

# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

24<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2024

## OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

*“Yes, I am a king. I was born for this, I came into the world for this: to bear witness to the truth; and all who are on the side of truth listen to my voice.” John 18, 37*

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

**Address:** 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  
**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:** Cecilia Kovacs (023 8055 5470)  
**Confessions:** After 10 am Mass on Saturdays  
**Hall Bookings:** contact the parish secretary

**PARISH OFFICE OPEN NEXT WEEK: Tuesday/Friday 10:00 5 pm, Wednesday/Thursday 1-5pm**

**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 24 November	<b>OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE</b>	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass (Youth & Children's)	Relations of White family RIP Socorrina Rodrigues – birthday
Mon 25 November	St Catherine of Alexandria		NO MASS	
Tues 26 November	Feria	9.00 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration Mass	Teodosio Rodrigues RIP/birthd.
Weds 27 November	Feria	10.00 am 6pm	Mass Eucharistic Adoration	Rosemary Spencer RIP
Thurs 28 November	Feria	10.00 am	Mass	Deceased members of the Shields and Dalli's families RIP
Fri 29 November	Feria	9.00 am 9.30 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic adoration Rosary Mass	Family of Sue O'Brien SI
Sat 30 November	St Andrew, Apostle	10.00 am	Mass	Ellen Gobbi RIP
Sun 1 December	<b>FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Audrey Campbell RIP Mavis Rosario RIP

### READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY



**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Daniel 7:13-14  
**Psalm:** 92(93):1-2,5  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** Apocalypse 1:5-8  
**Gospel:** John 18:33-37

### SECOND COLLECTIONS:

24th November - No second collection  
 1<sup>st</sup> December – Flowers for the church for Christmas

### NEXT WEEK IN THE PARISH

**Tues 26<sup>th</sup>** Tea & Coffee after 10 am service – parish hall  
**RCIA Course** – 7.30-9 pm in the parish hall  
**Wed 27<sup>th</sup>** Adoration for students and anyone else who would like to join us – 6-7 pm in the Lady Chapel  
**Thur 28<sup>th</sup>** Caritas activity group– 10.30am  
**Sat 30<sup>th</sup>** Parish Retreat – 10am-2pm in church  
**Sun 1<sup>st</sup>** Coffee and tea - after mass in the parish hall  
**Choir Practice** 11.30 am in the church. Anyone welcome to join.

### MAY THY KINGDOM COME!

*Jesus answered, “My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom did belong to this world, my attendants would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not here.” John 18:36*

Today, on the final Sunday of our Church year, we celebrate the glorious Solemnity of Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. Next Sunday begins Advent. On this day we profess the profound truth that our Lord is King! He is the King of all things. He is King of the Universe. And He is King of Heaven and all spiritual realities. However, in the Gospel passage quoted above, Jesus responds to Pilate who was questioning Him about whether or not He was the King of the Jews. Jesus is clear that He is a King, but that His Kingdom does not belong to this world. So where is His Kingdom?

We can look at Jesus' statement from two points of view. First of all, if Jesus would have claimed that He were an earthly king, one with civil authority, then Pilate would have judged Him to be guilty of trying to overthrow the Roman authority. This would be unlawful and would be punishable by death. In that case, Jesus could have been found legally guilty of violating civil law.

But Jesus was purely innocent. He was morally perfect in every way, and that included His obedience to all legitimate civil law. But Jesus was a King. He was The King of all Kings! Therefore, so as to exercise His Kingship, He declared that His Kingdom was not of this world. In other words, it was not a Kingdom that was in competition with the Roman authorities or any other civil authority. To that, Pilate did not know how to respond.

Today and always, God desires that His glorious Kingdom reign in every way. God begins by reigning in our souls. He invites us to invite Him to enter in and take control of our lives. He desires to be the ruler of every passion, desire, thought and action that is ours. When this happens, His Kingdom is firmly established within us.

It also needs to be pointed out that Jesus wants His Kingdom to grow. First, it must grow in the minds and wills of all people. But from there, He wants every person to then work to conform every part of our society to the governance of Him as King. This means that as the hearts of civil leaders are converted, they will be called to enact laws that fully support and build up God's Kingdom on earth. It means that business leaders, as they convert, are called to govern their businesses in accord with the will of God so that their businesses contribute to the establishment of God's Kingdom here and now. It means that as the leaders of our schools, sports programs, social programs and the like all invite Jesus to reign in their hearts as King, The King of the Universe will then guide them to conform all of their endeavors to His will and to the continued upbuilding of His Kingdom.

