

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

12th November 2023

Thirty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

"So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour."

Matthew 25:13

**WEEKLY
INFORMATION
& UPDATES**



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: 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 12 Nov	THIRTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY)	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Kevin McGloin RIP Mary Thomas RIP
Mon 13 Nov	Feria	-	NO MASS	
Tues 14 Nov	Feria	9.00 am 10.00 am	Euch Adoration Mass	Cecelia Teo RIP
Wed 15 Nov	St Albert the Great	10.00 am 6.00 pm	Mass Euch Adoration	-
Thurs 16 Nov	St Edmund of Abingdon	10.00 am	Mass	-
Fri 17 Nov	St Elizabeth of Hungary	9.00 am 9.30 am 10.00 am	Euch Adoration Rosary Mass	-
Sat 18 Nov	Dedication of the Basilicas of St Peter & St Paul, Rome	10.00 am	Mass	-
Sun 19 Nov	THIRTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Fr Stephen Dwyer RIP Thanksgiving for Lucette & family

READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY



1st Reading: Wisdom 6:12-16

Psalm: 62:2-8

2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

WELCOME this Sunday to Fr Antony Gatt who is saying both Masses whilst Fr Anthony is on Lord Mayor Chaplain duties at the Cenotaph. We also welcome some of the Cubs/Scouts/Brownies/Guides from our parish affiliated groups.

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**

BEREAVEMENT MASS Sat 18th Nov, 10.00 am

A Mass to remember and pray for anyone who has died. If you have someone you would like to be prayed for, please come along to this Mass and light a candle for them. We especially invite all those families who have had funerals for their loved ones in the parish over the past year to light a candle for them. Refreshments served afterwards.

PARISH OFFICE OPEN NEXT WEEK:

Tues – Fri, 9.30 am – 2.30 pm



CHRISTMAS FAIR

Sat 18th November, 2 – 4 pm

Raffle tickets on sale after Masses

Thank you for all the donations which have been made so far.

We are also in need of **donations of cakes**

and volunteers to help on the cake stall.

Please let Anastasia or Gemma know if you are able to help on the stall. Cakes can be brought to the hall on Friday evening or Saturday morning.



A REFLECTION FOR REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

The Readings for today, all focus on the gift of Faith in the Resurrection.

St. John Henry Newman left us a poetic description of purgatory in which the soul itself, saved and invited into the company of heaven, chooses to be purified first. *The Dream of Gerontius*

Throughout this month we are encouraged to pray for All Holy Souls. Today, Remembrance Sunday, we remember especially those who died in the two world wars and in subsequent wars. Remembering those who have died who were close to us, may leave a very personal and painful sense of loss in our hearts. That sense of loss is an indelible mark of love. Therefore we should never regret feeling that pain. It reminds us to remember with gratitude and with joy the experience of true companionship and reminds us that we have a means to show even now our love by praying for those who have gone before us. They, too, pray for us and, thereby, give us their protection.

In the Gospel parable, Jesus warns us not to take length of life for granted. We don't know when the call will come!

When we die we go into the arms of another Mother, who represents the whole Church and who loves us and will see to the nurturing and any further growth needed to reach fullness of life. Indeed we pray daily, "Holy Mary, Mother of God pray for us now and at the hour of our death." Pope Benedict XVI's thoughts about dying included looking forward to being united with loved ones and being received into the loving embrace of the tender Physician, Jesus himself.

Each week a priest from our diocese provides a commentary on the Sunday readings for the Diocesan Liturgy Project

www.theliturgyproject.com

Today's commentary is written by Fr Peter Codd

NOVEMBER – MONTH OF THE DEAD

During this month we remember in particular those who have died. Not just the saints or those who have died at war but anyone who has gone before us. If you would like a special Mass intention for anyone who has died, please complete a form on the Mass Intention envelopes available in the porch.

There is also a table in front of the altar throughout November with slips of paper and pens where you can write the name of anyone who has died and place it in the basket in front of the altar for them to be remembered at Masses throughout this month.

