



# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

3<sup>rd</sup> NOVEMBER 2024 – THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

*“You must love your neighbour as yourself.  
There is no commandment greater than these.” Mark 12, 31*

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

**Address:** 346 Portswood Road, Southampton, SO17 3SB  
**Tel:** (023) 8055 5470  
**Website:** www.immaculateconception.church  
**Email:** [office@immaculateconception.church](mailto: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:** 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](http://www.churchservices.tv/portswoodchur)**

Date	Solemnities & Feast days	Times & Liturgies		Mass Intentions
Sun 3 November	<b>THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Michele, Maephie and Imogen, SI
Mon 4 November	<b>St Charles Borromeo, Bishop</b>		NO MASS	
Tues 5 November	Feria	9.00 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration Mass	K. Lorange Perera RIP
Weds 6 November	Feria	10.00 am 6pm	Mass Eucharistic Adoration	
Thurs 7 November	<b>St Willibrord, Bishop</b>	10.00 am 12.30 pm	Mass Funeral mass	Anna Zepler Vera Svehlik RIP
Fri 8 November	Feria	9.00 am 9.30 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic adoration Rosary Mass	
Sat 9 November	<b>THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA</b>	10.00 am	Mass	Manhar Patel family special intention
Sun 10 November	<b>THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Remembrance Sunday</b>	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Luis Nunes Greaves RIP Sarg Nissanka Silva RIP Remembered with many others

### READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Deuteronomy 6:2-6  
**Psalm:** 17(18):2-4,47,51  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** Hebrews 7:23-28  
**Gospel:** Mark 12:28-34



### SECOND COLLECTIONS:

**SUNDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> November** - No collection  
**SUNDAY 10 November** - No collection

### NEXT WEEK IN THE PARISH:

**Tues 5<sup>th</sup>** **Tea & Coffee** after 10 am service – parish hall  
**RCIA Course** – 7.30-9 pm in the parish hall  
**Wed 6<sup>th</sup>** **Adoration for students and anyone else who  
would like to join us** – 6-7 pm in the Lady Chapel  
**Thur 7<sup>st</sup>** **Caritas activity group**– 10.30am  
 Gardening with garlic planting

**Sat 9<sup>th</sup>** **FHC Session 5** – 11am in the Parish Hall  
**Baptism** – 11am Sophie Banescu 10 months  
**Sun 10<sup>th</sup>** **Remembrance Sunday (please see notice)**  
**Refreshments after mass**  
**Choir Practice** 11.30 am in the church. Anyone  
welcome to join.  
**Baptism** – 12.30pm Connell (3yrs) and Evelyn (2yrs)

## SEEKERS OF TRUTH

*The scribe said to him, "Well said, teacher. You are right in saying, 'He is One and there is no other than he.' And 'to love him with all your heart, with all your understanding, with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself' is worth more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices." Mark 12:32-33*

This scribe got it. He posed a question to Jesus after Jesus was challenged by some of the Sadducees who did not accept Jesus' teachings about the resurrection of the dead. The Sadducees were trying to trip Jesus up, and this scribe listened carefully to Jesus' answer and found it to be well said. Therefore, this scribe asks Jesus his own question. He doesn't ask this question in an attempt to trap Jesus, but because he appeared to sincerely want to hear Jesus' answer. So he asked Jesus, "Which is the first of all the commandments?" To that question, Jesus gives a summary of the whole law of God saying that we must first love God with our whole heart, mind, soul and strength and then love our neighbor as ourselves.

We must all try to imitate this scribe. It was risky for him to show support of Jesus. Many of the other scribes were quite hostile toward Jesus. Therefore, by openly expressing His agreement with what Jesus taught, he was putting himself at risk of being criticized. But it appears he was not concerned about that. He was a seeker of truth, and Jesus ended up paying him a huge compliment by saying, "You are not far from the kingdom of God."

In our growingly secular world, there are many truths of God that are being openly questioned and challenged. Agreement on what are the moral truths is becoming more of the exception than the norm. As a result, we will all find ourselves experiencing hostility from the world simply by being seekers of the truth. Many people even find that a mere refusal to openly support objective immorality will make them a target of the secular world.

Are you a seeker of truth? Do you recognize the holy truths of God when you hear them? If so, do you have the courage you need to pursue those truths and articulate them in accord with the mind of God in the presence of others? Evangelization is different from proselytism. Proselytism is a hostile and forceful preaching of the truths of God. It is argumentative and lacks basic respect for the freedom and dignity of others. Evangelization, on the other hand, is an essential practice that every follower of Christ must engage in. At the heart of evangelization is an honest and humble seeking of the truth in every situation. One who evangelizes does not attack another. They do not criticize and condemn. Instead, they seek to understand the full truth themselves and then openly share that truth with those who are open to it.

In many ways, this scribe did just that. He listened, understood, inquired, and then freely shared his faith in what Jesus said. Those who listened to him, especially other scribes, might not have agreed with his conclusions. They might have even criticized him among themselves. But the witness of this scribe might have opened the minds and hearts of others who were listening. Some would have sensed his openness, his understanding, and his joyful response and allowed his conversation with Jesus to affect them for the good. Thus, by openly seeking the truth, this scribe also evangelized others and Jesus praised Him for his good work.

Reflect, today, upon the way that you share your faith with others. Are you one who tends to be argumentative and condemning? Or do you allow the joy of your own discovery of the truths of God do the evangelizing? Be a seeker of Truth. Do so openly and with joy. If you do, others will discover in you the truths of God that they need and will be invited to imitate your truth-seeking in their own lives.

