

27TH FEBRUARY 2022

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C

“Take the plank out of your own eye first, and then you will see clearly enough to take out the splinter that is in your brother’s eye.”

Luke 6:42

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
Twitter: @icportswood

Parish Priest: Fr Antony Gatt

Hospital Chaplaincy: (023 8120 8517)
University Chaplain: Sr Emelliana Silva (07426 000213)
Safeguarding Officer: Pat Saunders
Parish Secretary: Rachel Brady (023 8055 5470)
Confessions: See notice below
Hall Bookings: contact the parish secretary
(currently available for regular bookings only)

ALL MASSES ADVERTISED BELOW ARE AVAILABLE TO JOIN LIVE, ONLINE AT
www.churchservices.tv/portswoodchur

Date	Solemnities & Feast days	Mass Times	Mass details & intentions
Sun 27 Feb	EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.30 am 10.30 am	- Mr & Mrs Eager RIP
Mon 28 Feb	Feria	-	No Mass
Tues 01 Mar	St David	-	No Mass
Wed 02 Mar	ASH WEDNESDAY	10.00 am 7.30 pm	- -
Thur 03 Mar	after Ash Wednesday	-	No Mass
Fri 04 Mar	after Ash Wednesday	9.30 am	Rosary
Sat 05 Mar	after Ash Wednesday	10.00 am	Raphael Loko & Neal Cookson RIP
Sun 06 Mar	FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT	8.30 am 10.30 am	Gorham Family RIP Irena & Stanislaw Darlak



NEIGHBOURING PARISH DETAILS

PARISH & PHONE NO	WEEKDAY MASS	CONFESSIONS
St Edmunds 023 80333589	Tues 10 am Weds & Fri 7 pm	Sat 11 am
St Joseph’s 023 80333589	Thurs 12.15 pm	Thurs 11.45 am Sat 5.45 pm
St Boniface 023 80770277	Mon – Fri 10 am	Fri 10.30 am Sat 10.30 am & 6 pm Sun 8.30, 10.30 & 5 pm
St Patricks 023 80448671	Weds 9.30 am	Sat 5.00 pm
Christ the King 023 80449088	Tues – Fri 10 am	On request

CHURCH PORCH OPEN DURING THE WEEK

A reminder that although there are no weekday Masses, the porch is open during the day for anyone to drop by.

PARISHIONER QUESTIONS & QUERIES

Parish Council reps in the porch after Masses this weekend:

- Saturday 10 am - David
- Sunday 8.30 am - Anastasia
- Sunday 10.30 am – Adenike

...to either answer questions or take them away and get back to you with responses. Please do use these members of our parish community so that we can continue to give Fr Antony the back-up he will need over the coming months to lighten his workload.



SUNDAY’S READINGS

1st Reading: Ecclesiasticus 27:4-7
Psalm: 91:2-3,13-16
2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:54-58
Gospel: Luke 6:39-45

TEA AND COFFEE AFTER MASSES

Please join us in the hall for refreshments after the Sunday 10.30 am Mass this weekend.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Congratulations to 21 of our young parishioners making their First Holy Communion this weekend!



PARISH OFFICE HOURS THIS WEEK

Tues, & Thurs 9.30 am – 4.30 pm

Bearing Good Fruit

“A good tree does not bear rotten fruit, nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit.” [Luke 6:43](#)

Conversely, it should be said that a good tree does bear good fruit. This must be our goal. By saying that “A good tree does not bear rotten fruit,” Jesus is teaching us the supernatural effect of living a holy life. When we live a life grounded in Christ, the effect will be that good fruit is born from our lives. This is an important spiritual principle to understand.

Hopefully, we all want to live good lives. We all want to make a difference in our world and in the lives of others for the good. But the fundamental question to ask is how do we do this? The answer is that it's not so much a matter of choosing the good actions we do; rather, on a more basic and fundamental level, we must choose to live a life grounded in Christ, thus becoming a “good tree.”

If you want to bear good fruit and make a holy and positive difference in the world, then you need to do one primary thing. Work at becoming holy. To use the image that Jesus gives, see yourself as a tree that is planted in the ground. See your roots stretching far and wide. See yourself being nourished and basked in the Sun. And see yourself growing and flourishing.

This is the life of grace and the effect is that good fruit automatically comes forth. The life of grace is accomplished by focusing upon your own health and spiritual well-being. You become this “good tree” by doing the basics well. First, pray, pray well and pray hard. Let your life be centered in prayer. Second, learn your faith. Listen to the Gospels, learn all that God has revealed through the Church, read the teachings of the saints, and learn from other holy people. Third, live a good sacramental life. Go to Mass, celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, understand the grace of your Baptism, Confirmation, Marriage, Ordination, etc. Know that the Sacraments nourish you in powerful ways and embrace that nourishment with your whole heart.

