



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

3rd December 2023
First Sunday of Advent

**WEEKLY
INFORMATION
& UPDATES**

*"Be on your guard, stay away, because you never know when the time will come."
Mark 13:33*

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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 03 Dec	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Ellen & Bert Hampson RIP Mavis & Bryan Rosario RIP
Mon 04 Dec	of the 1 st week of Advent	-	NO MASS	
Tues 05 Dec	of the 1 st week of Advent	9.00 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration Mass	Michael & Anne Nelis RIP
Wed 06 Dec	of the 1 st week of Advent	10.00 am 6.00 pm	Mass Eucharistic Adoration	Francesca Pereira RIP
Thurs 07 Dec	St Ambrose	10.00 am	Mass	James & Betty Oliver RIP
Fri 08 Dec	THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	9.00 am 9.30 am 10.30 am 7.30 pm	Eucharistic Adoration Rosary Mass Mass	Brendon Barry RIP -
Sat 10 Dec	of the 1 st week of Advent	10.00 am	Mass	Peter O'Donnell RIP & the O'Donnell family
Sun 11 Dec	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	People of the Parish People of the Parish

READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY



1st Reading: Isaiah 63:16-17, 64:1,3-8

Psalm: 79:2-3, 15-16, 18-19

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Gospel: Mark 13:33-37

SECOND COLLECTIONS:

THIS SUNDAY - 3rd December – Flowers for Christmas

NEXT SUNDAY – 10th December – Life Group

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

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**

PARISH NOVENA - Weds 29 Nov – Thurs 7th Dec

Continues on Sunday at the end of both Masses

On Monday, as there is no Mass, you are invited to say the Novena prayer for day 6 at home using the leaflet from the porch, or available from the front page of the website.

**FEAST OF THE
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
Friday 8th December 2023
Mass at 10.00 am & 7.30 pm**

Evening Mass will be followed by some light Christmas refreshments. Please put this in your diary and join us to celebrate our parish feast day.



**PARISH OFFICE OPEN NEXT WEEK:
Tues – Fri, 9.30 am – 2.30 pm**

A Reflection for the First Sunday of Advent

Every person sleeps on average between 7 and 8 hours a day. This means that we spend one third of our lives asleep. If a person is blessed to reach the age of 90, he or she will have spent 30 years of life asleep. That's a long time! But this is something good. This is how God created us. Sleep is important for the body. Sleep helps our bodies to regenerate so we have strength for the next day.

As good as sleep is, there is one area in our lives where we must never fall asleep and never become tired, and that is in the area of faith, hope and love. Today's Gospel on this 1st Sunday of Advent opens with an important, urgent exhortation from the Lord: Be watchful! Be alert! We are to be like the gatekeeper who is always on the watch. Jesus says: "You do not know when the master of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping."

These words of the Lord do not mean that from now on we must never physically sleep. Rather, the Lord wants our longing for Him to grow ever greater. We should become more and more aware that the Lord dwells among us and already gifts us with many graces and blessings.

The blessed season of Advent, which we are beginning today, seeks to increase our longing for God and his coming. Advent makes us ask ourselves: How intense is our longing for God? How earnestly do we seek God in our everyday lives? How passionately do we long for his coming in our lives? And how does this intense longing for God express itself concretely? Do we have time for the Lord, time for prayer, time for Holy Scripture, time for Holy Mass, and time for the people who need us?

The Lord says that we should stay awake, because we do not know when the time will come. The Lord has given each one of us a specific task. "He places his servants in charge, each with his own work". But to fulfil this task we must be vigilant, always on the lookout for his coming. And the Lord is continually coming to us. He comes to us in every circumstance of life, in every person we meet. He comes to us through the Holy Scriptures and through the sacraments of the Church, especially through the Eucharist. A true Christian waits eagerly for his coming. He does not get tired of waiting. He does not become lazy. His faith remains firm and constant. His love is like a lamp in his heart that burns always.

It is no coincidence that we light candles during Advent. This is to figuratively express what is to happen inside our hearts. With each new Advent Sunday, a new candle is lit, so that shortly before Christmas all 4 candles are lit. Our hearts should burn with love and this longing should never be extinguished. Lord, help us to be watchful servants!

Fr Tom Kleinschmidt (St Boniface, Southampton)
theliturgyproject.com A project of the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

CHRISTMAS GAMES NIGHT

Saturday 9th December, starting at 5 pm

(Please note correct date and time)

- Refreshments & light snacks – you are very welcome to bring along food for your group
- Prizes for the best fancy dress – anything Christmas related
- Entry – cash on the door
- Plenty of prizes up for grabs and a mini auction
- Come and long and join us for a social evening and a bit of fun!

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 reflective music playing and priests available to offer the sacrament of reconciliation or just to chat.

ALL WELCOME



Downloaded from freepik: www.freepik.com



Stella Maris Seafarers Christmas Chocolate Appeal 2023

Whatever you get for Christmas is highly likely to have come to this country by sea. There will be about 400,000 Seafarers working over Christmas, separated from their families and friends. Theirs is a tough, relentless life, long hours, boring, noisy, temperature extremes, dangerous and exhausting. We're planning to collect hundreds of chocolate Christmas presents for seafarers visiting our Southern Region ports in the days before Christmas.

Can you help us by donating chocolate gifts?

All donations can be left in the labelled box in the church porch.

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



PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE

E NEWS & JOB VACANCIES

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

<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue425?e=34c55ac6ce>

FRONTLINE DEBT ADVICE VOLUNTEER

The Swaythling branch are looking for a new volunteer to join their Wednesday team, providing free debt and welfare benefit advice. Full training and ongoing support provided. Empathy, compassion and a listening ear are needed. If you are interested you can find out more from the following website - <https://frontlinedebtadvice.org.uk> or by contacting Dominic Williams at dominic.williams@frontlinedebtadvice.org.uk

THANK YOU again from the Street Pastors, to all who have continued to provide sleeping bags for those they encounter on the streets in need of help. Your donations are very much appreciated.