

27TH NOVEMBER 2022
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR A

“Stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming.”

Matthew 24:37-44

Immaculate Conception Church

Within the Pastoral Area of Southampton East
 346 Portswood Road, Southampton, SO17 3SB
 Tel: (023) 8055 5470
 Website: www.immaculateconception.church
 Email: office@immaculateconception.church
 Facebook: Immaculate Conception Church, Portswood

Parish Priest: Fr Anthony Chiatu

Parish Deacon: Dcn Gerard Dailly
Hospital Chaplaincy: (023 8120 8517)
University Chaplain: Sr Emelliana Silva (07426 000213)
Safeguarding Officer: Pat Saunders
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 27 Nov	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Zibignew Wolas RIP Mr & Mrs Charlie Yates RIP
Mon 28 Nov	of the 1 st week of Advent	-	NO SERVICES	
Tues 29 Nov	of the 1 st week of Advent	9.00 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration Mass	Paddy Coady RIP
Wed 30 Nov	St Andrew	10.00 am	Mass	Ellen Gobbi RIP
Thur 01 Dec	of the 1 st week of Advent	10.00 am	Mass	Elva Mills RIP
Fri 02 Dec	of the 1 st week of Advent	9.00 am 10.00 am	Rosary & Adoration Mass	Audrey Campbell RIP
Sat 03 Dec	St Francis Xavier	10.00 am	Mass	John, Joyce, Peter & Sean O'Donnell RIP
Sun 04 Dec	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Mr & Mrs John Broderick RIP Mavis Rosario RIP



THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

1st Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5
Psalm: 122:1-9

2nd Reading: Romans 13:11-14
Gospel: Matthew 24:37-44

TEA AND COFFEE AFTER MASSES

TUESDAYS - Please join us in the hall on Tuesdays after Mass for coffee. A friendly welcome awaits you.



CHRISTMAS FAIR
 continues today in the hall after Sunday Masses.... please come over for refreshments and to browse and buy from the stalls.

CAKE SALE NEXT SUNDAY

Any donations gratefully received. Please bring them to the hall before Masses, with a note of the ingredients.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

9.00 am on Tuesdays and Fridays before Mass. All are welcome.

NATIVITY PLAY & CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Sunday 11th December, 2.30 pm in the church
 There will be a rehearsal on Sunday 4th December after 10.30 am Mass for all children who would like to take part. Please speak to Sue Deadman after 10.30 Mass this weekend or next to sign up or for more information.

SICK, HOUSEBOUND OR IN HOSPITAL

If you or a friend or relative are not able to get to Mass because of illness, frailty or disability, please do let us know, so that we can ensure you/they are offered a visit from Fr Anthony or one of our visiting group who can bring Holy Communion. If you are in hospital, do also remember that there is a hospital chaplaincy team available to visit/bring communion to you. They can be contacted at the hospital on the following number: 023 8120 8517 (always at the top of this newsletter)

PARISH OFFICE HOURS NEXT WEEK
 Tues, Weds, Thurs, Fri 9.00 am – 1.00 pm

Wake Up!

“Jesus said to his disciples: “As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. In those days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day that Noah entered the ark. They did not know until the flood came and carried them all away. So will it be also at the coming of the Son of Man.” [Matthew 24:37–39](#)

Are you awake? Spiritually speaking? As we begin the liturgical season of Advent, we are given the future coming of the Son of God to ponder. As this passage goes on, Jesus says, “Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come.”

By the “day your Lord will come,” we should understand three things. The first coming of Christ is obviously that which we most clearly ponder in Advent and Christmas. The unity of human nature with divine nature, in the Person of Jesus, is truly awe-inspiring. But that already took place long ago.

Thus, a second coming of Christ that we must continually ponder is His coming by grace, every moment of every day of our lives, once we have chosen to freely give our lives over to His service, for His glory, in accord with His will. When we live with such an interior disposition by which we seek His ongoing “coming” by grace, then we will find that we need to continually “stay awake!” If we do not, then we can be certain that we will miss countless opportunities to become more united to Christ every day and to be used as an instrument of that very grace for His service and glory. If we do not diligently build a habit of becoming attentive to every prompting of grace in our lives, then we will, unquestionably, begin to become “drowsy” and will fall asleep, spiritually speaking.

A wonderful measure of our daily attentiveness to the innumerable gifts of grace given to us every day is to also consider how attentive we are to the final and glorious coming of Christ at the end of time. Just as Jesus explains, most people will pay little attention to this final coming, presuming it will not even be in their lifetimes. But if you have that attitude, then you have completely missed the point. The point is preparedness—today, tomorrow and always. True preparedness for the final coming of Christ will not only help you enter the mysteries of these Advent and Christmas seasons by which we ponder the first coming of Christ, it will also help you form a habit of daily attentiveness to grace.

Reflect, today, upon how ready you are for the final coming of Christ at the end of time. Are you ready if Christ were to come today? If not, understand that a lack of preparedness for the final coming also means a lack of preparedness to celebrate His first coming at Christmas long ago, as well as His daily comings by grace. Prepare today. Do not wait. If you do, God will daily transform you in ways that are glorious beyond comprehension.

A reflection for 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C
My Catholic Life, www.mycatholic.life.com

SECOND COLLECTIONS:-

TODAY SUNDAY 27th November 2022 – No Second Collection

NEXT SUNDAY 4th December 2022 – Flowers for Christmas

Any donations can be made in cash or by cheque via the collection baskets in the church or using our card payment machine in the church porch.

