

26<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2023

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR A

“Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights.”

Matthew 4:1-2

**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](http://www.immaculateconception.church)

Email: [office@immaculateconception.church](mailto: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](http://www.churchservices.tv/portswoodchur)**

Date	Solemnities & Feast days	Times & Liturgies		Mass Intentions
Sun 26 Feb	<b>FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT</b>	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Sheila Front RIP Piedade Fernandes RIP
Mon 27 Feb	of the 1 <sup>st</sup> week of Lent	2.30 pm	Funeral	Gordon Cox RIP
Tues 28 Feb	of the 1 <sup>st</sup> week of Lent	9.30 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration Mass	-
Wed 01 Mar	St David	10.00 am	Mass	-
Thur 02 Mar	of the 1 <sup>st</sup> week of Lent	10.00 am	Mass	Godfrey & Shirley Doyle 60 <sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary
Fri 03 Mar	of the 1 <sup>st</sup> week of Lent	<b>10.45 am</b> <b>11.30 am</b>	<b>Stations of the Cross</b> <b>Mass</b>	John Whitcher RIP
Sat 04 Mar	of the 1 <sup>st</sup> week of Lent	10.00 pm	Mass	-
Sun 05 Mar	<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT</b>	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	- The Goreham Family



**READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7

**Psalm:** 51:3-6, 12-14,17

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** Romans 5:12-19

**Gospel:** Matthew 4:1-11

**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.



**LENT SOUP LUNCHESES**

**Every Friday during Lent**

**12 noon – 2 pm**

Come and join us in the hall for lunch on Fridays during Lent, **starting this Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March**. A selection of delicious homemade soups and fresh bread plus tea and coffee.

No entry fee but each week a different charity will be collecting donations. The charities we are supporting are as follows:

3 March – CAFOD

10 March – Christian Aid

17 March - Parish SVP group

24 March – Aid to the Church in need

31 March – (Charity to be confirmed)

**Please come along and support us. If you need a lift, please contact the parish office.**

**\*\*CHURCH SHOP SALE!\*\***

Our shop will be selling off many items at half price. You will be able to buy after either of the Sunday Masses in the bookshop and also in the hall after the 10.30 am Mass. Payments for any items can be made in cash or by using the card machine in the porch.

**CAFOD'S BIG LENT WALK**

Our Parish is joining with St.Edmund's, St.Joseph's, St.Boniface and other Southampton Catholic parishes to do the CAFOD BIG LENT WALK together.

We will do this on **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March, starting at 10.00am** from St.Boniface Church hall and walking to the Common and then back to St.Boniface for approx. 11.45, when there will be a sharing of **Hot Cross Buns, Tea and Coffee**. We will be sharing along the way with some stories and prayer.

**ALL ARE WELCOME,  
YOUNG AND OLD, WITH DOGS/OTHER PETS!**

**PARISH OFFICE OPEN NEXT WEEK**

Tuesday – Friday, 9.30 am – 2.00 pm

## Forty Days = Your Entire Life

At that time Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry. [Matthew 4:1-2](#)

“Forty” is a significant number. In Scripture, it is used more than 145 different times. For example, the rain during the Great Flood lasted forty days and forty nights. Each time Moses went up Mount Sinai, he remained there for forty days and nights. The Israelites wandered in the desert for forty years. After His resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples for forty days before ascending into Heaven. And there are many other uses of “forty” throughout the Bible. Interestingly, forty is even significant within human nature, in that we develop within our mother’s womb for forty weeks before being born.

The “forty” that we commemorate today is the forty days and forty nights that our Lord spent in the desert being tempted by the devil while He fasted and prayed. Forty is used to symbolize a time of testing, purification, trial or probation. For that reason, it should also be seen as a symbol of your entire life here on earth. In Saint Matthew’s version of Jesus’ temptation in the desert, He specifically uses the wording “forty days and forty nights.” Saint Bede, in commenting upon this, points out that this period of time not only symbolizes our entire lives, but the “days” represent the many graces and blessings we receive, while the “nights” represent the crosses we endure.

As we begin our Lenten journey, it is important to once again apply the lessons of Jesus’ time in the desert to our entire lives. Let’s consider two lessons we can take from the passage quoted above. First, we see that Jesus was “led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil.” This teaches us that Jesus not only endured temptation, He confronted it. He was not afraid of the devil and did not fear his attacks. Instead, He willingly faced those temptations, being led by the Spirit, so as to not only overcome them in His life but also to enable us to confront, in our lives, every temptation by the power and initiative of the Holy Spirit. We must never be afraid to confront temptations directly and confidently when the Holy Spirit is in the lead.

