



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

10th December 2023
Second Sunday of Advent

"A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight."
Mark 1:3

**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 10 Dec	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	People of the Parish People of the Parish
Mon 11 Dec	of the 2 nd week of Advent	-	NO MASS	
Tues 12 Dec	of the 2 nd week of Advent	9.00 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration Mass	Peter Greenwood RIP (50 th annivrsy)
Wed 13 Dec	St Lucy	10.00 am 6.00 pm	Mass Eucharistic Adoration	K Lorange Perera RIP
Thurs 14 Dec	St John of the Cross	10.00 am	Mass	Bill Chandler RIP
Fri 15 Dec	of the 2 nd week of Advent	9.00 am 9.30 am 10.00 am 5.00 pm	Eucharistic Adoration Rosary Mass Night of Light	K Lorange Perera RIP
Sat 16 Dec	of the 2 nd week of Advent	10.00 am	Mass	Maria Cecilia Jatico
Sun 17 Dec	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Maria Cecilia Jatico Alfred Rosario RIP

READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY



1st Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11
Psalm: 85:9-14
2nd Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14
Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

SECOND COLLECTIONS:

THIS SUNDAY -10th December – Life Group

NEXT SUNDAY – 17th December – No Second Collection

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION FOR PARISH PRIEST:

If you are away over Christmas but would like to make a donation to this collection you can do so in any of the following ways:

- If you are NOT a tax payer - use a 'Christmas Collection for Parish Priest' envelope available in the church porch and put it in a collection basket.
- If you ARE a tax payer - use one of the white Gift Aid envelopes in the church porch, making sure to tick the Clergy Collection box and placing it in the collection basket.
- Via our card machine in the church porch
- Online using the link on the home page of our website www.immaculateconception.church

NIGHT OF LIGHT

Immaculate Conception Church, Southampton

15TH December 2023

5.00 pm – 7.30 pm

A night of invitation for any parishioners and for those passing by to come inside, light a candle and encounter the beauty of Jesus Christ in His Church, where He is placed on the altar for adoration.

To create an atmosphere of prayer, there will be candle light, reflective music playing and priests available to offer the sacrament of reconciliation or just to chat.

ALL WELCOME



Downloaded from freepik: www.freepik.com

PARISH OFFICE OPEN NEXT WEEK:

Tues – Fri, 9.30 am – 2.30 pm

(The office will be closed from 22nd Dec to 2nd Jan)

Called to the Desert

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." [Mark 1:1-3](#)

These, the opening lines from the Gospel of Saint Mark, present us with Saint John the Baptist. John was the one that Isaiah prophesied would come before the Messiah. John was given the responsibility and privilege of being the one who would be the most immediate preparer for the Savior of the World.

Perhaps if most people were given the task of instructing John on how best to prepare the way for the Lord, they would tell him he must go to the leaders of the people, the civil authorities, the influential and those of status in society to win them over first. Many would conclude that the Messiah needed to have the full support of the leaders at that time. But that's obviously not what John did.

John the Baptist, at the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, was driven not into the homes of the most prestigious and wealthy, not into the halls of the civil governors, and not into the synagogues or Temple. Instead, John was driven into the desert. And in the desert, that dry and deserted place, he drew many people to himself and to his message of repentance.

God continues to call many today to follow in the footsteps of John the Baptist. Though John was a real person sent on a real mission at one particular moment in time, the mission he fulfilled is one that still needs fulfilling in various ways today. The "way of the Lord" still needs to be prepared. The Lord still desires to come to many, and He needs prophets to prepare the way for His continual coming by grace. Are you one of those people?

Truth be told, every one of us, rich or poor, learned or unlearned, young or old, etc., is called by God to prepare the way for His coming by grace every day. We are called to prepare the way by calling others to sincere repentance and conversion of life. This is done by the witness of our actions, by our words and by numerous other ways that God calls. How is God calling you to do His work? He is certainly calling you. You simply need to be open to that calling and generously respond.

Reflect, today, upon that "desert" to which you have been called, so as to prepare yourself and others for the coming of Christ. That desert is any place where there is need and every place where our Lord is not. It might be your family, work environment, community, among friends, or any place that lacks the superabundance of God's grace. Seek to enter those deserts and to be open to be a channel of our Lord's grace to those in need.

A reflection for the 2nd Sunday of Advent
www.mycatholic.life



**PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE
E NEWS & JOB VACANCIES**
Activities, events, news and job vacancies from around the Diocese.

<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue426?e=34c55ac6ce>

RECENTLY DIED



Michaela Waterfield RIP – Many of you knew Michaela as a much loved member of staff at Springhill Primary School. After a long battle with Cancer, Michaela died peacefully with her family around her on Sunday 26th November. Please keep her husband Simon, and their daughters in your prayers, as well as her mother and brothers during this difficult time. Her funeral will be held at St Edmunds Church on Weds 20th December at 11 am.

**Every Tuesday
from 9th January 2024
7.30 pm in the church hall.**



We have just started a small RCIA group for anyone who is interested in learning more about the Catholic faith. You may be someone who would like to consider becoming a Catholic, or you might just like to understand more about the Catholic faith, whether you are already a practicing or lapsed Catholic or part of any other faith or Christian denomination.

If you would be interested in joining, just turn up on a Tuesday at 7.30 pm.



Stella Maris Seafarers Christmas Chocolate Appeal 2023

**LAST OPPORTUNITY THIS WEEKEND TO
ADD DONATIONS TO THE BOX IN THE
CHURCH PORCH.**

Seafarers live a tough, relentless life, long hours, boring, noisy, temperature extremes, dangerous and exhausting, rarely at home with their families, in order to transport goods we buy, all over the world.

Can you help us by donating chocolate gifts?

Your gift may be the only present a seafarer receives this Christmas.

YOU ARE INVITED TO A BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION FOR JESUS

**Sunday 24th December, 5.30 pm
Immaculate Conception Church**

There will be: Mass, singing & dancing

Dresscode: Party Clothes

Please bring a gift: something suitable to give to the poor or homeless, eg toiletries, biscuits, chocolates, tinned foods.



**ALL WELCOME BUT CHILDREN AND THEIR
FAMILIES ARE ESPECIALLY INVITED**

TEA AND COFFEE AFTER MASSES

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

- **Sundays after the 10.30 am Mass**
- **First Sunday of each month after the 8.30 am Mass.**
- **Tuesdays after the 10.00 am Mass**