*A reflection for the Thirty-First Sunday of Ordinary Time, Yr B*

[www.mycatholic.life](http://www.mycatholic.life)

## PARISH NOTICES

### UPCOMING DATES FOR YOUR DIARY FROM FR ANTHONY:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Remembrance Sunday:</b> 10th Nov</li><li>• <b>Christmas Fair:</b> 16th Nov</li><li>• <b>Annual Mass for university academics:</b> 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov 6.30pm</li><li>• <b>Parish Retreat:</b> 30th Nov, 10 AM - 2 PM</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Novena to the Immaculate Conception:</b> 29th Nov-7th Dec</li><li>• <b>Patronal Feast Day:</b> 7th Dec (joined by the Marion Group,CWA)</li><li>• <b>Night of Light:</b> 13th Dec</li></ul> <p>Please mark your calendars and join us for these events!</p> |
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### TODAY AFTER MASS (SUNDAY NOV 3<sup>RD</sup>) – BLESSINGS OF GRAVES

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

### THE PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM

Tuesday 5th November Fr Anthony's leadership team is meeting to discuss and update on worship and social events of the parish. If you have any questions or items to be discussed please put them in the suggestion box in the church porch or speak to a member of the leadership team.



## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY – 10<sup>TH</sup> 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.

**On the day:** At the 1030 Mass we will be joined by the scouts and guides for the usual procession of flags - the front few rows on the Sacristy side will be reserved for them (except for those with disabilities etc). Please leave the porch free for them to process in at 1030.

### BAMENDA SUNDAY

Please download the Bamenda Sunday Newsletter:  
<http://bit.ly/3AIY6F6>

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 151<sup>st</sup> on the UN's Human Development Index covering 193 countries. The UK is ranked 15<sup>th</sup>.

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.

### 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.



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

<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue464?e=34c55ac6ce>

## CHRISTMAS FAIR

AN EVENT FOR ALL THE FAMILY TO ENJOY

CHRISTMAS CRAFTS, FACE PAINTING, REFRESHMENTS,  
BRIC-A-BRAC, GAMES AND MUCH MORE...

**SATURDAY 16<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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).

### 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](mailto: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>

### Vocations Prayer Newsletter November 2024

<https://portsmouthvocations.org/so/e5PBSreGg?languageTag=en&cid=8eeb309f-dcf5-4938-a4a3-1108ca4991af>

## CHRISTMAS CAROL SINGING

We are looking for families with children aged 7-14 to join our carol singing group to prepare some fun celebration songs for Christmas. We will have six rehearsals in the weeks running up to Christmas.

Practices will be held in the church on Tuesday afternoons between 4.30-5.30pm and led by our parish secretary and ex-music teacher, Cecilia.

**The date of the first practice: 12<sup>th</sup> November, 4.30pm.**

Parents will be welcome to stay and join in, we will see how it goes. All we ask for is commitment and consistent attendance and commitment all the way through to make it work. Being able to read music is not a requirement, but a good singing voice and willingness to perform would be beneficial.

**Please email Cecilia to sign up:**  
[office@immaculateconception.church](mailto:office@immaculateconception.church)

## VOCATIONS CALL

“You shall love your neighbour as yourself.” Are you being called to love the Lord with an undivided heart as a priest, deacon or religious brother or sister? Talk to your priest or contact Cn. John Cooke.

[vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) or call 01329 318 869

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

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](mailto:closetochristcampaign@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) or call 02392 007595

## JOB VACANCY, CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PORTSMOUTH PROJECT DEVELOPMENT OFFICER – CARITAS

Are you interested in supporting your local community? Caritas is recruiting a Community Development Officer based in Southampton and/or Havant parishes to help support people in need. This can be a part or full-time role, including flexible working. Please visit

<https://portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/about-us/people/careers/> for more details and how to apply.



## Stella Maris Seafarers Christmas Chocolate Appeal 2024

STELLA MARIS

Whatever you get for Christmas is highly likely to have come to this country by sea. There will be about 400,000 Seafarers working over Christmas, separated from their families and friends. Theirs is a tough, relentless life, long hours, boring, noisy, temperature extremes, dangerous and exhausting. We’re planning to collect hundreds of chocolate Christmas presents for seafarers visiting our Southern Region ports in the days before Christmas. Stella Maris chaplains and ship visiting volunteers will go into ships to meet and support the crew, helping them feel they are not forgotten and much appreciated.

Suggested Chocolate Gifts



**Can you help us by donating chocolate gifts?  
All donations can be left in the labelled box  
in the church porch.**

Your gift may be the only present a seafarer receives this Christmas.

## Advent Day of Prayer and Reflection

An invitation to all Diocesan staff, Parish staff & volunteers to spend a day away from the desk for some prayer, talks and reflections during Advent . . .



Three P's of Advent:

**Pause | Presence | Prayer**

Led by Sister Hyacinthe from the Dominican Sisters



*Time to reflect on the importance of recommitting ourselves to pause and listen to God, to be a compassionate presence to others and deepen our habit of prayer. The day will include tea & coffee, mass led by Bishop Philip Egan, followed by a hot lunch.*

**Wednesday 4th December 9:30 - 14:30**  
**St Peter's Church Pastoral Centre, Winchester**

Tickets can be booked here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/advent-day-of-prayer-and-reflection-tickets-1006759704377>



## CHRISTMAS SHOPPING?

‘Give as you live’ gives a donation to our parish if you use the link for online shopping:

<https://bit.ly/4hqeEMR>