The first duty of the Christian, in regard to the governance of every aspect of society, is not to impose God's law from without, as a ruthless authoritarian would. Rather, it is to convert minds and hearts so that God's governance comes forth from within. As God's Kingdom is established in the lives of His people, all objectively grave evils embedded within our earthly laws must be overturned. For example, the legalization of abortion stands out as perhaps the greatest of moral evils, since it involves the taking of a completely innocent life. This and countless other immoral earthly laws must be replaced by the laws of God as hearts and minds are converted to His Truth.

Reflect, today, upon your duty to help bring forth the Kingdom of God here and now. Start by seeing your duty to allow God's Kingdom to grow within you and your family. From there, be open to the many ways that God wants to use you to help others do the same. As you do, do not be afraid to work toward the external establishment of God's Kingdom in all that you do and in all that falls within your responsibility. Jesus is King, and He desires to reign everywhere. Cooperate with Him, and His Kingdom will indeed come.

*A reflection for the Christ the King (Year B)*  
[www.mycatholic.life](http://www.mycatholic.life)

## PARISH NOTICES

### PARISH RETREAT - 30 November 10AM- 2PM

**A half day of prayer in preparation for Advent and the beginning of the jubilee year**

- 10am Welcome and introductions
- 10:30am 1<sup>st</sup> input
- 11am Time for prayer
- 11:45am Break
- 12noon Moment of Prayer with Mary
- 1pm Lunch
- 2pm Groups sharing
- 2:30pm Closure Prayer Moment

### CHRISTMAS FAYRE - A BIG THANK YOU

Anastasia and her team would like to say a big thanks to all who contributed to and attended the Christmas Fayre. We raised £2208.22 this year.

### NIGHT OF LIGHT

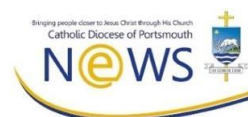
13<sup>th</sup> December 2024 5pm-8pm



As the nights get cold and dark, pause amidst the Christmas rush and pray for yourself and your loved ones to recognise Jesus Christ, the True Light of the World by lighting a candle. Invite your friends and neighbours too to contemplate and reflect upon the true meaning of Christmas.

### RECONCILIATION SERVICES THIS CHRISTMAS

- 3<sup>rd</sup> December 6pm – Totton
- 16<sup>th</sup> December 7pm – St Edmunds
- 17<sup>th</sup> December 7pm – Immaculate Conception



### PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE E NEWS & JOB VACANCIES

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

<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue467?e=34c55ac6ce>

## NEW YEAR – NEW BOOKS

### News from the Repository-Bookshop

We have taken delivery of the new **CTS Sunday Missals**, updated with the new translations for the scripture readings. These are now available to purchase from Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November from the **Bookshop**.

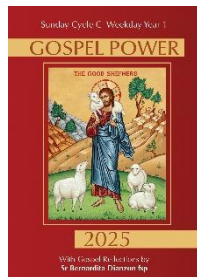
We have been able to secure these at a special price at £13.00 (published price is £19.95). Grab your copy at this low price while our stock lasts, as future prices will be determined by what we are charged.

There will be a smaller number of the One Year Missals available for £6.50.

Additionally, orders are now being taken for the Gospel Power 2025.

This book covers the following:

- Scripture references for daily Mass
- Response to the Psalm
- The daily Gospel and two Scripture readings for Sunday Masses
- Excellent, short reflection on the Gospel reading for the day
- A short prayer



At a 10.5 x 15 cm It is smaller than a Bible and can fit in a handbag. The price will be £7.50.

To order please see the lovely volunteers in the Bookshop. Last orders taken on the 8<sup>th</sup> December.

## NEXT BAPTISM PREP COURSE

Our next baptism preparation course takes place on **Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm**. If you would like your child baptised and you have not attended the preparation course in the last three years, don't miss the opportunity to find out more about baptism.



### Stella Maris Seafarers Christmas Chocolate Appeal 2024

We're planning to collect hundreds of chocolate Christmas presents for seafarers visiting our Southern Region ports in the days before Christmas. Stella Maris chaplains and ship visiting volunteers will go into ships to meet and support the crew, helping them feel they are not forgotten and much appreciated.

Suggested Chocolate Gifts



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.

## Vocations Prayer Newsletter November 2024

<https://portsmouthvocations.org/so/e5PBSreGg?languageTag=e&n&cid=8eeb309f-dcf5-4938-a4a3-1108ca4991af>

## WINTER NIGHT SHELTER



The Southampton Churches  
**WINTER BEDS 2025**  
is back and we need volunteers!

The project starts in January to take people off the streets who are sleeping rough. Help them to be safe and warm this winter.

For more information email [Laura@citylife.org.uk](mailto:Laura@citylife.org.uk)



We need volunteers to help on different days for the Evening Shift, the Night Shift and the Breakfast Shift. You will help as part of a team and training and guidance is given. Notice on our boards or chat to Steve at Mass or on 07540229973..... Please help our Christians in Southampton care for the Homeless and troubled.

