



# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

28 January 2024

## FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

*"His teaching made a deep impressin on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority"*

Mark 1:22

## WEEKLY INFORMATION & UPDATES

**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 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

**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 28 Jan	<b>FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Wilfred White RIP Mollie Maher & Michael Hunt RIP
Mon 29 Jan	Feria		NO MASS	
Tues 30 Jan	Feria	9.00 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration Mass	-
Weds 31 Jan	St John Bosco	10.00 am 6.00 pm	Mass Eucharistic Adoration	-
Thurs 01 Feb	Feria	10.00 am	Mass	-
Fri 02 Feb	THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD	9.00 am 9.30 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration Rosary Mass	-
Sat 03 Feb	St Blaise	10.00 am	Mass	Rita Burkman RIP
Sun 04 Feb	<b>FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Dan & Maureen McCarthy Jim & Kathleen Earl RIP



### READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Deuteronomy 18:15-20

**Psalm:** 95:1-2,6-9

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** 1 Corinthians 7:32-35

**Gospel:** Mark 1:21-28

### SECOND COLLECTIONS:

THIS SUNDAY – Racial Justice

NEXT SUNDAY – 04 Feb – No second collection

**CRIB COLLECTION - For Friends of the Holy Land**

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

### 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.
- **VOLUNTEER TO CHANGE THE SLIDES ON THE OVERHEAD PROJECTOR DURING DURING THE MORNING MASS.**  
Please let Mary Gobbi know if you would be willing to help with this.

**BAPTISM** Archie, one of our First Holy Communion children will be baptised after the 10.30 am Mass this Sunday. Please pray for him on this special day, as well as his family and all involved in his faith journey.

**FIRST RECONCILIATION** – all our First Holy Communion children will be making their First sacrament of Reconciliation next Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February. Please also remember these children in your prayers, at this important point in their lives.

### ADORATION EVERY WEDNESDAY EVENING 6 – 7 PM

An invitation to our students as well as any parishioners - all are welcome to come and spend this special hour in prayer in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament every Wednesday evening.



### PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE E NEWS & JOB VACANCIES

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

<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue431?e=34c55ac6ce>

## The Subtleties of Grace

*In their synagogue was a man with an unclean spirit; he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!" Jesus rebuked him and said, "Quiet! Come out of him!" The unclean spirit convulsed him and with a loud cry came out of him. [Mark 1:23-26](#)*

It's interesting to note that this unclean spirit immediately knows Who Jesus is. This is because each of two opposites emphasizes the other very clearly. For example, the color black is most clearly seen when it is placed in front of something white. Or something hot is most noticeable after experiencing something very cold. And a loud noise is most jarring when someone is sitting in silence. And so it is with Jesus and evil. Jesus, the Holy One of God, is most clearly seen when He comes in contact with an unclean spirit.

This fact gives us some wonderful insights into our journey toward the heights of holiness. Oftentimes, when one experiences a profound and transforming conversion, it is because they were first living a life of sin. When one who is living in sin encounters the saving grace of God, it is quite noticeable. And that is good.

But there is also another spiritual insight we can take from this. To further the analogy, it is also true that when the color black is put next to something dark blue, or something hot is touched after holding something quite warm, there is less notice taken. So it is with the spiritual life. When we are striving to obtain true holiness of life, and when we are already living the many virtues to which we are called, the next step closer to God might not be nearly as noticeable. Instead, growth in perfection for one who is already striving for perfection will be very subtle. And that is also good.

This is important to understand because sometimes, when a person has gone through a powerful conversion earlier in life, they want to return to the experience they had when they initially converted. But that should not be our goal. Instead, we should continually strive to experience these more subtle changes that take us from a life of holiness to one of even greater holiness. In this case, if you do not sense a powerful contrast of spiritual experiences within you, that may be simply because there are no serious sins you are trying to overcome. Thus, the ideal for every Christian is to eventually experience less contrasting spiritual experiences and more that are gentle and subtle as our Lord continues to gently perfect you in many ways.

Reflect, today, upon your own spiritual journey toward holiness. If you do see serious sin in your life, know that God wants to profoundly free you and draw you through a major conversion. If you do not see serious sin in your life and if you already strive daily to become holy, then rejoice if your spiritual consolations and communications from God are much more subtle and, at times, undetectable. Keep working at perfection and rejoice that you are on the correct path.

*A reflection for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Yr B*  
[www.mycatholic.life](http://www.mycatholic.life)

## 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.

## NEXT REPAIR CAFÉ

**At Immaculate Conception Church Hall**

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

Do you have anything you need help repairing?

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

## 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

Tickets £60/person for table of 10 or £65 each.

Bookings at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lord-mayors-hollywood-glamour-masked-ball-tickets-640131118407>

## 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

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March 10.30 am – 4.14 pm

Tickets £20 (includes light lunch & refreshments) available at:

[what-does-it-mean-to-be-human-symposium.eventbrite.co.uk](http://what-does-it-mean-to-be-human-symposium.eventbrite.co.uk)