IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

Our Parish vision is to bring people closer to Christ by inviting, welcoming, nurturing & nourishing everyone

'He will sit on his glorious throne and he will separate people one from another.'- Matthew 25:31-46

Address: 346 Portswood Road, Southampton, SO17 3SB
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Website: www.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: melsden@immaculateconception.church
Parish Administrator: Cynthia Barretto (023 8055 5470)
Confessions: After 10 am Mass on Saturdays
Hall Bookings: Contact the Parish office

PARISH OFFICE TIMINGS: Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday 9:00-3 pm, Friday 9-4pm, Monday Closed

ALL MASSES LISTED BELOW ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE TO JOIN LIVE on our website or www.churchservices.tv/portswoodchur

Solemnities, Feast days & Memorials	Times & Liturgies		Mass Intentions
Sun 22 November *OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE*	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Cecilia Randall RIP Teodosio Rodrigues RIP
Mon 23 November *St Clement I*	***-NO MASS-***		
Tue 24 November *St Andrew Dung-Lac*	9.00 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration Mass	--
Wed 25 November *St Catherine of Alexandria*	10 am 6pm	Mass Eucharistic Adoration	In loving memory of Silva & Fernando Families
Thu 26 November *Feria*	10 am	Mass	--
Fri 27 November *Feria*	9.00 am 9.30 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration Rosary Mass	--
Sat 28 November *Our Lady on Saturday*	10 am	Mass Confessions after Mass	--
Sun 29 November *FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT*	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Family Mass	-- Ellen Gobbi RIP



***Second Collection*: Sunday 29 November - Christmas Flowers Collection**

As Christmas approaches, our flower arrangers work tirelessly to keep the church beautiful and welcoming for all who come to celebrate the birth of Christ. Please support our Christmas Flowers Collection, which helps provide the floral displays that enhance our liturgies during this joyful season. Donations can also be made by card using the church's digital Dona payment system at the entrance. Thank you for your support.



SUNDAY READINGS

1st Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17
'.. I judge between sheep and sheep.'

Psalm: Ps 23(22):1-2a. 2b-3. 5. 6. R1
The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28
Christ has been raised from the dead

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

OTHER REGULAR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

All are welcome to join!

- Mon- The Monday fun for all Cooking sessions 10 am – 1 pm, Church Hall kitchen
- Tues- Tea & Coffee after 10 am Mass – Church Hall
- Thurs- Maintaining the parish gardens – from 10:30 am
  Multicultural group – 10:30 am in the Church Hall
- Sun- Refreshments after 10.30 am Mass-Church Hall

Come along, meet new people, and enjoy being part of our parish community.

Gospel Reflection: Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, Solemnity- Year A
Commentary *from The Liturgy Project* by Fr Patrick Fitzgerald Lombard O.Carm

The Gospel this Sunday brings the Church's year to a grand climax with one of the finest scenes in the Gospels. We hear how the Son of Man comes in all his glory to sit on his throne and then those who are righteous will follow him into eternal life. Yet as is strongly emphasised in the Bible, the king must be first of all a shepherd, as we hear in the short reading this Sunday from the prophet Ezekiel. The feast of Christ the King is recent and became the last Sunday of the Year only after the Council. Its role is best seen as an anticipation and proclamation of future glory because our journey in this world continues. That continuity is more evident in the other two years of the Sunday cycle where the Gospel for the 34thSunday and the 1st Sunday in Advent are both taken from Jesus' final discourse to the disciples.Matthew though has extended this final discourse which as in Mark, takes place on the Mount of Olives where the Messiah was expected to come. Matthew adds three parables before the scene which is this Sunday's Gospel. This scene is not a parable, there is no "like" as in parables. The mention of sheep and goats is just a brief analogy at the beginning. Coming at the end of Jesus' public ministry we are given a presentation of the end of time. The Gospel story then goes straight back to immediate reality as the story of the Passion follows.The scene is a gathering of "all the nations". That phrase comes again right at the end of the Gospel when the risen Jesus commissions the disciples "to make disciples of all nations". Here we are shown the results of becoming disciples by our living of the Gospel story with all the teachings of Jesus up to this point, the end of his ministry. This is the life of the Beatitudes, the key to all Jesus' teachings, indicating the way we have to live as righteous in the kingdom of God. Traditionally the scene is known as the Judgement of Nations. We can instead read this as the moment of sentencing with a focus on those who have shown themselves righteous. Having reached this stage of the Gospel we will know just how well we have been living as righteous disciples, just how well we are reaching out to all those in need. Note how vague is the description of those who are on the left side. They are present as a warning to us not to follow their example. Hearing this scene as a sentencing rather than judging changes the focus. It is now a great scene of hope as we look to the end of time at the end of the year. Christ the king will return in all his glory and bring the righteous to eternal life. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and life everlasting.

Parish Notices



Celebrating a Successful Christmas Fayre!

The Christmas Fair was a wonderful success, raising £3600, and we would like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who helped make it possible. To our dedicated volunteers who gave their time and energy in planning, setting up, running stalls, and tidying up afterwards, thank you. To all those who donated prizes, gifts, refreshments, and other items, your generosity was greatly appreciated. And to everyone who attended, supported, and contributed in any way, thank you for helping to make the day such a success.



- **First Holy Communion: P**reparation classes for children enrolled in the First Holy Communion Programme will begin on Sunday, 29 November, at 9:30am in the Church Hall. If you have registered and have not yet been contacted by the First Holy Communion team, please email the Parish Office as soon as possible. Please note that registrations are now closed. Any new applications will need to be submitted for next year's programme.



