Parish Newsletter · Sunday 25 October 2026
Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

October - Month dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' - Matthew 22:34-40

ALL MASSES LISTED BELOW ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE TO JOIN LIVE on our website or www.churchservices.tv/portswoodchur

Week Commencing 25th October

Solemnities, Feast days & Memorials	Times & Liturgies	Mass Intentions
Sun 25 October *THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME*	8.30 am Mass 10.30 am Mass	Gretta Andrews RIP Dunn McCarthy RIP
Mon 26 October *Ss Chad & Cedd*	***-NO MASS-***	
Tue 27 October *Feria*	9.00 am Eucharistic Adoration 10.00 am Mass	Rosemary Spencer RIP
Wed 28 October *Ss SIMON & JUDE*	10 am Mass 6 pm Eucharistic Adoration	--
Thu 29 October *Feria*	10 am Mass	Lorance Perera RIP
Fri 30 October *Feria*	9:00 am Eucharistic Adoration 9.30 am Rosary 10.00 am Mass	John Ford RIP
Sat 31 October *Feria*	10 am Mass	Lawrence & Luigiana Clegg RIP
Sun 1 November ALL SAINTS	8.30 am Mass 10.30 am Mass	Joe Gobbi RIP Healing for Sarita Varghese

SUNDAY READINGS: *1st Reading*: Exodus 22:21-27 *Psalm:* Ps 18(17):2-3a. 3b-4. 47, 51ab. R/2

2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:5c-10 *Gospel*: Matthew 22:34-40

Upcoming Second Collection: **Bamenda Sunday - 1st November**

The Diocese of Portsmouth has been twinned with Bamenda since 1974, making this one of the longest and most fruitful international partnerships in the Church. A special collection will be held in support of Bamenda. Through prayer, friendship, and financial assistance, we help support pastoral, educational, and community projects serving those in need. Thank you for your generosity and prayers for the people of Bamenda.

Read more: Bamenda - Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

Week Commencing 1st November | All Saints

'Blessed are the poor in spirit.' - Matthew 5:1-12a

Solemnities, Feast days & Memorials	Times & Liturgies		Mass Intentions
Sun 1 November All Saints	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Joe Gobbi RIP Healing for Sarita Varghese
Mon 2 November *Commemoration of ALL SOULS*	***-NO MASS-***		
Tue 3 November *St Martin de Porres*	9.00 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration Mass	Simon Rees RIP
Wed 4 November *St Charles Borromeo*	10 am 6 pm	Mass Eucharistic Adoration	--
Thu 5 November *Feria*	10 am	Mass	Wilfred Perera RIP
Fri 6 November *Feria*	9:00 am 9.30 am 10.00 am	First Friday Eucharistic Adoration Rosary Mass	--
Sat 7 November *St Willibrord*	10 am	Mass	For all deceased members of our parish
Sun 8 November *THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME*	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	For the People of the Parish

SUNDAY READINGS: *1st Reading*: Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14 *Psalm:* Ps 24(23):1-2. 3-4b. 5-6. ℟ cf. 6

2nd Reading: 1 John 3:1-3 *Gospel*: Matthew 5:1-12a

OTHER REGULAR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Monday
Cooking with Confidence
11 am – 1 pm, Church Hall

Tuesday
Tea & Coffee after 10 am Mass, Church Hall

Thursday
Maintaining the parish gardens & Multicultural group – from 10:30 am

Sunday
Refreshments after 10.30 am Mass, Church Hall

All are welcome to join! *Come along, meet new people, and enjoy being part of our parish community.*

Gospel Reflection: 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time October 25, 2026(Year A)

The Greatest Commandment

When Jesus was asked which commandment was the greatest, He gave a simple but profound answer: love God with all your heart, soul, and mind, and love your neighbour as yourself. These two commandments summarise the entire Law and the teachings of the prophets. They are also reflected in the Lord's Prayer. We first honour God, seeking His glory and kingdom, then ask for His help, mercy, and guidance. Our love for God should shape every aspect of our lives and

overflow into love for others. By living these commandments each day, we prepare for the joy of loving God and neighbour perfectly in Heaven.

A Grace Shared: Our Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes, *18–22 October 2026*

Dear friends,

In the early hours of Sunday 18 October, while most of the parish was still asleep, nine of us from Immaculate Conception set off for Lourdes. We were a small group, and that turned out to be a gift. It gave us time to pray unhurriedly, to listen to one another, and to let the place do its quiet work.



We arrived tired but expectant. On Monday we began our pilgrimage proper with Mass in the Chapel of St Anne. There we placed ourselves under the care of St Bernadette, the poor and sickly girl through whom heaven chose to speak.

