



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

1st DECEMBER 2024 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:
 “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.”” Luke 3,4

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

Address: 346 Portswood Road, Southampton, SO17 3SB
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Email: office@immaculateconception.church
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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 1 December	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	8.30 am	Mass	Audrey Campbell RIP
Mon 2 December	of the 1st Week of Advent	10.30 am	Mass	Mavis Rosario RIP
Tues 3 December	St Francis Xavier, Priest,		NO MASS	
Weds 4 December	of the 1st Week of Advent	9.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration	Lorance Perera RIP
Thurs 5 December	of the 1st Week of Advent	10.00 am	Mass	Andrew Cole RIP - deceased members of the Cole/Fuller family
Fri 6 December	of the 1st Week of Advent	6pm	Eucharistic Adoration	Prosper and Chika Wedding anniversary
Sat 7 December	Parochial Feast Day Celebration	10.00 am	Mass	
Sun 8 December	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	9.00 am	Eucharistic adoration	Francesca Pereira RIP
		9.30 am	Rosary	
		10.00 am	Mass	
		10.30am	Confession	James and Betty Oliver RIP
		11.00 am	Mass	
		8.30 am	Mass	Nial & Myles - health & wellbeing
		10.30 am	Mass	Gerard Perrin, Neal Cookson RIP

READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY



1st Reading: Baruch 5:1-9
Psalm: Ps 126(125):1-2b. 2c-3. 4-5. 6. R3
2nd Reading: Philippians 1:3-6, 8-11
Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

SECOND COLLECTIONS:

1st December – Flowers for the church for Christmas
 8th December – Life group

NEXT WEEK IN THE PARISH

Tues 3rd Tea & Coffee after 10 am service – parish hall
RCIA Course – 7.30-9 pm in the parish hall
Wed 4th Adoration for students and anyone else who would like to join us – 6-7 pm in the Lady Chapel
Thur 5th Caritas activity group– 10.30am
Sat 7th Immaculate Conception Patronal Feast Celebration-- 11am mass followed by lunch
Sun 8th Refreshments after mass
Choir Practice 11.30 am in the church. Anyone welcome to join.

SUPERNATURAL INSTINCT

“Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life, and that day catch you by surprise like a trap. For that day will assault everyone who lives on the face of the earth. Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man.”
 Luke 21:34–36

“That day.” These two words are spoken twice in the passage above. To which day is our Lord referring? Clearly, He is referring primarily to the day of our final judgment and is warning us to make sure we are prepared for it in case it were to come at an unexpected moment. So how do we prepare?

Animals have the natural gift of instinct. They know how to survive, how to reproduce, how to gather food and how to avoid danger. They know this because God has implanted this knowledge within them. By this natural gift of instinct, they know what to do and what to avoid.

We, as humans, also have basic natural instincts. But our natural instincts are only sufficient to help us accomplish that which the animals accomplish. Therefore, if we are to gain an even greater knowledge and are to know how to properly prepare ourselves spiritually for the sudden and unexpected coming of Christ, then we need more.

The way we most properly prepare is through a special grace by which God reveals Himself and His will to our human reason. When that happens, we will know the best way to be fully prepared for “that day” the moment it comes. Perhaps one of the best ways to describe this ability is by describing it as a “supernatural instinct.” When our natural instincts become open to grace, and when the information on which we base our daily decisions in life comes to us by an ongoing and personal revelation from God through the infused gift of faith, then we will find that we simply know what to do and what to avoid. By analogy, just as a bird knows to fly south for the winter or a salmon knows to return to its place of birth to lay its eggs, so we will “know” within our spirit how to best serve the will of God and, thus, be most fully prepared for His imminent return. “Supernatural instinct” is nothing other than us allowing the grace of God to enter our lives so as to take control of everything we do and to lead us into the fulfillment of the perfect and glorious will of God. When that happens, we can be certain that we are perpetually prepared for all that comes and will never be caught by surprise like a trap.

Reflect, today, upon whether you are daily led by the knowledge of God’s will alive within you as a supernatural instinct. If this language seems foreign to you, then perhaps it is a time to ponder the question “Why?” Why aren’t you led by God’s grace through an ongoing gift of supernatural knowledge of His will? And if this language does resonate within you, then spend time pondering this gift and being grateful for the way that God has truly taken over your day-to-day life.