The Parish Bank Account details are:

Name: PRCDTR Immaculate Conception Church,
Sort Code: 30-93-04, Account No: 00887995

A PARISH CHRISTMAS SOCIAL EVENING AND TALENT CELEBRATION

Sunday 18th December, 5 pm in the parish hall

Come to share and celebrate your skills and talents! Adults and children of all ages and backgrounds - If you can sign a song or two, play some music, tell a story or some jokes, share a dance routine, do some magic, read a poem, perform a short play or sketch..... it can be about Christmas or something else.

We would love you to share your skills and talents

We will provide the Stage, Mics, teas and coffees.
Please bring other food and drinks, as you wish.

PLEASE COME AND JOIN US FOR A FUN EVENING.

CHRISTMAS ARTWORK COMPETITION FOR ALL YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 0 - 16

All children and young people are invited to take part in our Christmas Artwork competition. It will be judged in school year groups and paper is available at the back of the church after Masses during advent to create a piece of ‘holy’ art based on anything related to the Christmas story. The competition will be judged on Saturday 17th Dec. Please pick up further details from the church porch.

RAINBOWS, BROWNIES AND GUIDES GROUPS AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Thankyou to you all for your warm welcome on remembrance service. We run:

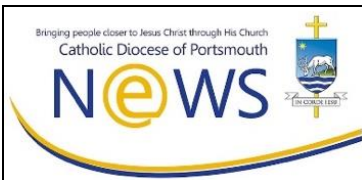
- Rainbows age 4-7 years old between 5-6pm
- Brownies age 7-10 years old between 6-7.30pm
- Guides age 10-14 years between 7.30-9pm

These sessions are for girls and are held in the church hall on Thursday evenings, if you are interested in joining please log on

to <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk> to register your child or see the notice board in the hall porch for guiders contact numbers.

We would love some new members to join us!

ROAD WORKS starting from Monday 7 November for approximately 6 weeks. This will require the closure of the junction of Mayfield Road and Thomas Lewis. Please bear this in mind if you would normally use this junction to travel to the church.



PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE E NEWS

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

<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue386?e=34c55ac6ce>

To keep up to date with the news of the Diocese and the Bishop please follow us on:

- Facebook: @PortsmouthRC
- LinkedIn: Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth
- Twitter: @PortsmouthRC

The Diocesan website:

- <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk>

If you have news that you would like to share with the rest of the Diocese, please contact:

communications@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

FREE

**CINEMA TICKETS FOR
'WHY THE NATIVITY?'**

A new feature film from Turning Point
A unique and powerful event to bring the true story of the nativity to life.

At Cineworld Cinemas (nearest one to us is Whiteley)
10 am – 12 noon
Saturday 3rd December
Free tickets available at www.whyythenativity.co.uk
Or by calling 08000582856

CAFOD World Gifts: Give a gift of hope this Christmas
You can buy CAFOD's World Gifts for family and friends this Christmas online at <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/> or pick up a catalogue in the church porch. World Gifts such as "super soup kitchens", "trees for life", or "water for a family" will help transform lives in a world filled with challenges.
In Advent, let's share the promise of hope that has been made to us with our sisters and brothers around the world.

MARY'S MEALS – DOUBLE THE LOVE
Mary's Meals provides life-changing school meals to over two million children every school day, living in some of the worlds poorest countries, helping these hungry children to remain in the classroom, giving them the energy to learn and hope for a better future.

From 1 November 2022 to 31 January 2023, donations made to Mary's Meals will be doubled by a group of generous supporters, up to £1.5million. With Double the Love, your donation will be matched and your kindness will go even further – meaning we can reach even more desperately hungry children with a life-changing school meal. Donations can be made at the following link:
<https://donate.marysmeals.org/gb>

PERFORMANCE OF HANDEL'S MESSIAH

O2Guildhall, Southampton
Saturday 10th December 2022 at 7.30pm
Performed by Southampton Philharmonic Choir and Southampton University Philharmonic Choir, together with The Hanover Band
Tickets are available online at o2guildhallsouthampton.co.uk but you are also welcome to contact Mags (Moules) by email at boxoffice@southamptonphil.org who can give further information and facilitate ticket purchases for you, should you be interested.

JOB VACANCIES

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

Caritas – Head of Charity

Salary up to £45k, depending on experience
Full details on this post plus other current vacancies within the diocese can be found on the noticeboard in the church porch or at the following link
<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/current-vacancies>

Springhill Catholic Primary school

ELSA / Home Link Support Worker

We are looking to appoint an enthusiastic, passionate and caring ELSA / Home School Link Worker to join our busy team.

- 3 days/week with some flexibility at times to extra hours or change of hours, term time only.
- Hours 8.00am – 4:30pm

A job description and a Catholic Education Service support staff application form is available from the school office or on the website at <http://www.springhillcatholic.co.uk/staff-vacancies/>

SOME WEEKLY THOUGHTS ABOUT THE MASS.....

A quote from St Padre Pio:

"Renew your faith by attending Holy Mass. Keep your mind focussed on the mystery unfolding before your eyes. In your mind's eye transport yourself to Calvary and mediate on the Victim who offers Himself to Divine Justice, paying the price of your redemption"

TO FOLLOW BIDDING PRAYERS DURING ADVENT

Marian Anthem

*Mother of Christ! Hear thou they people's cry
Star of the deep, and portal of the sky!
Mother of him who thee from nothing made
Sinking we strive, and call to thee for aid:
Oh, by that joy which Gabriel brought to thee
Thou Virgin first and last, let us thy mercy see.*