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

ADVENT - PREPARING SPIRITUALLY FOR CHRISTMAS

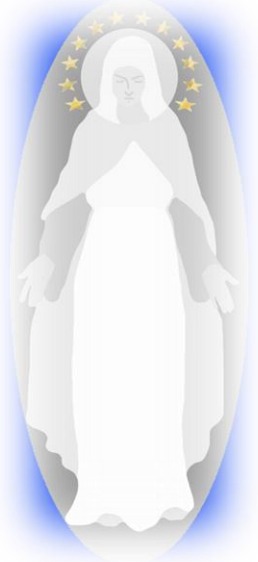
This year we will be praying a Novena at the beginning of Advent, leading up to our parish feast of the Immaculate Conception. Traditionally there are 9 days in a Novena during which a prayer, or set of prayers, are said each day for a specific intention or in spiritual preparation for a special feast.

Our parish NOVENA will take place

Weds 29 Nov – Thurs 7th Dec

Each weekday during this time, the 10 am Mass will continue at the end to the Novena prayer which will last about 5 minutes.

If you are not able to be with us, we would love you to join us on line, or by saying the prayers at home each day at a time convenient to you. A link to the prayers will be available on the front page of our website.



FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Friday 8th December 2023

Evening Mass will be followed by some light Christmas refreshments. Please put this in your diary and join us to celebrate our parish feast day.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Within the parish community there is a small group of people who are dedicated to praying for the special intentions of parishioners. If you have any specific intentions you would really like the group to pray for, please let Fr Anthony know by speaking to him after Mass or by writing a note and posting it in the presbytery letter box. Next week there are now forms in the porch and a box in which you can leave your requests.



Through intercessory prayer, we bring someone else's needs before God, trusting God to take care of others, whether they are loved ones, friends, enemies, or total strangers.

Intercessory prayer is a powerful way to support others spiritually. This can be done in a general way or specifically by praying for a particular person by name. We may not be in a position to help others in a particular way every time a need is expressed, but we are always given the opportunity to pray for them.

CULTURAL DIVERSITY MASS

Sunday 26th November 2023 at 10.30 am

We are planning to hold Cultural Diversity Masses in the parish on a regular basis, starting with one on 26th November with a focus on the Filipino culture. If you are from a Filipino background please talk to Fr Antony as we would love to involve you in our planning of this Mass.

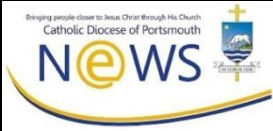


JOB VACANCY
SOUTHAMPTON STREET PASTORS
PART TIME OPERATIONS ASSISTANT
 £23K pro rata

Full details on their website at

<https://streetpastors.org/locations/southampton/>

A BIG THANK YOU to all parishioners who have donated many **sleeping bags** for the Street Pastors to make available to those in need who they meet on the streets.



LATEST EDITION OF
PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE
E NEWS & JOB VACANCIES

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

<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue424?e=34c55ac6ce>

'1 MARK'

A PERFORMANCE OF MARKS GOSPEL

St Edmund's Church, Friday 24th November, 7pm

(Tickets £5: any 'profit' will go towards the Organ Fund)

Listening to a gospel in its entirety in one sitting enables us to grasp the whole picture and message. It is certainly beneficial for us to hear it in one sitting before we begin to listen to it little by little. Rt Rev Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury said: "Sometimes it takes a living voice to make you hear the Bible for the first time - a voice that presents some saying or episode not as a stray fragment but as part of the rhythm and pace of a story that goes on gathering momentum. Mark's gospel has just that kind of momentum, and this performance gives a memorably strong sense of it."

Watch an extract: <https://youtu.be/tg5-eW-W-xc> (The Last Supper). The Eventbrite link to book is:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/i->

Southampton Council of Faiths

would like to invite you to join them on a

Walk for Peace on November 19th
starting at the Queens Peace Fountain in Andrews
Park 12.15

and then visiting Medina Mosque, Nanaksar Gurdwara, St Edmunds Church and Friends Meeting House. All are welcome!

Please register here (for catering)

<https://tinyurl.com/3hzj38dn>

For more information and updates on the day go to

<https://www.southampton-faiths.org/events>

ADVENT RETREAT - 1st - 3rd Dec and a

4 DAY CHRISTMAS RETREAT - 28th Dec. - 1st Jan.

Organised by the Verbum Dei community. Venue: Verbum Dei Retreat Centre on the Isle of Wight. For more information and to register, contact:

verbumdei.iow@gmail.com or

www.uk.verbumdei.org

SECOND COLLECTIONS:

