st November 2025 10am – 2pm, at Immaculate Conception Church Hall

Join us for a mental health awareness session that will also shine a light on the experiences of people from ethnic minority backgrounds. This event is open to all, to register your interest please call St. Denys Activity Group on 07399877141 / email ceet@solent.nhs.uk

PILGRIMAGE TO PORTUGAL

The parish of St Swithun Wells is organising a pilgrimage to Lisbon and Fatima (Portugal) from Thursday 30th April to Monday 4th May 2026. We will visit Lisbon, the birthplace of St Antony, the site of Apparitions of Our Lady in Fatima and Tomar. There will be mass every day and procession of the candles in Fatima. The price is £879 per person for half-board accommodation. Breakfast and dinner are included. Three-star hotel accommodation for two nights in Lisbon and two nights in Fatima. This price is valid until 14 November 2025. Book and pay the deposit as soon as possible at <http://www.allsaintstravel.co.uk/l1103/>

JUBILEE TOUR TO WESTPORT, KNOCK & CO MAYO

10th November 2025, £799.00 pps. Price includes flight from Heathrow or Luton, 10kg hold luggage, 4 nights' in 4* Castlecourt Hotel, Westport with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Full use of leisure facilities. All entertainment, excursions and transport included. Visit Knock Shrine, Ballintubber Abbey, Fr. Peyton Centre & Kylemore Abbey. Irish music nightly. Single supplement on Enquiry. Contact 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

ADVENT & NEW YEAR RETREATS

“He is our Peace!” (Eph 2:14)

You are warmly invited to join us for two upcoming retreats at the Verbum Dei Retreat Centre on the Isle of Wight:

- **Advent Retreat:** 5–7 December
- **New Year Retreat:** 31 December – 4 January

These retreats offer a space to pause, reflect, and contemplate the peace that Christ longs to give us.

For more information or to register, please contact:



verbumdei.iow@gmail.com



www.uk.verbumdei.org

AFTERNOON TEA INVITATION

Fundraising for HCPT Group 170

HCPT Group 170, the Southampton branch of the international charity HCPT, is preparing for its 2026 pilgrimage to Lourdes, marking the charity's 70th anniversary. Each Easter, HCPT takes children with a range of additional needs on a life-changing holiday, offering joy, care, and spiritual enrichment.

Next year, Group 170 hopes to take six or seven children aged 7–11 from our local area, including our parish. The cost is approximately £1,000 per child, covering flights, accommodation, outings, and all the essentials for a memorable experience.

Volunteer helpers generously pay their own way and fundraise to support the children.

To help raise funds, parishioners are warmly invited to a **Fundraising Afternoon Tea:**



St Anne's School, Southampton



Sunday 23rd November



3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Please support this wonderful cause by attending the event or spreading the word. Flyers are available in the church and hall. Feel free to share the details with friends, family, and fellow parishioners.

With heartfelt thanks for your support and prayers.