



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

27th OCTOBER 2024 – THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Then Jesus spoke, 'What do you want me to do for you?' 'Rabbuni,' the blind man said to him 'Master, let me see again.' Jesus said to him, 'Go; your faith has saved you.' Mark 10, 51-52

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

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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: Cecilia Kovacs (023 8055 5470)
Confessions: After 10 am Mass on Saturdays
Hall Bookings: contact the parish secretary

PARISH OFFICE OPEN NEXT WEEK: Tuesday/Friday 10:00 5 pm, Wednesday/Thursday 1-5pm

**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 October	THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Bamenda Sunday)	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Catherine White RIP
Mon 28 October	Ss Simon & Jude, Apostles, feast		NO MASS	
Tues 29 October	Feria	9.00 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration Mass	
Weds 30 October	Feria	10.00 am 6pm	Mass Eucharistic Adoration	
Thurs 31 October	Feria	10.00 am	Mass	
Fri 1 November	All Saints, Solemnity	9.00 am 9.30 am 10.00 am 7.30 pm	Eucharistic adoration Rosary Mass Mass	Joe Gobbi RIP
Sat 2 November	Commemoration of All Souls (Office of the Dead)	10.00 am	Mass	Lawrence & Luigiana Clegg RIP
Sun 3 November	THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Michele, Maephie and Imogen, SI



READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY

1st Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-9
Psalm: 125(126)
2nd Reading: Hebrews 5:1-6
Gospel: Mark 10:46-52

SECOND COLLECTIONS:

SUNDAY 27th OCTOBER – Bamenda
SUNDAY 3rd November - No collection

**PLEASE NOTE THE CLOCKS GO BACK
ONE HOUR ON SUNDAY 27TH OCTOBER at 2am.**



NEXT WEEK IN THE PARISH:

Tues 29th Tea & Coffee after 10 am service – parish hall
Wed 30th Adoration for students and anyone else who would like to join us – 6-7 pm in the main church
Thur 31st Caritas activity group– 10.30am
 Chinese Calligraphy
Fri 1st There will be Mass at 10am and 7:30pm
Sat 2nd All Souls – refreshments after mass in the church
Sun 3rd Refreshments after mass
 Choir Practice 11.30 am in the church. Anyone welcome to join.
Blessing of Graves - Visit to cemetery, meet at Fr Lynch's grave

PASTORAL LETTER FROM THE BISHOP

appointed to be read in all churches and chapels of the Diocese of Portsmouth on
Sunday 27th October 2024, the Thirtieth of the Year.

THOU SHALT NOT KILL

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

especially those of you caring for the sick and the dying, I write to you today because our country faces a lethal choice. I refer to the bill before Parliament to legalise what they call 'assisted dying.'¹ I prefer to call it what it is: assisted suicide, helping someone to kill themselves.

"Thou Shalt not Kill"² is an instinctive principle written into every human heart. It grounds the laws that govern every civilised society on earth. It is the teaching of all major religions, and it is fundamental to Christian morality and Catholic social teaching. Yet now, campaigners such as Exit International, want to change this natural law to allow killing in certain circumstances, and they are conducting an intensive campaign in the media, highlighting sad cases and making emotional pitches. Yet if we yield to this and permit killing, we will cross a line from which there is no return. Like using nuclear weapons, once deployed, it's too late; there's only escalation.

Let me give you four plain reasons why assisted suicide and euthanasia is wrong. These four reasons will make appeal to reason, that is, to common sense. I will then add two more reasons that also appeal to faith, demonstrating why assisted suicide and euthanasia is gravely immoral and an offence against God.

1. The option of assisted suicide would put intolerable pressure on the most vulnerable, upon the sick, the elderly, the disabled, the dying. It would tempt them to feel they are an increasing burden and a financial drain on their family and others. They might start thinking "It would be best to die." In other words, the right to die inescapably becomes a pressure to die and then a duty to die.
2. To legalise assisted suicide would completely undermine palliative care and the work of care-homes. It could spell the end of hospices, since it would be cheaper, more efficient and far less trouble to kill someone - or to permit them to kill themselves - than to care for them and generously fund their care.
3. Assisted suicide would place an unacceptable and immoral demand on medical staff, expecting them to become accessories to killing. It would undermine the trust we normally place in doctors, making us suspicious of their motives. It would darken the atmosphere of medical wards that care for the elderly, and it would inexorably lead to euthanasia, the right to make another person die, when difficult cases need to be decided by consultants and relatives, or lawyers and the courts. No wonder this legislation is opposed by more than eight out of ten doctors and palliative care specialists. It's easy to imagine a future in which doctors advise patients to seek suicide rather than treatment.
4. If the legislation is passed, even with the strictest limits for now, the thresholds of eligibility will keep creeping forward to cover ever more categories of persons such as the mentally ill, those with depression or dementia, the severely disabled, sick babies and so on.⁹ There are no limits, and fixed safeguards are unworkable. No government could guarantee that there will not be 'missioncreep'. In fact, mission-creep is happening in every jurisdiction where it is legal. In Canada, for instance, 5% of deaths are now by lethal injection. In other words, suicide, free on the NHS, would in time become socially acceptable, normal. So four plain reasons. I could give more. Let me now add two further reasons why as Catholics we believe assisted suicide and euthanasia is gravely sinful.
5. Suicide is a grave offence against God, against neighbour and against self. Against God, Who in His love has given us the gift of our life and so life is not ours to dispose of.¹³ - Against neighbour, because it unjustly breaks the ties of solidarity with family and others to whom we have obligations. - Against self, because it contradicts "the natural inclination of the human being to preserve and perpetuate" his or her life. Suicide is totally against the Law of Love.
6. Suicide is gravely sinful, although the Church has always shown compassion to those who take their lives, relying on God's mercy whilst wondering whether they were fully aware what they were doing. Yet when suicide is done with full knowledge and deliberate consent, as in an assisted suicide, it is clearly a mortal sin. Likewise assisting someone kill themselves is also a mortal sin. How would it be possible to offer them the Last Sacraments? What justification could a person make when, crossing into eternity after death, they meet the living God to give an account of their life – and their death?

