

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

14 January 2024

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“Behold, the Lamb of God.”

Matthew 2:2

**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

(safeguarding@immaculateconception.church)

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 14 Jan	SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Mr & Mrs John Broderick RIP John & Mary Doherty RIP
Mon 15 Jan	Feria		NO MASS	
Tues 16 Jan	Feria	9.00 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration Mass	Queenie & Jimmy Marmion RIP
Weds 17 Jan	St Anthony of Egypt	10.00 am 6.00 pm	Mass Eucharistic Adoration	William Broderick RIP
Thurs 18 Jan	Feria	10.00 am	Mass	Bill Rogers RIP
Fri 19 Jan	St Wulstan	9.00 am 9.30 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration Rosary Mass	Mrs & Mrs Fitzsimons RIP
Sat 20 Jan	St Fabian	10.00 am	Mass	Yvonne Robertson RIP
Sun 21 Jan	THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Trevor Newell RIP Tom McNamara



READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY

1st Reading: 1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19

Psalm: 40:2,4,7-10

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20

Gospel: John 1:35-42

SECOND COLLECTIONS:

THIS SUNDAY – Pax Christi

NEXT SUNDAY – 21st Jan – St John’s, Cathedral, Portsmouth

CRIB COLLECTION - For Friends of the Holy Land

TEA & COFFEE AFTER MASSES Work has now started on the hall kitchen but tea and coffee will still be available after the 10.30 am Mass on Sundays. Please join us.

KITCHEN REFURBISHMENT UPDATE

As mentioned above, this has now started. It is hoped that work will be complete around the end of February/ beginning of March. A plan of what it will look like is displayed on a noticeboard in the hall.

**Next RCIA session Tuesday 16th January
7.30 pm in the church hall.**

For anyone who is interested in learning more about the Catholic faith. If you would be interested in joining, just turn up on a Tuesday at 7.30 pm.



ADORATION EVERY WEDNESDAY EVENING 6 – 7 PM

An invitation to our students as well as any parishioners - all are welcome to come and spend this special hour in prayer in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament every Wednesday evening.



The water that I will give them will become a spring of water within, welling up to eternal life. JOHN 4:14

SPRINGHILL CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL ARE LOOKING FOR FOUNDATION GOVERNORS.

A foundation governor is a practicing Catholic. You don't have to have any experience in education - training will be provided. Meetings are once a month on a Monday evening. Having school governors is essential as the role of the governor is to support the school in asking questions. If you'd like to find out more, please contact the school office on info@springhillcatholic.net and the head teacher will give you more information about the role before you make a decision if it is something you can commit to. Our wonderful school needs governors.

**PARISH OFFICE OPEN NEXT WEEK
Tuesday – Friday 9.30 am – 2.30 pm**

Gospel Reflection

We're now two weeks into the new year and I wonder, what are you looking for in 2024? When you look at your life, relationships, and world today, what are you looking for? Is what you are looking for today different from what you were looking for a year ago, three years ago, ten, twenty, thirty years ago? If so, how has it changed? And if not, why hasn't it changed?

Jesus is asking a question that has the power to reorient our lives and begin changing our world. What if you and I asked ourselves that question every day? What if asking ourselves that question became our morning practice? **What am I looking for?**

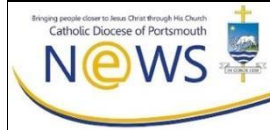
Our answers to that question probably reveal more about us, our life, relationships, and world than the things we are looking for. It's a diagnostic question. Whatever it is we are looking for sets a particular course and direction for our life. It asks something of us. Is your life on course? Are you headed in a good direction? If not, maybe it's time to change what you are looking for.

How would you answer Jesus' question today?

Sometimes I'm not sure what I'm looking for. The longer I live and the older I get, the fewer answers I have. Life has a way of calling into question our answers, and so does Jesus. I think that's what he's doing for the two disciples of John the Baptist who are following him. Twice they've stood with John as has pointed to Jesus and said, "**Here is the Lamb of God.**" They have their answer, and they follow it only to see Jesus turn, look them in the eye, and ask, "**What are you looking for?**" What do you want? It's not enough for them to say, "We're looking for the Lamb of God." That's John's answer. Jesus is asking them to look within themselves, to face themselves, and to answer for themselves. No one else has or can give us our answer. That's our work to do. It's part of growing up and taking responsibility for our lives. And that can be a hard and slow process. When the two disciples ask, "Where are you staying?" Jesus doesn't give them an answer. He doesn't give them an address or information about where he's going, what he does, who he is, or how he spends his time. He extends an invitation, "**Come and see.**" He's inviting them and us to live and experience his question. It's a simple question but it's not easy to answer.

Are you looking for healing and wholeness? Come and see. Are you looking for forgiveness and reconciliation? Come and see. Are you looking for hope and courage? Come and see. Are you looking for justice and change? Come and see. Are you looking for light and clarity? Come and see. Are you looking for life and life abundant? Come and see. What are you looking for today? And what would it take and be like to get up and go look?

Commertary by Fr Liam Cummins
For the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Liturgy Project
www.theliturgyproject.com



PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE

E NEWS & JOB VACANCIES

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

<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue429?e=34c55ac6ce>

FOR SALE

First Holy Communion Dresses x 2, both from Next:

- One long dress, 30" – 32" chest, hoop and short veil.
- One short dress – all lace, aged 14.
- £15 each

Phone Marie 023 80582925 / 07938761851

ONLINE WEEK OF GUIDED PRAYER

**"I am doing something new,
can you not see it?"
(Is.43:18-19)**

22 - 26 JANUARY 2024

To Register:
verbumdei.iow@gmail.com

A Week of Prayer with daily guidance to help us reflect on the NEWNESS that God wants to bring us this New Year, and to help us live our daily life with a greater awareness of God's presence. Led by the Verbum Dei Community. For more information, please contact: verbumdei.iow@gmail.com

FROM THE STELLA MARIS SOUTHERN PORTS CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Please would you pass our **huge thanks** to all your parishioners who contributed so generously in their prayers, efforts and gifts/chocolates. All go together to make a positive difference in the lives of seafarers at Christmas who, year after year, are separated from friends and family.

We have put together a video (see link below) to look back on our activities in the past year and provide information at the end for anyone who would like to learn more or volunteer their services to Stella Maris. <https://youtu.be/EQIZNrrqhAI>

CAFOD SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.

Do you enjoy working with children and young people? Could you help to inspire and empower children and young people in your local Catholic schools by delivering an assembly or a workshop? Supported by CAFOD with training and all resources provided please consider the role of CAFOD school volunteer. For more information contact Jo Lewry jlewy@cafod.org.uk or phone 07710 094447