A second important lesson is that Jesus voluntarily fasted during this time in the desert. This illustrates the importance of the virtue of temperance in life. If we see this period of forty as a symbol of our whole lives, then we will understand that temperance must always be part of our lives. When we experience the joys and blessings of life (the forty days), we must certainly celebrate them. But we must always do so with a certain self-denial, in that we must never allow the passing things of this world to become the primary satisfaction we seek. Saint John of the Cross teaches that we can even become overly attached to spiritual consolations. Conversely, when we

experience the crosses of life (the forty nights), we must also practice a certain self-denial, in that we must not allow the difficulties we endure to discourage us or to distract us from seeking out and fulfilling the will of God. Fasting, meaning our acquisition of the virtue of temperance, must lead us always through the ups and downs of life, helping us to keep our eyes on the truths God has revealed to us and rejecting the lies of the devil. Reflect, today, upon the importance of embracing the virtue of temperance with courage throughout life. Throughout life’s many ups and downs, joys and sorrows, blessings and crosses, we must allow ourselves to be led by the Spirit, confronting every circumstance with courage and self-control. Reflect upon any ways that you struggle with the crosses you endure or excessively cling to the consolations of life. Seek to embrace the road of virtue this Lent in imitation of Jesus’ forty days and nights in the desert.

A reflection for the First Sunday of Lent, Year A  
My Catholic Life, [www.mycatholic.life.com](http://www.mycatholic.life.com)

### SECOND COLLECTIONS:–

TODAY SUNDAY 26<sup>th</sup> February 2023 – No Second Collection

NEXT SUNDAY 5<sup>th</sup> March 2023 – CAFOD family fast day  
**CAFOD Family Fast Day – Lent Appeal**

*This Lent, your donations to CAFOD’s Family Fast Day Appeal will help families fighting the climate crisis and ensure that our Church network can quickly respond to emergencies, like the recent earthquake in Syria and Turkey. Give today using the envelope or the card machine in the church porch or at [cafod.org.uk/give](http://cafod.org.uk/give) and please join us in praying for CAFOD’s development and emergency response work all over the world.*

**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

### RECENTLY DIED:



#### **Gordon Cox RIP**

Died on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

Funeral – 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023, 2.30 pm.

#### **Kathleen Moran RIP**

Kathleen was a member of the parish for many years although more recently attended St Josephs with her son & family. The funeral will be held at St Joseph’s Church, Bugle Street, Southampton on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March. Details as follows:

- Reception into the church – Thur 9<sup>th</sup> March, 5.30 pm
- Funeral Mass – Fri 10<sup>th</sup> March, 10.30 am,
- Followed by a burial at Hollybrook cemetery
- All are also invited to the Wake afterwards at Chilworth Manor.

No flowers but donations welcome to the Alzheimer’s society.

## LENT!

Flyers are available in the porch this weekend, listing the various events and activities taking place in the parish between now and Easter Sunday.

As well as the usual Masses and Services held during Lent, there are several other opportunities which we are encouraged to consider taking part in for these next few weeks, which can help us to understand Lent and make it more meaningful. Perhaps think about taking part in one of these to develop and deepen your faith, instead of giving something up!

**ALL ARE WARMLY WELCOMED TO ANY OF THESE EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES**

## WHAT IS A DEACON?!...Week 3

The deacon's ministry has a triple focus:

1. **of the Word – proclaiming, preaching and teaching,**
2. of the Altar – in Liturgy
3. of Charity – in care of the poor and needy, in activating the Social Teaching of the Church

### Service of the Word

At his ordination the bishop presents the deacon with the Book of the Gospels saying: "Receive the Gospel of Christ whose herald you now are. Believe what you read, teach what you believe and practice what you teach". It is for the deacon to proclaim the Gospel and preach the Word of God. Deacons are "trained carefully to prepare their homilies in prayer, in study of the sacred texts, in perfect harmony with the Magisterium and in keeping with the situation of those to whom they preach".

The deacon's service of the Word involves him in the New Evangelisation and catechesis not only in diocesan and parish programmes but also "in places where public opinion is formed and ethical norms are applied – such as the social services or organisations promoting the rights of the family or of life. They should also be aware of the great possibilities for the Ministry of Word in the areas of religious and moral instruction... and by adequate use of modern means of social communication."

To be continued!

*Deacon Gerard*

## UKRAINE

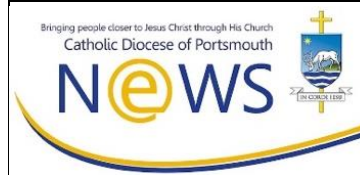
Dear friends

I am making appeal to you specifically for men's T shirts and socks, and cuddly toys for the children now orphaned, for Humanitarian Relief to Ukraine.

I will collect them from you after the Sunday masses or you can contact me on 07759541882 and I will arrange to collect them from you.

Additionally, do you have any small items of furniture you no longer need, which you could donate to a Ukrainian family who have recently found accommodation.

Many thanks.  
Mike Drain



## PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE E NEWS

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

locally and further afield.

