

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH



15th October 2023,

Twenty Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

*"The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king
who gave a feast for his son's wedding"*

Matthew 22:1

WEEKLY INFORMATION & UPDATES

Address: 346 Portswood Road, Southampton, SO17 3SB

Tel: (023) 8055 5470

Website: www.immaculateconception.church

Email: 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

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 15 Oct	TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Catherine White RIP Ian Warwick RIP
Mon 16 Oct	St Hedwig	-	NO MASS	
Tues 17 Oct	St Ignatius of Antioch	9.00 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration Mass	-
Wed 18 Oct	St Luke	10.00 am 6.00 pm 7.00 pm	Mass Eucharistic Adoration Rosary	-
Thurs 19 Oct	Ss John de Brebeuf, Isaac Jogues & Companions	10.00 am	Mass	Catherine White RIP
Fri 20 Oct	Feria	9.00 am 9.30 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration Rosary Mass	Gretta Andrews RIP
Sat 21 Oct	Our Lady on Saturday	10.00 am	Mass	
Sun 22 Oct	TWENTY-NINETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass (Civic Service)	Kathleen White RIP Jim & Kathleen Earl RIP



READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY

1st Reading: Isaiah 25:6-10

Psalms: 22

2nd Reading: Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20

Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

TEA AND COFFEE AFTER MASSES

Please join us in the hall for tea, coffee & biscuits:

- Sundays after the 10.30 am Mass
- The first Sunday of each month after the 8.30 am Mass.
- Tuesdays after the 10.00 am Mass

REPAIR CAFÉ at Immaculate Conception church hall

Saturday 21 October, 10 am – 1 pm. Bring along your broken items and get them fixed. This time we also have a volunteer to repair jewellery. Refreshments available while you wait!

ROSARY AT THE CEMETERY

Sunday 29th October, 12 noon, Stoneham Cemetery

SHOE BOXES

Please return all filled shoe boxes by next Sunday 22nd October. Thank you for your generosity

PARISH OFFICE OPEN THIS WEEK:

Tues, Weds & Fri, 9.30 am – 2.30 pm (Closed this Thurs)

CHRISTMAS FAIR, Sat 18th November, 2 – 4 pm

Raffle tickets on sale from this weekend after Masses

If you have unwanted good quality goods which could be regifted, bottles of drink etc please bring them along next time you are here.

If you would be willing to offer help, please speak to Anastasia.



THE CIVIC SERVICE will be taking place here next Sunday, 22nd October at the 10.30 am Mass. This will be a celebration of our usual Mass, with our usual congregation but we will be joined by the Lord Mayor and other representatives from the wider community representing the work of many good causes around the area. **Please try to arrive at Mass in good time so that you can find a seat as it is a slightly more formal occasion and seating is likely to be in greater demand!**

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY – 12TH NOVEMBER ROLE 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 leave it in the orange post tray at the back of the church.

Reality vs. Appearance

Jesus again in reply spoke to the chief priests and elders of the people in parables, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son. He dispatched his servants to summon the invited guests to the feast, but they refused to come." [Matthew 22:1-3](#)

Do you refuse to come? Jesus spoke this parable to the chief priests and elders of the people because, even though they gave the impression to others that they were true followers of the will of God, they were, in fact, among those who refused to come to the wedding feast of the Lamb of God. The chief priests and elders of the people were masters at portraying themselves as something they were not. They knew how to look good in the eyes of the people, how to avoid public criticism, and how to appear as holy men. But they were none of the above. Inside they were hypocrites, liars and murderers.

In this parable, three invitations are sent forth. The first two are given to the invited guests. Though these "invited guests" refer especially to the people of Israel who were raised in the faith handed down from Moses and the prophets, we should also see in it those who have been raised within the Christian faith today. After the first invitation, those invited refused to come. After the second invitation, some who were invited reacted with indifference, while others reacted with hostility. These responses are common today.

When Jesus sends forth His invitation to share in His wedding banquet today, there are many different responses. Some are indifferent to our Lord. These are those who are so consumed with worldly endeavors that they give little time and attention to God. For them, the practice of the faith, such as daily prayer, attendance at Mass and ongoing works of charity, is not important. Making money, obtaining material possessions, indulging in entertainment and other secular pursuits are far more the focus of their time and energy. Others, like the chief priests and elders, are good at playing the part and acting as if they are faithful followers, but they are actually hostile to the will of God. They are concerned only about their appearance and not about the reality of their souls. If they are challenged in any way, they respond with anger and attack. They are not open to the truth of the Gospel and remain self-justified by attacking anything or anyone who dares to call into question the direction they have taken in life.

When the third invitation was sent forth to all people, some responded. How completely do you respond to Jesus' invitation? To answer that question properly, we must "read" the invitation and know what we are invited to participate in. The invitation given to us is an invitation to share in the wedding feast of the Son of God. But to attend that banquet, we must be clothed in the garment of charity. Charity is the form of love that is sacrificial, selfless, and total. This form of love begins by making God the centre of our lives and concludes by making His will the sole purpose of our lives. True charity will have the effect of purging all selfishness from our lives. This is why some were hostile to the invitation. When God invites us to a life of charity, we will

be faced with a need to change. For some, this is very difficult. They react either with indifference or become defensive and lash out in hostility so as to protect the life of sin they have chosen.

The parable concludes with one of the invited guests being cast "into the darkness outside, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth" because he doesn't have on a proper wedding garment. But this wedding garment is a symbol of true charity that flows from an authentic worship of God.

Reflect, today, upon how charitable you are toward others, for that will determine whether you are fit to share in the banquet of the Lord. True charity always seeks to lavish the greatest good upon others. It seeks to do everything necessary to help others grow in love of God. True charity never leads a person to gaze upon themselves. It is always outwardly focused and selfless in its choices. As you reflect upon your charity, or lack thereof, be open to the purifying invitation from Jesus and do not react in hostility. Welcome His invitation to change and allow your wholehearted worship of Him to transform you into a gift of love for others.

www.mycatholic.life

A reflection for the 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

SECOND COLLECTIONS:

THIS SUNDAY -15th October – World Missions (GA via the envelope and form at the back of the Missio bulletin in the church porch or through collecting in a Red Box. Alternatively you can donate directly on line at <https://missio.org.uk/wmsdonate/>)

RED BOXES – Our current list of parishioners with a Red Box is very out of date. **If you have a Misso Red Box, please could you return it, regardless of how much money is in it**, so that we can create a new record of who has boxes and re-issue them.

NEXT SUNDAY – 22nd Oct – The Lord Mayors Charities.



SAVE THE DATE:

****CHRISTMAS GAMES NIGHT****

Saturday 9th December 2023

5 pm for 5.30 pm until 8 pm

More info to come.....

OCTOBER IS THE MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY. Please join us to say the rosary every Wednesday in October, 7 pm Lady Chapel at Immaculate Conception



RICH FRUIT CAKES, UNDECORATED

- Large Xmas cake (23cm) £20
- Small Xmas cake (20cm) £15

please contact/message:

Lesley Newman on: 07504455925.



THANK YOU FROM MIKE DRAIN

Mike Drain will shortly be moving from Southampton to live with his family in Staffordshire and wishes to thank parishioners for all their friendship, prayers and support over the years.