Campaigners for assisted suicide argue persuasively. They say that people should have the right to make their own decisions about their lives, including when and how they die. Yet, civilised societies also have to balance personal freedom with public safety. This is why, for instance, our roads have speed limits.

They also argue that the terminally ill fear severe pain, the loss of dignity and poor quality of life; assisted suicide would offer a quick end to physical suffering and emotional distress. Yet, modern medicine means that no-one need die without dignity. It is true: frailty, pain and infirmity are a difficult trial. Yet, thanks be to God for the amazing advances medical science has made. Britain is a leader in palliative care with methods and drugs that have the capability to manage pain right to the end. Care is the answer, not suicide. We should continue investing in good palliative care. Care shews real love for the terminally ill, acknowledging their eternal value.

Again, some argue that euthanasia for those with little hope of recovery would ease up the pressure on the health services. For instance, a politician in Guernsey has recently argued that “considerable savings could be realised” if assisted suicide were introduced.¹⁸ Yet, as this demonstrates, legalising assisted suicide and euthanasia only opens the door to abuse. If we love and care for someone, efficiency and cost-saving is irrelevant. How can helping someone to kill themselves be compassionate? This is evil masquerading as kindness.

Dear Diocese of Portsmouth, I am asking you to mobilise! Pray earnestly that our legislators will see sense. Correct those who use the double-speak of ‘assisted dying’; call it what it is: ‘assisted suicide.’ Don’t be seduced by the emotionalism of the media. Say a prayer for the terminally ill and for those who care for them. Speak out. Lobbying MPs works, so I attach a letter for you to send to your MP to ask him or her to vote against this sinister proposal. All you need do is to write your name and address on the top and put it in the post. Or you can download it from the diocesan website and send it by email.

In today’s Gospel the blind beggar cried “Son of David, Jesus, have pity on me”. That is our prayer too. To permit killing is wrong. It is to cross the line. It would be a shift of historic significance. It would be to capitulate to the very ideology Britain fought against in the Second World War.²⁰ So we need to mobilise. We need to campaign, and I’ve provided you with materials to help. And we need to pray. Please attend Mass; please undertake fasting; please offer every day a Decade of the Rosary for God’s grace and mercy and for the demise of this bill.

In Corde Iesu

+Philip, **Bishop of Portsmouth**

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- **Act Now! Contact your MP:** <https://righttolife.org.uk/ASThreat>
Use the Assisted Dying template letter available from our website: <https://www.immaculateconception.church/copy-of-resources> or write your own based on the guidance published in the 20/10/2024 newsletter insert, available online on our website.
- **Healthcare Professionals:**
Consider signing this letter: <https://ourdutyofcare.org.uk/letter-to-the-prime-minister/>
- **Talk about it:**
The following websites offer information and resources you can use to convince other to act too.
<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/opposing-assisted-suicide/>
<https://righttolife.org.uk/ASThreat>

PARISH NOTICES

UPCOMING DATES FOR YOUR DIARY FROM FR ANTHONY:

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|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remembrance Sunday: 10th Nov• Christmas Fair: 16th Nov• Annual Mass for university academics: 22nd Nov 6.30pm• Parish Retreat: 30th Nov, 10 AM - 2 PM | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Novena to the Immaculate Conception: 29th Nov-7th Dec• Patronal Feast Day: 7th Dec (joined by the Marion Group, CWA)• Night of Light: 13th Dec <p>Please mark your calendars and join us for these events!</p> |
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ANNUAL BEREAVEMENT MASS Saturday 2nd November, 10 am

November is the month dedicated to the Holy Souls and we invite you to attend our annual Mass. All are very welcome. Please do come along to remember and pray for anyone close to you who has died. We especially invite those who have suffered bereavements over the past year.

Refreshments will be served in the church afterwards.

SUNDAY NOV 3RD – BLESSINGS OF GRAVES

Visit to cemetery after mass, meet at Fr Lynch’s grave at 12:15pm. South Stoneham Cemetery, SO18 2NF

URGENT HELP NEEDED!