<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue398?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](mailto:communications@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

### \*\*\*STARTING THIS WEEK\*\*\*

## LECTIO DIVINA LENTEN COURSE

This Lent the Verbum Dei community will be running a five week **Lectio Divina course** in the parish.....

### **What is Lectio Divina?**

*Lectio Divina is a dynamic way of reading the Scriptures. It follows a four-step approach of:*

- *Reading*
- *Meditation*
- *Prayer*
- *Contemplation*

*Lectio Divina invites you to savour and mull over God's words quietly, slowly and intently. It gives you the space to respond to what you feel God is saying and helps you build a vital bridge between your encounters with God and everyday life with its joys, humdrum and challenges.*

**"Turn to the Lord with all your heart"**

**Starting on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March**

**and every following Wednesday during March.**

**7 pm – 8 pm, In the parish hall**

Each session will last around an hour and include a short input, some helpful background information and tips, and a time of prayer. We would love for you to join us. Just turn up, but if you would like more information please contact Issy and Dom from the Verbum Dei community

on [verbumdei.soton@gmail.com](mailto:verbumdei.soton@gmail.com)

## CATHOLIC FAMILY DAY OF REFLECTION

Saturday March 11<sup>th</sup>, 10am - 2pm

St Dominic's Priory, Sway

This day is aimed at families with children up to the age of 7. We have space for 8 more families! Do come and join us in preparing for Holy Week

For more information or to book a space for your family, email [catholicmotherssoton@gmail.com](mailto:catholicmotherssoton@gmail.com)

Suggested donation £10-£20



## RETREAT DAY

11<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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.

## HELP MARRIAGES

**Would you like to improve communication in your marriage?**

Holidays, children and work can put stresses on relationships. **Retrouaille** 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.retrouaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouaille.org.uk)

[www.retrouaille.ie](http://www.retrouaille.ie)

## A GAP YEAR OPPORTUNITY

- Are you 18-30, or do you know someone who is?
- Do you want to develop a wide range of skills including leadership while learning about global justice and inspiring others to use their faith in action?

CAFOD, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, believes in equipping and inspiring young adults to contribute to a more just and peaceful world. Step into the Gap is a fully funded year of volunteering, with food, accommodation, stipend and training within a UK placement plus a Rome and Assisi pilgrimage.

Visit the CAFOD website for more information:

[cafod.org.uk/gapyear](http://cafod.org.uk/gapyear)

## CONCERT

**MUSIC BY VAUGHAN WILLIAMS & HOWARD GOODALL**  
**Performed by Southampton Philharmonic Choir**  
**and Southampton University Philharmonic Choir,**  
**together with Docklands Sinfonia**

O2 Guildhall, Southampton

Saturday 18th March 2023 at 7.30pm

Tickets are available online at

[o2guildhallsouthampton.co.uk](http://o2guildhallsouthampton.co.uk)

or you are also welcome to contact Mags (Moules) by email at [boxoffice@southamptonphil.org](mailto:boxoffice@southamptonphil.org) who can give further information and facilitate ticket purchases for you, should you be interested.

## REPAIR CAFÉ AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Last Saturday we hosted the local Repair Café initiative in our church hall. It was a big success with lots of people from around the local area as well as some parishioners who brought items for repair and were delighted with the results.

There was a wide array of items repaired. Here are some examples to give you an idea of what can be done:

- **electric/ electronic** eg. hair straighteners, epilady, radio, toaster, lamp, irons, heated ainer, electric mixer, photocopier, electric drill, vacuum cleaners, air fryer, tape deck, electronic game, fire, drill, cassette player, hedge trimmer!
- **sewing** eg .jackets, blouses, trousers, shorts
- **miscellaneous** eg.tools, clock, suitcase handle, trainset, variety of toys, manual typewriter, watch

Furthermore, there was an excellent and generous response to the appeal for homemade cake to serve in the cafe, provided by several parishioners.

Thank you to those who were able to support this by providing cakes and bringing items to be repaired.

**This will be a regular event with the next repair café taking place here again on .....**

If you have items which could be repaired rather than thrown away, bring them along next time. It saves money and saves the planet!

## WORKING FOR CATHOLIC HOMECARE CARER VACANCIES....

Catholic Home Care is looking to recruit new carers to join a friendly and supportive team undertaking general domestic support, helping older people in their own homes. If you like elderly people and have time spare during the week, this is the job for you with a good rate of pay. Car driver is an advantage (but not essential) and full training given. Success at interview will lead to an enhanced DBS check before appointment.

Permanent and holiday cover carers required. Full details available from:

Anne Monaghan or Marina Joyce 023 8017 0498

Closing date – 17 March '23

Interviews 21 March '23

*Additional Note:*

*We have an urgent need of more home care assistants to join our team. In particular, carers for the east side of the city, but there is an increased demand across the whole of our area at the moment. If you are aware of people who would suit this work, giving older people domestic support, please encourage them to ask for more information so we can encourage an application.*