Reflect, today, upon the important mission you have been given to go forth and to bear an abundance of good fruit in our world. This mission can be accomplished only as a result of a life of holiness. This holiness is only accomplished when your roots are firmly grounded in the life of grace. Embrace this life of grace through the many means that God has set before you, and know that the commitment you make to holiness will bring health not only to your own soul, but also to the souls of those whom God will touch through you.

*A reflection for the 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C
My Catholic Life, www.mycatholic.life.com*

CAKE SALE

On **Sunday 6th March after the 10.30 am Mass**, we are beginning our monthly cake sales again. **Volunteers are needed to make cakes.** Please bring any cakes to the church hall at least 15 minutes for Mass starts. **Please bring cash to buy cakes!** All proceeds to the general parish funds.

We also **need volunteers to help sell the cakes.** If you are able to help in any way, please contact Maria Maddocks on 07835121496 or speak to her or Gemma Siddons after Mass. All support very much appreciated.



LENTEN JAM JAR COIN COLLECTION

We will be issuing jam jars to families to resume our usual Lenten collection of coins for the parish funds. If you have any clean, empty jars with lids (labels removed) please leave them in the church porch.



CANDLES FOR SALE DURING LENT

The parish fundraising team are selling attractive trays of candles as shown below, during Lent to raise money for parish

funds. Small tray £6, Large tray £9. Sample trays can be viewed in the church porch after Masses and orders taken by the PPC rep, or by sending an e mail to the Parish Office.



RECENTLY DIED

Maureen Healy RIP

Funeral to take place in the church on Wednesday 16th March at 11.00 am.

PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE E NEWS

<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue354-v2?e=34c55ac6ce>

LENT STARTS NEXT WEEK...

Details of services during lent are detailed on the sheet with this newsletter and also available on the parish website.

WOOD CHIPPINGS/COMPOST AVAILABLE AFTER MASSES!!

Following the removal of the large tree at the back of the church, we now have a lot of wood chippings which will make good compost once broken down. If you would like a bag, please see the gardeners who will be in the car park after Masses. If you can bring a plastic sack with you that would be very helpful. Donations will be very gratefully received to help with gardening projects around the church.

DIOCESAN DIRECTORIES AVAILABLE IN THE BOOKSHOP

They include information and contact details for all diocesan teams and departments plus full contact details for all parishes, clergy and religious communities around the diocese. Cost: £5 each. Available in the bookshop before and after weekend Masses.

SUMMER CAMP

Portsmouth Diocese 'Don Bosco' Boys Camp
24th to 30th July 2022
At St.Cassians, Kintbury, near Newbury
£220 (some grants maybe available)
Lots of activities - sports, competitions, outings, fun and games with Mass and prayer.
Contact: dbcamps@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

DONATIONS OF BIBLES are needed for refugees. If you have any spare, please just drop into the church porch for collection.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY – LENT APPEAL

Every child should grow big and strong. Family Fast Day is Friday 11 March, a day when we eat simply and give generously to support mums around the world, like Amie in Sierra Leone, with expert training in growing and making healthy food. Your small act of love this Lent will make a big difference to many communities affected by extreme hunger and children suffering from malnutrition. You can donate in church on the weekend of 12th/13th March or by visiting the CAFOD website ([Family Fast Day - Lent 2022 | CAFOD](#))

JOB OPPORTUNITIES - CATHOLIC HOME CARE

After two years of careful COVID working, the home care service is ready to expand its work with the elderly & frail of Southampton. In addition to our **domestic support & shopping** roles, we want to increase the services we offer to include a **sitting service** and **basic gardening**. If you, or someone you know, is looking for a **flexible part-time** job working with a dedicated team of people (helping people stay in their own homes for longer), then this is the job for you! Volunteering positions also available. **Work or volunteer from as little as three hours per week** upwards. Car driver an advantage, but not essential. Full training & support given. For more information & application form ring Anne or Marina 023 8017 0498. Closing date for applications 4 March '22, interviews W/C 14 March '22

SECOND COLLECTIONS:-

TODAY, SUNDAY 27TH FEBRUARY

- ?

NEXT SUNDAY 6TH MARCH

- No second collection

For all donations given in ANY envelope – purple, yellow, brown or your own, PLEASE MAKE IT CLEAR WHAT YOUR DONATION IS FOR, so that we can ensure it goes to the fund to which it was intended, ie General Fund (Offertory collection) or the name of the second collection you are donating to. **If you are registered with the parish for gift aid, please also ensure your gift aid number is given on the envelope.**

The Parish Bank Account details are:

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