

22nd JANUARY 2023
THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

Repent for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand."

Matthew 4:17

Immaculate Conception Church
 (Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth, Reg Charity No: 1199568)
 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

Parish Priest: Fr Anthony Chiatu
Parish Deacon: Dcn Gerard Dailly
Hospital Chaplaincy: (023 8120 8517)
University Chaplain: Sr Emelliana Silva (07426 000213)
Safeguarding Officer: Pat Saunders
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 22 Jan | THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | 8.30 am 10.30 am | Mass Mass | Dan & Maureen McCarthy RIP Veronica Keeney RIP |
| Mon 23 Jan | Feria | - | NO MASS | |
| Tues 24 Jan | St Francis de Sales | 9.30 am 10.00 am 11.30 am | Eucharistic Adoration Mass Funeral | Mario Magalhaes RIP |
| Wed 25 Jan | The Conversion of St Paul | 10.00 am | Mass | - |
| Thur 26 Jan | St Timothy | 10.00 am | Mass | - |
| Fri 27 Jan | St Angela Merici | 9.00 am 9.30 am 10.00 am | Eucharistic Adoration Rosary Mass | - |
| Sat 28 Jan | St Thomas Aquinas | 10.00 pm | Mass | - |
| Sun 29 Jan | FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | 8.30 am 10.30 am | Mass Mass | Wilfred White RIP - |
| Mon 30 Jan | Feria | - | NO MASS | |
| Tues 31 Jan | St John Bosco | 9.30 am 10.00 am | Eucharistic Adoration Mass | - |
| Wed 01 Feb | Feria | 10.00 am | Mass | - |
| Thur 02 Feb | The Presentation of the Lord | 10.00 am | Mass | - |
| Fri 03 Feb | St Blaise | 9.00 am 9.30 am 10.00 am | Eucharistic Adoration Rosary Mass | - |
| Sat 04 Feb | Our Lady on Saturday | 10.00 pm | Mass | Rita Burkman RIP |
| Sun 05 Feb | FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | 8.30 am 10.30 am | Mass Mass | Muriel Thipthorpe RIP - |



READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY

22ND JANUARY

1st Reading: Isaiah 8:23 – 9:3

Psalm: 26:1,4,13-14

2nd Reading: Corinthians 1:10-13,17

Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

29TH JANUARY:

1st Reading: Zephaniah 2:3, 3:12-13

Psalm: 145:7-10

2nd Reading: Corinthians 1:26-31

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

TEA AND COFFEE AFTER MASSES

Please join us in the hall on **Sundays** after the 10.30 am Mass for tea and coffee. **And also after Mass on**

TUESDAYS –A friendly welcome awaits you.



INTERNATIONAL MEAL

Saturday 28th January, In the parish hall, 6.30 pm.

ALL WELCOME

Tickets will be available for sale after both Sunday Masses during January, or contact Anastasia.

A New Era of Hope

From that time on, Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." [Matthew 4:17](#)

In Matthew's Gospel, from which we read today, we hear the first words spoken by our Lord as He begins His public ministry: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Up until this point, Matthew's Gospel presented us with Jesus' genealogy, His birth, the story of the Magi, the Holy Family's flight into Egypt, the slaughter of the Holy Innocents, Jesus' baptism, the preaching of Saint John the Baptist and Jesus' forty days in the desert. Now, after these introductory stories of Jesus' life, we enter into His public ministry.

Recall that John had just been imprisoned, thus concluding his public ministry. Therefore, the time for the preaching and ministry of the Son of God had arrived. And though Jesus continues the theme of repentance started by John, Jesus takes John's words further. Jesus adds something that John could not: "The kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Since we are still at the beginning of the season of Ordinary Time, it's important to understand this transition from the Old Testament prophets, of which John was the last, to the New Testament preaching of our Lord. The difference is that all that had been prophesied and pointed to in the Old Testament had now arrived. Saint Jerome, in commenting upon this passage, says that as the Old Testament Law ceased, the Gospel commenced. And, of course, the fulfillment of this new era of the Gospel was only a few short years away when our Lord would offer up His life for the salvation of many.