THIS SUNDAY -12th November – No second collection

NEXT SUNDAY – 19th November – No second collection

PARISH INCOME – September & October 2023

Standing Orders 6,211.00

Envelopes parish 376.00

Offertory income 4324.19

On Line Giving 364.00

Direct debits 1107.00

DONA 168.15

FHC 135.00

Cake Sales 104.52

Tea/coffee 113.75

Repair Cafe 43.73

Candles 306.30

TOTAL 13253.64

September & October Special Collections:

Catholic Ed Service 304.48

Street Pastors 69.91

Home Mission 145.82

SVP 606.69

World Comms 20.00

CAFOD 832.82

Lord mayor Charities 360.53

World Mission 228.03

TOTAL 2568.28

CHRISTMAS GAMES NIGHT

Saturday 2nd December, 7 – 10 pm

- Refreshments & light snacks – you are very welcome to bring along food for your group
- Prizes for the best fancy dress – anything Christmas related
- Entry – cash on the door
- Plenty of prizes up for grabs and a mini auction
- Come and long and join us for a social evening and a bit of fun!

A NOTE OF THANKS

On the 22nd October 2023 the Immaculate Conception Church hosted my Civic Service.

I would like to express my deepest and heartfelt thanks to all for your wonderful reception on this special occasion. I was quite blown away with all the preparation, involvement and hard work beforehand and on the day, from everyone. My guests later commentated on the warm welcome received and I quote ' a privilege to join you and a super service most fitting of the occasion' Philip Lashbrook, Mayor of Test Valley.

Thank you hardly conveys my appreciation but is truly meant. The honour of the city was in your hands and you did Southampton proud. You are the best.

Thank you.

Valerie Laurent

Lord Mayor



RICH FRUIT CAKES, UNDECORATED

- Large Xmas cake (23cm) £20
- Small Xmas cake (20cm) £15

please contact/message:

Lesley Newman on: 07504455925.



CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY INTERNSHIPS

Castlerigg Manor (The Lancaster Diocese Retreat Centre) is looking for young Catholics aged 18-25 to join their Youth Ministry Internship Programme. The scheme gives participants wide ranging experience, skills, training, and qualifications as well as the opportunity to work with a fantastic team based in the English Lake District. For more information contact director@castleriggmanor.co.uk

ACROSS TO LOURDES BY JUMBULANCE



A local (South Hampshire) group pilgrimage is being planned, to Lourdes next summer: 13th-22nd June. We will travel in our specially adapted coach which is fully kitted out to meet the needs of all pilgrims, especially those who have additional needs. www.across.org Costs will be around £1000 per person but we are planning to do some fundraising and bursaries may be available for young people (18-25) and medical/care professionals. To register an interest please Ruth Cunio (Southampton City Centre parish) ruth@across.org.uk

ARE YOU A CO-OP MEMBER?

If you are, you can help the work of Caritas Portsmouth to support people struggling with social isolation by choosing us as your local Co-op cause through their Local Community Fund. Each time you shop at Co-op, purchase their branded products, and use your membership card we receive a donation at no cost to you. Donations will be used to purchase items needed to run social groups, anything from gardening to book clubs, that will create a safe and welcoming spaces for our neighbours and help us become the Church Beyond Walls. To select us, just visit our [profile page](#) and click on the 'choose this cause' button and please spread the word to family, friends and in parishes. Not a Co-op member yet – not a problem! You can join for £1, just click on [this link](#) to find out more. Thank you for your support.



Wisdom Centre Winter Programme 2023/2024

<https://www.wisdomhouseromsey.org.uk/our-programme/>

At Wisdom Centre, we create space for people ... space to meet, space to reflect, space to talk, space to simply be. At the heart of this is hospitality rooted in the tradition and spirit of the Daughters of Wisdom.



STELLA MARIS

Stella Maris Seafarers Christmas Chocolate Appeal 2023

Can you help us give a Christmas chocolates to Seafarers this December? What do you want for Christmas?

Whatever it is it's highly likely it will have come to this country by sea. Did you know there will be about 400,000 Seafarers working over Christmas, separated from their families and friends? Theirs is a tough, relentless life, long hours, boring, noisy, temperature extremes, dangerous and exhausting. Stella Maris meets and supports seafarers around the world. We want to show them that they are not forgotten this Christmas, so we're planning to collect hundreds of chocolate Christmas presents for seafarers visiting our Southern Region ports in the days before Christmas. We need to prepare now. Can you help us by donating chocolate gifts? Any chocolate gifts can be left in the labelled box in the porch from next week onwards. Your gift may be the only present a seafarer receives this Christmas.