Tuesday stays with me most. At half past seven in the morning we gathered for Mass at the Grotto itself, among a great many pilgrims and priests. I was given the privilege of being principal celebrant. Offering the Holy Sacrifice at the very rock where Our Lady appeared is an honour I will carry for the rest of my priesthood. Later we joined English-speaking pilgrims from many countries for Mass in the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception. It was a fitting place for a parish that bears that same name, the name Our Lady gave herself at Lourdes. In the afternoon we climbed to the Cité Saint-Pierre. There, in the Sheepfold Chapel, a place of rare silence and beauty, we celebrated a Mass of healing, and each pilgrim received the Anointing of the Sick.

On Wednesday we joined the International Mass in the Underground Basilica, thousands of voices and many languages offering one prayer. On Thursday we celebrated our final Mass in the Crypt, one of the oldest altars in Lourdes, built in response to Our Lady's request that a chapel be raised there.Around these Masses the days took on a rhythm of their own. Each afternoon at 15:00 we prayed the Rosary at the Grotto. At 17:00 we joined the Eucharistic Adoration and Procession, and at 21:00 we walked in the Torchlight Procession, where the Ave Maria rises from a sea of candles. We made the High Stations of the Cross on the mountainside, the steep path itself becoming a prayer. At the Baths, those who were able were immersed in the water of the spring, and the others received the gentle ritual of the water gesture. Both were offered in the same faith. You were not absent from any of this. Many of you entrusted intentions to us, and on our last morning we lit candles before the Grotto for our families, our friends, our benefactors and this whole parish. They were still burning when we flew home.



My sincere thanks go to Patricia Ho, our Pilgrimage Director, whose careful planning allowed us simply to pray, and to each of our pilgrims for their faith, patience and generous companionship. Lourdes does not ask for strength or holiness before you come. It asked nothing of Bernadette but that she come to the Grotto and listen. So I leave you with a question to ponder in the months ahead:

If Our Lady were to invite you by name to come to the Grotto next year, what would you bring to her, and what is truly holding you back from saying yes?

With my prayers and blessing,

Fr Anthony Chiatu

PARISH NOTICES

Bookshop: Lourdes Holy Water bottles available in the Repository (limited stock). Holy Water is also available free of charge. Dee will be in the Repository after the 10:30am Mass on Sunday. Father Anthony has already blessed the Holy Water Bottles.



Jigsaw Sale for Charity

Looking for a new challenge or an early Christmas gift? A selection of 1,000-piece jigsaws in excellent condition will be on sale this Sunday, 25 October, after the 10:30am Mass in the Parish Hall. All proceeds will go towards the Christmas Fayre Charity Appeal. Suggested donation: £2 per jigsaw Why not take home a puzzle, support a good cause, and help make this year's Christmas Fayre fundraising a success? *Thank you for your support.*

Christmas Fayre - Saturday 14 November - Donations Needed!

Our Christmas Fayre will be held on Saturday 14 November, and we would be very grateful for your support. We are now collecting good quality donations for the fayre. Items can be left at the back of the church or in the parish hall. We are also looking for volunteers to help with preparations, setting up, running stalls on the day, and clearing away afterwards. If you can spare some time, please speak to the parish office.



Remembering Our Loved Ones This November

November is the month in which the Church prays in a special way for the Holy Souls, and as a parish family we hold close all those we have loved and lost.

- ***Bereavement Mass* – Saturday 7 November at the 10am Saturday mass.**
  We will celebrate a Mass for all parishioners who have died since November last year. We warmly invite their families and friends to join us. During the Mass, anyone who has lost a loved one, whether recently or some time ago, is welcome to come forward and light a candle in their memory. You do not need to have lost someone this year to take part; all who wish to remember someone dear to them are most welcome.

- ***Remembrance Sunday* – Sunday 8 November**
  On Remembrance Sunday we pray for all who have died in war and conflict, and for peace in our world.

- ***Blessing of Graves* – Stoneham Cemetery, Sunday 8 November at 12:30 pm**
  Following Remembrance Sunday, Fr Anthony will go to Stoneham Cemetery to bless the graves. Please join us there and accompany us to the graves of your loved ones so that we can pray with you and bless their resting place.



Grief can be a lonely road, and these occasions are a chance to walk it together, supported by prayer and by one another. Please do come, and feel free to bring family and friends.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

Upcoming Dates:

- Parish Youth Day – Wednesday 28 October, 10:00am - 3:00pm, Parish Hall.
- RCIA – Tuesday 3 November, 7:15pm, Parish Hall
- Alpha Reunion Social – Wednesday 11 November, 7pm, Parish Hall



Clocks Go Back This Weekend

A reminder that the clocks will go back by one hour in the early hours of **Sunday 25 October**.

We look forward to welcoming you to Mass at the correct time on Sunday morning.

Parish Office Closed: Please note that the Parish Office will be closed from Tuesday 27 Oct to Thursday 29th Oct 2026. For any urgent enquiries during this period, please contact the parish priest, either in person after mass, on the phone 02380 555470 or in email: cnjingo@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.