As Jesus begins His preaching, His words are challenging but also very hopeful. By saying that "the kingdom of heaven is at hand," Jesus stirs interest and holy curiosity among His first listeners. His call to repentance was softened by His new proclamation about the Kingdom.

One helpful insight we can take from these first words of Jesus' public ministry is that this is the best way to share the Gospel with those who do not yet follow Christ. Oftentimes, when we see someone living in serious sin, we want to judge and condemn. But usually what they need the most is hope—hope that there is something much greater that comes from repentance. Certainly we need to speak against sin. But one of the most effective ways to do so is by initially offering the listener hope of something much better than the sin with which they struggle—specifically, the hope of the Kingdom of God.

Reflect, today, upon the newness of the ministry of Jesus, the newness of the first proclamation of the Gospel. As you do, try to imagine the holy curiosity that many would have had as they first listened to Jesus preach. Soon He would follow up His preaching with many signs and

wonders that would confirm His message. But at first, Jesus simply instilled a hope in His hearers. As you ponder this, think about those in your life who also need this initial sense of hope and holy curiosity about the Gospel and pray that God will inspire you and use you to be an instrument of this merciful message.

A reflection for the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A
My Catholic Life, www.mycatholic.life.com

SECOND COLLECTIONS:-

TODAY SUNDAY 22nd January 2023 – Cathedral

NEXT SUNDAY 29th January 2023 – No second collection

Any donations can be made in cash or by cheque via the collection baskets in the church or using our card payment machine in the church porch.

The Parish Bank Account details are:

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

DECEMBER INCOME:

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Planned Giving | 419.00 |
| Standing Orders | 3418.00 |
| Envelopes Parish | 100.00 |
| Offertory income | 809.51 |
| Dona Collection - parish | 196.67 |
| Building Fund | 91.00 |
| Gifts/Donations | 30.00 |
| Sunday Coffee | 77.64 |
| Christmas Fayre | 449.24 |
| Flowers for Christmas | 263.62 |
| TOTAL | 5854.68 |

Special Collections:

| | |
|--------------|---------------|
| Day For Life | 290.52 |
| Holy Places | 48.00 |
| Lenten Jar | 10.98 |
| TOTAL | 349.50 |

RECENTLY DIED:



Peter Street RIP, died 24th December 2022, aged 92. His funeral is to be held on 24th January, 12.15 pm at Southampton Crematorium

Mario Magalhaes RIP, died 26th December 2022, age 75. Funeral to be held on 24th January, 11 am in the church, followed by a burial at Hollybrook.

HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE GROUP

For those who work or volunteer in the Health & Social Care sector, to enable members to discuss together common challenges and seek advice from one another. First meeting to take place in February. If you are interested, please email the parish office with your name, contact number and also stating if you are happy to be part of a Whatsapp group. This will then be passed on to the group organiser to contact you with further details.

YOUR OLD CHRISTMAS CARDS.....

We are Collecting old Religious Christmas cards
Please place in the box in the porch

BAPTISM PREPARATION

Saturday 18th February 10.30 am – 1 pm

For parents of any children to be baptised in the parish. If you would like your child to be baptised, please contact the parish office as soon as possible to register on the course and arrange a date for your child's baptism.

Growing in Faith

**Meets again this week on Tuesday 24th January 2023
7.30 pm – 9.00 pm in the hall**

This week our discussion will evolve around the question 'What does Christian Witness mean?'

Does our faith inform our actions or do we look for a faith which will conform to our personal beliefs?

How does our faith affect the choices we make on both a personal level and in the support we give on a wider scale within our communities and further afield?

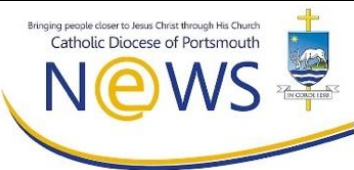
An opportunity for all to explore, question, discuss and grow in your relationship with God, wherever you are in your faith journey.

ALL WELCOME!

CAFOD MEETING

Saturday 4th February 10:30am to 12:30pm at Immaculate Conception Church hall Portswood.

