



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

24th December 2023 – 7 January 2024

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Christmas & New Year

“The mystery, which was kept secret for endless ages, is now made clear.”

Romans 16:26

**WEEKLY
INFORMATION
& UPDATES**

Address: 346 Portswood Road, Southampton, SO17 3SB

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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 24 Dec	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT ----- VIGIL OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD	9.30 am ----- 5.30 pm 10.00 pm 10.30 pm	Mass ----- Christmas Family Mass Christmas Carols Christmas Vigil Mass	Karenza & Alex Michels RIP ----- People of the Parish Hugh & Maureen Slevin RIP
Mon 25 Dec	THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD			People of the Parish
Tues 26 Dec	St Stephen	10.00 am	Mass	Aleck Palmer RIP
Wed 27 Dec	St John	-	NO MASS	
Thurs 28 Dec	The Holy Innocents	-	NO MASS	
Fri 29 Dec	St Thomas of Canterbury	-	NO MASS	
Sat 30 Dec	Liturgy of the Day	10.00 am	Mass	John Ford
Sun 31 Dec	THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH	8.30 am 10.30 am 11.00 am	Mass Mass New Year Vigil Mass	Jean Templeton RIP Deceased members of the Gobbi/O'Brien Families -
Mon 01 Jan	MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD	10.00 am	Mass	Audrey Campbell RIP
Tues 02 Jan	Ss Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen	-	NO MASS	
Weds 03 Jan	Liturgy of the Day	10.00 am 6.00 pm	Mass Eucharistic Adoration	Liam Broderick RIP
Thurs 04 Jan	Liturgy of the Day	10.00 am	Mass	Mr & Mrs Lynch RIP
Fri 05 Jan	Liturgy of the Day	9.00 am 9.30 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration Rosary Mass	K Lorance Perera RIP
Sat 06 Jan	Liturgy of the Day	10.00 am	Mass	Alec & Peggy Kickham RIP
Sun 07 Jan	THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Annabel & Rowland Surlis RIP Adjovi Dulcinee Yleana



READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY

1st Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-12,14,16

Psalm: 88:2-5,27,29

2nd Reading: Romans 16:25-27

Gospel: Luke 1:26-28

READINGS FOR CHRISTMAS

1st Reading: Isaiah 62:1-5

Psalm: 88:4-5,16-17,27,29

2nd Reading: Acts 13:16-17,22-25

Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY 31 DEC

1st Reading: Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3

Psalm: 105:1-6, 8-9

2nd Reading: Hebrews 11:8,11-12,17-19

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED BETWEEN CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR

Open week commencing 2nd Jan, Tues – Thurs 9.30 am – 2.30 pm

A reflection for Christmas

What comes to mind when you think about the work of Christmas? For most of us, I suspect, it's things like shopping, wrapping presents, decorating, cleaning the house, buying groceries and cooking Christmas dinner. It's getting ready for Santa and opening presents. It's getting to church on time for the start of the Christmas Mass. I know for some it's a lot of work just getting through these days. They're hard days of grief, sadness, depression. For some the work includes planning the liturgies and preparing homilies. We do a lot of work leading up to and in anticipation of Christmas Eve. And I wouldn't be a bit surprised if, on Christmas Day, after the child has been born and after the dishes have been done, there's a collective sigh of relief that our Christmas work is done.

But what if it's really not? What if that's when "the work of Christmas begins?"

Christmas is God continuing to give life to his people. Christmas, says St. Gregory of Nyssa, is the "festival of re-creation." It is God giving God's own life to his people. It is as if God said, "I want humanity to see my face. I want them to hear my voice. I want them to touch me. I want them to eat my body. I want to live their life. I want them to live my life." This festival of re-creation is God's celebration of humanity. It is God entrusting God's self to human beings, to you and to me. It is God's reaffirmation of humanity's goodness.

Have you ever loved or forgiven another? Have you ever reached out to another with compassion or gentleness? Have you ever responded with non-violence and peace? Have you ever fed the hungry or cared for the sick? Has someone else ever done those things to or for you? If you answered **yes** to any one of those questions then you can also say, "And [once again] the Word became flesh and lived among us."

This is the gift of Christmas. We have been given the power to become children of God. Human beings are the tangible, outward, and visible signs and carriers of God's inward and spiritual presence.

Have you ever thought of yourself as a sacrament? Have you ever looked at someone across the street and said, "Hey, look! There is the sacramental image of God?" Why not? Why do we not see that in ourselves and each other? After all, "The Word became flesh and lived among us." The Word became flesh and has never ceased living among us. The Word became flesh and will never cease living among us. So make way. Wherever you go. Whatever you are doing. Whoever you are with. Make way for the image of God. Christmas your way through life!

Fr Liam Cummins

The Liturgy Project, Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

Bringing people closer to Jesus Christ through His Church
Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth



PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE
E NEWS & JOB VACANCIES
Activities, events, news and job vacancies from around the Diocese.

<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue428?e=34c55ac6ce>

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION FOR PARISH PRIEST

The collections at the Christmas Masses always go to the parish priest as they rely on these donations and a small stipend from the diocese for their personal expenses.

If you would like to make a donation to this collection you can do so in any of the following ways:

- If you are NOT a tax payer - use a 'Christmas Collection for Parish Priest' envelope available in the church porch and put it in a collection basket.
- If you ARE a tax payer - use one of the white Gift Aid envelopes in the church porch, making sure to tick the Clergy Collection box and placing it in the collection basket.
- Via our card machine in the church porch
- Online using the link on the home page of our website www.immaculateconception.church

SECOND COLLECTIONS:

NEXT SUNDAY – 31st December – No Second Collection

CRIB COLLECTION - For Friends of the Holy Land

THE FEAST OF ST STEPHEN - 26th December, Boxing Day

St Stephen is the Patron Saint of Altar Servers and so our Altar Servers in particular are invited to Mass today to celebrate their ministry as part of the Order of St Stephen.

Every Tuesday from 9th January

7.30 pm in the church hall.

For anyone who is interested in learning more about the Catholic faith. If you would be interested in joining, just turn up on a Tuesday at 7.30 pm.



TEA & COFFEE AFTER MASSES

Work is due to start on the hall kitchen at the beginning of January. There will be no tea or coffee after Masses for the first two weeks of January. More updates once the work has started.



END OF THE YEAR SILENT RETREAT

Joy to the world, our Saviour has come!

28 DEC. - 1 JAN.

verbumdei.iow@gmail.com



To help us explore and deepen in the joy that our faith in Christ brings us, and prepare ourselves for the year to come. Led by the Verbum Dei Community. For more information, please contact: Sr Emiliana 07426 000213 or verbumdei.iow@gmail.com