

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH



8th October 2023,

Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

*“The kingdom of God will be taken from you
and given to a people who will produce its fruit ”*

Matthew 21:43

**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 08 Oct	TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Tina Gibbs RIP RIP - Ana Babagbeto, Juliette Houedikin & Raphael Loko
Mon 09 Oct	St John Henry Newman	-	NO MASS	
Tues 10 Oct	St Paulinus of York	9.00 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration Mass	Phil McDermott
Wed 11 Oct	St John XXIII	- 6 pm 7 pm	NO MASS Eucharistic Adoration Rosary	
Thurs 12 Oct	Feria	-	Mass	Soli Sorabjee RIP
Fri 13 Oct	St Edward the Confessor	9.00 am 9.30 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration Rosary Mass	-
Sat 14 Oct	St Callistus I	10.00 am	Mass	-
Sun 15 Oct	TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Catherine White RIP Ian Warwick RIP

READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY

1st Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7

Psalm: 80:9, 12-16, 19-20

2nd Reading: Philippians 4:6-9

Gospel: Matthew 21:33-43



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**

PLEASE NOTE – **GAMES NIGHT POSTPONED.**

New date to be advertised next week.

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

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. Raffle tickets will be on sale from next weekend after Masses.

ROSARY AT THE CEMETERY

Sunday 29th October, 12 noon, Stoneham Cemetery

INTERNATIONAL MASS TODAY –10.30 am

Followed by food in the hall

Please do stay after Mass and enjoy lunch with some foods from various international cultures. If you see this notice in time, perhaps you could bring a donation of food from your own tradition.

THE CIVIC SERVICE will be taking place here on

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. All are welcomed to the hall afterwards for food and refreshments. If you are planning to be there, please add your name to the list in the porch to help us with catering. If you are able to bring a donation of food please let Anastasia know.

Please try to arrive at Mass in good time so that you can find a seat as it a slightly more formal occasion and seating is likely to be in greater demand!

PARISH OFFICE OPEN NEXT WEEK:

Tues – Thurs, 9.30 am – 2.30 pm

A Cornerstone of Grace

Jesus said to them, "Did you never read in the Scriptures: The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; by the Lord has this been done, and it is wonderful in our eyes? Therefore, I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that will produce its fruit." [Matthew 21:42-43](#)

The most amazing thing that has ever happened in this world is the death of the Son of God. It is amazing for many reasons. It's amazing that God the Father allowed His Son to be brutally murdered by evil men. It's amazing that the Son did not call upon the myriad of angels to stop His persecution. It's amazing that Jesus spoke words of forgiveness from the Cross as His own mother looked on. But perhaps the most amazing aspect about this event is that from it, the gift of eternal salvation was made possible.

Only God, in His inconceivable wisdom and power, could bring forth the greatest good from the greatest evil. Nothing could be more evil than the brutal murder of the Son of God. And nothing could be more glorious than the transformation of that heinous act into the definitive act of salvation for the human race. Jesus was "the stone rejected by the builders." But that rejected Stone was used by the Father to "become the cornerstone" of the new life of grace to which we are called.

The passage quoted above concludes the Parable of the Tenants, which outlines salvation history. The Father is the owner of the vineyard, which represents the people of Israel. The tenants were the religious leaders of the time who abused the prophets who were sent to gather the fruit of God's Kingdom. The son is the Son of God whom the leaders of Israel killed under the misconception that killing Jesus would guarantee the continuation of their power. However, the true result was that they suffered their own destruction, and the murdered Son became the cornerstone of the Church and the source of new life.

Today, you are among the people to whom God has given charge of His new Vineyard, the Church. Of you, God demands an abundance of good fruit. Though the Church is entrusted to the pope, bishops and priests in a special way, it is also entrusted to the laity, each in their own way. Everyone must bear fruit for the Kingdom of God, and everyone will be held accountable for their stewardship.

Sometimes we can fall into the trap of thinking that we have little to offer. If we were the pope, a bishop or even a priest, we could do great things for God. And though that is true, it is no less true that everyone is capable of bearing an abundance of good fruit for the Kingdom. And God expects that of us all. If you doubt that fact in any way, recall again the undeniable fact that the Father used the greatest evil ever committed to bring forth the greatest good ever known. If God can bring forth new life from death, then He can certainly use you in powerful ways. In fact, the weaker you are and the more insignificant you feel, the more God can use you to produce good fruit.

Reflect, today, upon the glorious fact that if God can use his own suffering and death to bring salvation to the world, He can also use you in ways that are beyond your imagination. You might not become a famous evangelist. You might not succeed in some well-recognized ministry. In fact, you might even encounter much suffering, persecution, and hardship throughout life. Regardless of your own life situation, God desires to use you for great things and to bear an abundance of good fruit for His Kingdom. Commit to that mission, and allow God to use you as a cornerstone of His grace in this world.

www.mycatholic.life

A reflection for the 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

SECOND COLLECTIONS:

THIS SUNDAY - 8th October – CAFOD family fast day (GA via CAFOD envelopes only)

Please help more families like Meera's (below) to get the expert help they need by using the envelope in the church to make a donation, or give online at www.cafod.org.uk

Dr Nasha's mobile medical clinic gets life-saving help fast, to where it's needed most – so when her team arrived in Meera's village in Pakistan after it had been destroyed by flooding, Meera rushed to the clinic to get her children the emergency treatment she needed.

NEXT SUNDAY – 15th October – World Missions (GA via the form and envelope at the back of the Missio bulletin in the church porch or through collecting in a Red Box.

CARD PAYMENT MACHINE - NOW WORKING AGAIN!

You can use this to pay for candles, bookshop items, main and second collections. It will also enable gift aid on any eligible donations.

QR CODE. In the instance that it is not working there is a QR code on the noticeboard next to it. If you have a smart phone you can use this instead to make your donation online.

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.



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!

SPRINGHILL SCHOOL HAVE PART TIME VACANCIES

for a caretaker, a cleaners and mid day supervisors, full details of these jobs can be found on the school website - <https://www.springhillcatholic.co.uk/>