- **Parish Finance Report 2026:** The Parish Finance Report for 2026 is attached to this newsletter email. Printed copies will also be available in the church porch.

- **Welcome Our New Safeguarding Officer:** We are delighted to welcome Martha as the new Safeguarding Officer for the Parish of the Immaculate Conception. We thank her for taking on this important ministry and for her commitment to helping ensure that our parish remains a safe, welcoming, and supportive community for all. If you have any safeguarding concerns or would like advice, please feel free to contact Martha at melsden@immaculateconception.church. We wish Martha every blessing in her new role.

- **Sacristy Toilet:** To help keep everyone safe, we ask that parents or guardians accompany children under the age of 16 when they need to use the toilet in the Sacristy. Children should not enter the Sacristy on their own, even if they are confident and capable of doing so. Thank you for your understanding and support in ensuring a safe environment for all.

- **Parish Volunteers' Meeting:** Thank you to everyone who serves our parish through their time, talents, and dedication. Fr Anthony warmly invites all volunteers, and anyone interested in serving at Immaculate Conception Church, to our Enlarged Leadership Meeting on **Wednesday 2 December 2026, from 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm in the Parish Hall**, followed by refreshments. The evening will be an opportunity to hear about the parish vision and priorities, meet fellow volunteers, learn about upcoming projects, and help shape the future of our parish community. Please contact the Parish Office to confirm your attendance by Wednesday 25 November. We look forward to seeing you there.

- **Discover Catholic Social Teaching:** The Verbum Dei Community invites you to a series of talks to discover The Catholic Social Teaching of the Church. The aim is to make accessible to all of us the body of church doctrine that guides us in how to build a just society and live out our Christian faith. Location Immaculate Conception Church hall, 346 Portswood Road SO17 3SB.Dates Fri 27th Nov Intro, Fri 22nd Jan, Fri 12th Feb, Fri 19th Mar, Fri 16th April, Fri 14th May, Sat 22nd May Time 19:30hrs

BE READY – A LITTLE PREPARATION GOES A LONG WAY

You may have heard about the UK Government's Be Ready campaign. This is a national initiative encouraging individuals, families and communities to take a few simple steps to prepare for unexpected situations that could temporarily disrupt everyday life.

This might include severe weather, flooding or a power cut, which could affect electricity, water supplies, mobile phone networks, internet access or the ability to get to the shops. The message is a positive and straightforward one: being prepared is about being sensible, not being worried. The Government is encouraging households, where they are able, to think about how they could manage for up to three days (72 hours) if normal services were temporarily disrupted.

There are some simple things we can all consider:

- Food and water: Keep a small supply of bottled drinking water and food that does not need refrigeration or cooking. The recommendation is three days' worth, but you can build this up gradually.
- Light and warmth: Have a torch, spare batteries and some warm clothing or blankets available.
- Keeping in touch: Make sure you have important telephone numbers written down, as well as a way of receiving information if the internet or mobile networks are unavailable.

- Everyday essentials: Think about any essential medication, first aid supplies or other items that you or your family might need.
- Looking after one another: Keep in touch with family, friends and neighbours. A little thought about who might need some extra help can make a real difference.

There is no need to rush out and buy lots of things or spend money unnecessarily. Many households will already have some of these items. The advice is to start by checking what you have, think about what you might need and add to it gradually when convenient. The campaign also recognises that some people may need additional support. Checking whether you are eligible for the Priority Services Register, which helps utility companies identify customers who may need extra assistance during service interruptions, is another useful step. If you depend on electricity for medical reasons, you can also ask your electricity supplier to add you to their free Priority Services Register.

The PSR - The Priority Services Register (PSR) is a free UK wide service which provides extra advice and support, including when there's an interruption to your electricity or gas supply - https://www.thepsr.co.uk/

HOW CAN WE HELP EACH OTHER?

Following recent government advice that we should all be prepared for emergencies such as power cuts or disruption to food supplies, our parish wants to make sure that no one is left alone if such a time comes.
We are putting together a confidential list of parishioners who may need extra help, so that we can check on you, and offer practical support such as a phone call, food or a lift to somewhere warm.

You may wish to add your name if, for example, you:

- are elderly and live alone
- are housebound or have limited mobility
- rely on electrical medical equipment
- have a serious illness or disability
- have no family or friends nearby
- care for someone who is vulnerable
- are a family with young children who would struggle in an emergency

If this is you, or someone you know (with their permission), please contact the Parish Office or speak to Fr Anthony Dcn Gerard or Anastasia after Mass. Forms are also available at the back of the church. Your details will be kept private, held securely by a small team, and used only to offer you help. If you have any concerns about the Be Ready campaign, feel that you may need some assistance, or would simply like to talk to someone about what it means for you, please contact the Parish Office in the first instance. We appreciate that everyone has different circumstances and that not everyone will be able to do everything suggested. Please do not feel embarrassed about asking for help. We would much rather hear from you so that we can understand your concerns and see what support or advice may be available. For further information, the Government's official website provides helpful advice and a practical checklist: https://beready.campaign.gov.uk/

Let's take a few simple steps, stay connected and continue looking after one another.

"Bear one another's burdens" (Galatians 6:2). Let us look out for one another.

BE READY – STAY CONNECTED – LOOK OUT FOR ONE ANOTHER.



Someone Special is Visiting from the North Pole!

Ho, ho, ho! We have received exciting news that Santa Claus will be making a special visit to our parish on **Sunday 6 December**! Children and families are invited to visit Santa's Grotto in the Church Hall from **12.00 pm - 2pm**. Come and meet Santa, have a chat with him, share your Christmas wishes, and enjoy some festive fun!