

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH



1st October 2023,

Twenty Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

"Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why should you be envious because I am generous? Thus the last will be first and the first will be last."

Matthew 20: 15-16

**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

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 01 Oct	TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Angela Churchill RIP A Special Intention
Mon 02 Oct	The Holy Guardian Angels	-	NO MASS	
Tues 03 Oct	Feria	10.00 am	Mass	-
Wed 04 Oct	St Francis of Assisi	-	Mass	Eileen Frances Kingwell RIP
Thurs 05 Oct	St Faustina Kowalska	-	Mass	Lydie & Oscar Tchuisseu RIP
Fri 06 Oct	St Bruno	10.30 am 11.00 am 11.30 am	Euch Adoration Rosary Mass	-
Sat 07 Oct	Our Lady of the Rosary	10.00 am	Mass	-
Sun 08 Oct	TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Tina Gibbs RIP RIP - Ana Babagbeto, Juliette Houedikin & Raphael Loko

READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY



1st Reading: Ezekiel 18:25-28

Psalm: 25:4-9

2nd Reading: Philippians 2:1-11

Gospel: Matthew 21:28-32

TEA AND COFFEE AFTER MASSES

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

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



FIRST FRIDAY LUNCH

6TH OCTOBER, 12 NOON

SOUP and SWEET



Do come and join us at our enjoyable monthly lunches and enjoy fresh soups and a choice of sweet. They take place after morning mass at mid-day. New faces welcome. The charity this month will be CAFOD as this Friday is the annual CAFOD family fast day. If anyone would like a lift please contact Anne Dempsey on 02380552064.

OCTOBER IS THE MONTH OF THE HOLY

ROSARY. Please join us to say the rosary every

Wednesday in October, 7 pm

Lady Chapel at Immaculate Conception



A DAY WITH MARY

Saturday 7 October, 1.30 – 6 pm,

Immaculate Conception Church & Hall

Celebrate a Marian festivity through the eyes of the Filipinos. A day dedicated to Our Lady of the Holy Rosary. The day begins promptly at 2pm with a Marian talk, a Living Rosary at 4.30pm with the procession of all Marian statues and icons. Concluding with Mass at 6pm. There will be an opportunity to try some Filipino cuisine in the church hall, during and after the event. Bring your Marian images, any old rosaries you wish to donate. **If you would like to pledge towards flowers please contact 023 8033 3589.** This is an event for all parishioners across any of the parishes in our deanery, facilitated by the City Centre parish Diversity Group.

HEARING LOOP NOW WORKING!

If you wear a hearing aid, you should find that the loop system is now working again.

ST GEORGE CATHOLIC COLLEGE

OPEN EVENING, Thurs 5TH Oct, 5.30 pm – 8.00 pm

For parents and children in Years 4, 5 and 6

PLEASE COME AND SEE WHAT WE HAVE TO OFFER!

PARISH OFFICE OPEN NEXT WEEK:

Tues – Thurs, 9.30 am – 2.30 pm

A Life of Ongoing Conversion

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people: "What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He came to the first and said, 'Son, go out and work in the vineyard today.' He said in reply, 'I will not,' but afterwards changed his mind and went. The man came to the other son and gave the same order. He said in reply, 'Yes, sir,' but did not go." [Matthew 21:28-30](#)

This parable presents a message of great hope to those who find it difficult to follow the will of God. The first son, the one who said he would not obey the father but then changed his mind, refers to those who have initially rejected the will of God but then repented and turned back to Him. The second son represents those who claim to be faithful followers of the will of God, but are not. This second son presents us with a very dangerous trap we can fall into. He represents the interior disposition of the chief priests and elders of the people. They said one thing but did another. They acted as if they were righteous but were not. They might have even been fooling themselves.

Of course, there is another possible scenario Jesus doesn't present. Ideally, when the father asked his son to work in the vineyard he would have said "yes" and then followed through with his commitment. But this is not mentioned because no one falls into that category, except for our Blessed Mother. All people have sinned, and everyone needs to repent.

When we look at these two sons, we must humbly strive to be like the first one. We must begin by acknowledging that we have refused to obey the will of God in many ways throughout our lives. God has invited us to serve Him, and we have said "no." Acknowledging this is an essential starting point for a life of true conversion and service of God. When we fail to humbly admit that we have sinned, we are acting like the second son. We are living a lie and are trying to convince ourselves that we are faithful to the will of God when we are not. This second son represents a very dangerous interior disposition that we must avoid with all of our might. It is the sin of impenitence, a sin against the Holy Spirit. It is dangerous because this type of self-righteousness keeps a person from truly serving the will of God. They believe their own lie and see no need to repent.

Which of these two sons are you most like? Are you keenly aware of your weaknesses and sins? Can you humbly admit them to yourself and to God? Or do you tend to present yourself as one who is holy and does not need to repent? Never be afraid to admit your sin. Never pretend to be someone you are not. Never allow yourself to be drawn into self-righteousness. We are all called to a life of ongoing conversion. Seeing that fact, admitting to it and striving for that conversion will win for us the glorious Kingdom of Heaven.

Reflect, today, upon the many ways that you have initially said "no" to the will of God. Sometimes we do so in grave matters, and sometimes we do so in less serious ways. The humble truth is that we all refuse to fully embrace the will of God every day. The invitation we have been given to obey Him is much more than a black-and-white, yes-or-no answer.

God's call to obedience goes deep and is a call on a continuously deepening level. Keep looking into your soul and confess the ways you reject the will of God. The more clearly you see your sins and confess them, the more fully you will be in a position to say "yes" to the will of God with all your heart.

www.mycatholic.life

A reflection for the 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

SECOND COLLECTIONS:

THIS SUNDAY -1st October – No 2nd Collection

NEXT SUNDAY – 8th October – CAFOD family fast day (GA via CAFOD envelopes only)

Please help more families like Meera's (below) to get the expert help they need by using the envelope in the church to make a donation, or give online at

www.cafod.org.uk

Dr Nasha's mobile medical clinic gets life-saving help fast, to where it's needed most – so when her team arrived in Meera's village in Pakistan after it had been destroyed by flooding, Meera rushed to the clinic to get her children the emergency treatment they needed.

SVP COLLECTION

Due to an error in the Newsletter the Annual Collection last week for the SVP was wrongly dated. If you missed this collection and want to give to the SVP please put your donation in an envelope, marked SVP and hand in to the parish office. Thank You

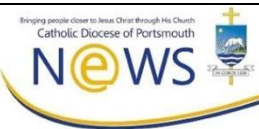
CARD PAYMENT MACHINE - NOW WORKING AGAIN!

You can use this to pay for candles, bookshop items, main and second collections. It will also enable gift aid on any eligible donations.

QR CODE. In the instance that it is not working there is a QR code on the noticeboard next to it. If you have a smart phone you can use this instead to make your donation online.

READING AT MASS

Please consider registering your interest to read at Mass – forms available in the porch. If you are a reader, or are interested in being one, the Diocesan Formation team are hosting a series of liturgical formation sessions for readers, throughout October, 7 – 8 pm on line. More details available in E News (below).



Bringing people closer to Jesus Christ through His Church
Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

LATEST EDITION OF PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE E NEWS & JOB VACANCIES

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

<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue421?e=34c55a66ce>

IF YOU WOULD LIKE A CANDLE LIT but cannot come to the church at a time when it is open, please let the office or Fr Anthony know. We will light one for you after Mass, take a picture and put it on our Facebook page

ADORATION FOR STUDENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE
Every Wednesday, 6 – 7 pm in the Lady Chapel