We are looking for a volunteer to run the screens at the **10am mass on 1st November**. Please contact Mary Gobbi or the parish office if you are available to help. Thank you!

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY – 10TH NOVEMBER ROLL OF HONOUR



Please let us have the names of anyone you know – friends or family – who have died in conflict over the years, so that they can be mentioned in our role of honour on Remembrance Sunday. You can drop a note or an e mail to the parish office or post it in the orange tray in the porch.

WINTER NIGHT SHELTER

The shelter will be Running from January 2025. In our city. We need volunteers to help on different days for the Evening Shift, the Night Shift and the Breakfast Shift. You will help as part of a team and training and guidance is given. Notice on our boards or chat to Steve at Mass or on 07540229973..... Please help our Christians in Southampton care for the Homeless and troubled.

BAMENDA SUNDAY

Sunday 3rd November is Bamenda Sunday and this year we mark its Golden Jubilee. Fifty years ago, Bishop Worlock and Bishop Verdzekov, of the then newly established Diocese of Bamenda, initiated the twinning as a practical demonstration of St Pope Paul VI's Vatican II document "Gaudium et Spes". Since 1974, the relationship has grown and strengthened. In the early years, priests from our Diocese worked in Bamenda, teaching the Faith, establishing parishes, schools, youth ministries, etc. Their mission was hugely successfully and saw a fledgling Church grow and develop.

Many were inspired by bringing the Gospel message directly to them. Today, we have the great privilege of welcoming priests from Bamenda into our own parishes and their mission to us is one of renewal at a time when our communities become daily more secular. We have much to thank God for from this twinning. A core aspect of the twinning is the practical projects that have been funded through the over £1,000,000 that has been raised by our parishes, largely through the annual Bamenda Sunday collection. This source of funding remains an important and tangible part of the relationship. Bamenda (Cameroon) is ranked 151st on the UN's Human Development Index covering 193 countries. The UK is ranked 15th.

Please give as generously as possible to the Bamenda Sunday collection, every penny will go directly to an approved project aimed at cementing this twinning.

Donations can also be made online: <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/donate?cid=136990#amount>
Thank you in advance for your generosity.



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

<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue463?e=34c55ac6ce>

Vocations Prayer Newsletter October 2024

<https://portsmouthvocations.org/so/27P938PgO?languageTag=en&cid=8eeb309f-dcf5-4938-a4a3-1108ca4991af>

NEW LECTIONARY

The following events allow you to gain insight about the new lectionary which comes into use in Advent:

Online sessions for all parishioners:

The sessions are on **Tuesday 5th November** and **Tuesday 19th November** and last one hour, **from 7 to 8 pm**.

Each session will be led by Fr. Anthony Fyk, Director of Liturgy, and will be identical - so you need only attend one. The session will cover what the lectionary is, its revisions and what they mean for us. It is also an opportunity for Questions and Answers.

If you wish to pose a question, please submit it in advance in writing to liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Registration for the Tuesday 5th November session:

<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/73b39420-bf79-429e-be62-coe4495866b6@of107169-67e0-4eaf-8428-9e9f05e974ab>

Registration for the Tuesday 19th November session:

<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/7c70c8e9-c61e-4f43-8187-21aed22e9b61@of107169-67e0-4eaf-8428-9e9f05e974ab>

THE CLOSER TO CHRIST CAMPAIGN

'Bringing people closer to Jesus Christ through His Church'

In recognition of your great generosity, Bishop Philip Egan invites you to join him for the annual

Closer to Christ Mass of Thanksgiving.

When: 1st December 11.00am

Where: St Bede's Church, Popley Way, Basingstoke, RG24 9DX

Light refreshments will also be made available in the Parish Hall, following the Mass.

To confirm your place at this celebration please RSVP by 17th November to closetochristcampaign@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or call 02392 007595

Please note that there is limited parking available at St Bede's Church. The Church is a 25- minute walk from Basingstoke Train Station.

CHRISTMAS FAIR
AN EVENT FOR ALL THE FAMILY TO ENJOY
CHRISTMAS CRAFTS, FACE PAINTING, REFRESHMENTS,
BRIC-A-BRAC, GAMES AND MUCH MORE...
SATURDAY 16th NOVEMBER
2PM-4PM
50p Entry (Under 12 Free)
Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
Portswood Rd, Southampton SO17 3SB

RAFFLE TICKETS: Tickets are now available at the back of Church. Please return them by 16th November the latest.

RAFFLE DONATIONS: To make the Christmas Fair a success we are looking for many raffle prize items including Bottles; Cakes; Good Quality Gifts; these can be dropped off at anytime by leaving in the Church Porch.

CAKE SALE: Please note that the next cake sale also takes place on this date. Bring your cake donations to the church hall on the day between 9-11am together with a list of the ingredients (for those with allergies).



RAFFLE DONATIONS WANTED

The friends of Saint George are also appealing for any raffle prizes for their upcoming fundraising evening on 21/11/24. All money raised will be used to buy specific equipment to benefit the pupils at the school.

Leave donations in the big red box in the church porch.

THANK YOU!