You are invited to come to a meeting about CAFOD and how your donations make a difference to the communities that we work with. There will be an update on our work tackling climate change in Bangladesh as that is our focus story for Lent fast day. Please contact Jo Lewry for more details and to book your place by emailing jlewry@cafod.org.uk or call 07710 094447



PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE NEWS

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

locally and further afield.

<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue393?e=34c55ac6ce>

To keep up to date with the news of the Diocese and the Bishop please follow us on:

- Facebook: @PortsmouthRC
- LinkedIn: Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth
- Twitter: @PortsmouthRC

The Diocesan website:

- <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk>

If you have news that you would like to share with the rest of the Diocese, please contact:

communications@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

RETREAT DAY

11th March, 10.30 am – 4.30 pm

At Verbum Dei Retreat Centre,
Nunnery Lane, Carisbrook, Isle of Wight.

“LOVE POURED OUT – BEING EUCHARIST FOR EACH OTHER”

Starting with coffee at 10.30, a light lunch provided by the community and we will end with tea and cakes. The cost is £20 for the day. For further information and to book a place please contact

Patricia (Trish) Yandell on 07835948435, or
Sr. Margarida on 07970083252 or
email patriciam-c@hotmail.co.uk.

For those travelling from the mainland we use the 9.00am vehicle ferry to East Cowes and return on the 18.00 ferry.

SOUTHAMPTON STREET PASTORS

For over 13 years our teams have been patrolling the streets of Southampton offering reassurance, safety and support through listening, caring and helping. **Volunteers come from over 50 churches, giving 4-6 hours for a patrol only once a month** to show the love of Jesus in the City and suburbs in various ways, from the practical to the spiritual. We now have more patrols than ever going out at various times and to a variety of places. **With the growth and requests for patrols we are in need of more volunteers for night-time patrols, evening community patrols and for afternoon community patrols.**

To gain an insight into what it is to be a street pastor why not come on an observation with a patrol. To book up a convenient date just contact our office(details below)

You could also watch the video here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d2lA8pBKilg>

Next Training session: Friday evening, 17th March

If you are interested in finding out more just get in contact with us in the office on 023 8033 3387 or by email, southampton@streetpastors.org.uk, and we are happy to help.

HELP MARRIAGES

Would you like to improve communication in your marriage?

Holidays, children and work can put stresses on relationships. **Retrouvaille** is a course that shows you new ways of dealing with them. Please use the following links to find out more. Next course starting in February.

www.retrouvaille.org.uk

Www.retrouvaille.ie

JOB VACANCY: CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PORTSMOUTH

The Catholic Academies and Schools Office (CASO) are seeking to appoint an

Education Administrator

- 30 hours a week 9.00 – 4.00pm term time only
- based at St Edmunds House, Portsmouth.
- Salary: £12,296 per annum depending on skills and experience.

CASO provides support and advice on all matters to do with the Catholic life of our 70 schools and academies. We are looking for an organised, approachable, self-motivated individual with excellent administrative and communication skills. You will be working with a small friendly team located within the larger administrative department of the diocese,

- Closing date: 9.00am on 27th January 2023
- Interviews will take place on: 3rd February 2023
- Start date: 6th March 2023 or sooner if available

For a Job Description and details of how to apply or to arrange an informal chat about the role please contact: recruitment@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

SEEKING ACCOMMODATION....

A room in a student house or a spare room with a family for a quiet, hardworking student parishioner, aged 19. On first year of Mechanical Engineering degree at Southampton University. Can provide an excellent reference. If you can help, please contact Rachel in the parish office.

SHORT TERM ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED

I work as a Physiotherapist for the NHS my is trying to source some short term accommodation for a Physiotherapist, shortly moving to Southampton from Nigeria to start working in our team. He is in his 30's & will be able to pay for his accommodation which could be a room in a house. Please contact Liz Ashdown tel 07900 643067 if you might be able to help. Thank you

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED NEXT WEEK

Parish Secretary on annual leave

Office opens again on Tuesday 31st January

(Tues – Fri 9.30 am – 2.00 pm)



‘Follow me, I will make you fishers of men.’
And they left their nets at once and followed him.