## ADVENT 2024 FAITH FORMATION

St Edmund's, The Avenue, Southampton  
7.45pm-8.30pm Speaker: Ryan Hawkes

Advent is a time of mystery and a time for reflection on the mysteries of our faith, so why not come along on Wednesday evenings during Advent to delve into some of the details of the of the Comings of Christ? These seminar-style sessions will include a talk and chance for discussion and debate. All are welcome to come and join in or just to sit and listen. There is no cost, nor any need to register.

Wednesday 4 December | The Mystery of the Last Things on Death, Judgement, Heaven, and Hell

Wednesday 11 December | The Mystery of Advent on the prophecies we sing in the 'O Antiphons'

Wednesday 18 December | The Mystery of Mary on our Lady and the Incarnation

## JOB VACANCY, CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PORTSMOUTH PROJECT DEVELOPMENT OFFICER – CARITAS

Are you interested in supporting your local community? Caritas is recruiting a Community Development Officer based in Southampton and/or Havant parishes to help support people in need. This can be a part or full-time role, including flexible working. Please visit <https://portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/about-us/people/careers/> for more details and how to apply.

## Advent Day of Prayer and Reflection

An invitation to all Diocesan staff, Parish staff & volunteers to spend a day away from the desk for some prayer, talks and reflections during Advent...



Three P's of Advent:

**Pause | Presence | Prayer**

Led by Sister Hyacinthe from the Dominican Sisters



Time to reflect on the importance of recommitting ourselves to pause and listen to God, to be a compassionate presence to others and deepen our habit of prayer. The day will include tea & coffee, mass led by Bishop Philip Egan, followed by a hot lunch.

**Wednesday 4th December 9:30 - 14:30**  
**St Peter's Church Pastoral Centre, Winchester**

Tickets can be booked here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/advent-day-of-prayer-and-reflection-tickets-1006759704377>

## ACCOMPANYING OTHERS ON THEIR SPIRITUAL JOURNEY



Liza Nahajski and our Accompaniment Team invite you to join some new standalone dip-in Sessions on Accompaniment via Zoom, on Monday evenings, to introduce some key principles of accompaniment.

**Next session:** Monday 2nd December: **Good Conversations to Accompany Others**

We explore how listening conversations can help others to grow closer to Jesus Christ.

**Tickets:** <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/good-conversations-to-accompany-others-tickets-1005062618347?aff=oddttdtcreatorrite>

For more information email:

[lnahajski@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:lnahajski@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

## CAN YOU HELP A HOMELESS COUPLE?

We have been made aware of a young homeless couple who have been sleeping in their car until recently, but now the car has also broken down. They are looking for a studio flat that could accommodate them. They can afford £700 per month and they have a deposit and the first months rent to pay upfront. They will then be funded by housing benefit until the young man finds a job. He had a good track record of working and they lost their accommodation and job at the same time earlier this year.

Please contact

[councillor.k.Barbour@southampton.gov.uk](mailto:councillor.k.Barbour@southampton.gov.uk)

## OPPOSE ASSISTED SUICIDE

Unite in prayer and compassionate action to oppose **assisted suicide**

Attempts are being made in parliament to legalise assisted suicide – so-called assisted dying. This would undermine the **sanctity and dignity** of human life.

*Act Now!*



SCAN ME

Use your smartphone camera to scan the QR code to visit the Bishops' Conference website.

There you will find resources to help you **contact your MP**, read the reasons why we oppose assisted suicide, explore FAQs, and more.

Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales  
39 Eccleston Square, London, SW1V 1BX

## ASSISTED DYING BILL UPDATES

On 29th November, there will be a debate in parliament about legalising assisted dying in this country for the terminally ill (those with six months or less left to live).

While MPs consider the proposed bill, the Bishops have asked Catholics to pray, write to their MP, and become better informed.

The poster above signposts you to some of the resources available (link also included below) and we compiled further resources for you to inform yourself.

**The proposed bill:**

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/59-01/0012/240012.pdf>

**The Bishops' Conference website (with many further links)**

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/opposing-assisted-suicide/>

**Bishop Philip's pastoral letter:**

[BoP-PL39-301024-Assisted-Suicide.pdf](https://www.cbcew.org.uk/boP-PL39-301024-Assisted-Suicide.pdf)

**The Bishops' Collective statement:**

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/bishops-statement-assisted-suicide-nov24/>

**Link to an 'Email your MP tool':**

<https://righttolife.org.uk/AStreat>

**Link to a template email:**

<https://bit.ly/3UTuqGF>

**Link to a blog from CTS Books on this topic:**

<https://www.ctsbooks.org/what-does-the-catholic-church-teach-about-assisted-suicide/>