A reflection for the First Sunday of Advent (Year C)
www.mycatholic.life

PARISH NOTICES

The Feast of The Immaculate Conception

Please join us for our parish day celebration which will start with Novena this week and culminate in a Feast Day Celebration on **Saturday 7th December**.
Novena after every mass -28th Nov-6th Dec -
Confession starts at 10:30.
Mass will be at 11am followed by lunch in the Hall.
We shall be joined by the Catholic Women Association who will lead the mass with song and dance.

NIGHT OF LIGHT

13th December 2024 5pm-8pm



As the nights get cold and dark, pause amidst the Christmas rush and pray for yourself and your loved ones to recognise Jesus Christ, the True Light of the World by lighting a candle. Invite your friends and neighbours too to contemplate and reflect upon the true meaning of Christmas.

NEXT BAPTISM PREP COURSE

Our next baptism preparation course takes place on **Wednesday, 11th December at 7pm**. If you would like your child baptised and you have not attended the preparation course in the last three years, don’t miss the opportunity to find out more about baptism. There is still time to enrol.

RECONCILIATION SERVICES THIS CHRISTMAS

3rd December 6pm – Totton
16th December 7pm – St Edmunds
17th December 7pm – Immaculate Conception



STELLA MARIS

Stella Maris Seafarers Christmas Chocolate Appeal 2024

Suggested Chocolate Gifts



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.

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.



PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE E NEWS & JOB VACANCIES

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

<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue468?e=34c55ac6ce>

NEW YEAR – NEW BOOKS

News from the Repository-Bookshop

We have taken delivery of the new CTS Sunday Missals, updated with the new translations for the scripture readings. These are now available to purchase from the **Bookshop**.

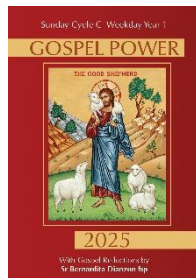
We have been able to secure these at a special price at £13.00 (published price is £19.95). Grab your copy at this low price while our stock lasts, as future prices will be determined by what we are charged.

There will be a smaller number of the One Year Missals available for £6.50.

Additionally, orders are now being taken for the Gospel Power 2025.

This book covers the following:

- Scripture references for daily Mass
- Response to the Psalm
- The daily Gospel and two Scripture readings for Sunday Masses
- Excellent, short reflection on the Gospel reading for the day
- A short prayer



At a 10.5 x 15 cm It is smaller than a Bible and can fit in a handbag. The price will be £7.50.

To order please see the lovely volunteers in the Bookshop. Last orders taken on the 8th December.

Vocations Prayer Newsletter November 2024

<https://portsmouthvocations.org/so/e5PBsreGg?languageTag=en&cid=8eeb309f-dcf5-4938-a4a3-1108ca4991af>

WINTER NIGHT SHELTER

The Southampton Churches

WINTER BEDS 2025

is back and we need volunteers!

The project starts in January to take people off the streets who are sleeping rough. Help them to be safe and warm this winter.

For more information email Laura@citylife.org.uk



SCAN HERE!

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.

ADVENT 2024 FAITH FORMATION

St Edmund's, The Avenue, Southampton
7.45pm-8.30pm Speaker: Ryan Hawkes

Advent is a time of mystery and a time for reflection on the mysteries of our faith, so why not come along on Wednesday evenings during Advent to delve into some of the details of the of the Comings of Christ? These seminar-style sessions will include a talk and chance for discussion and debate. All are welcome to come and join in or just to sit and listen. There is no cost, nor any need to register.

Wednesday 4 December | The Mystery of the Last Things on Death, Judgement, Heaven, and Hell

Wednesday 11 December | The Mystery of Advent on the prophecies we sing in the 'O Antiphons'

Wednesday 18 December | The Mystery of Mary on our Lady and the Incarnation

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING?



'Give as you live' gives a donation to our parish if you use the link for online shopping: <https://bit.ly/4hqeEMR>

Porstmouth Diocese has a new Bluesky account at:



<https://bsky.app/profile/portsmouthrc.bsky.social>

INVITATION FOR CONSULTATION

St Anne's Catholic School are consulting on their admission arrangements for 2026/27. The consultations will run to 23rd December 2024.

The school welcomes views from any interested parties. In giving views, please state whether you are a parent/carer of a student (and of which school), a local resident, a member of school staff or any other interested party.

More details: <https://st-annes.uk.com/about-us/news/44/consultation-admissions-policy-2026-2027>

