

8<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2023

## THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD, YEAR A

*"This is my son, the beloved; my favour rests on him"*

Matthew 3:17

### Immaculate Conception Church

Within the Pastoral Area of Southampton East  
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

**Parish Priest:** Fr Anthony Chiatu

**Parish Deacon:** Dcn Gerard Dailly

**Hospital Chaplaincy:** (023 8120 8517)

**University Chaplain:** Sr Emelliana Silva (07426 000213)

**Safeguarding Officer:** Pat Saunders

**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](http://www.churchservices.tv/portswoodchur)**

Date	Solemnities & Feast days	Times & Liturgies		Mass Intentions
Sun 08 Jan	<b>THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD</b>	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Annabel & Roland Surlis RIP Martha & George Ketta RIP inc Pope Benedict XVI RIP at both Masses
Mon 09 Jan	Feria	-	NO MASS	
Tues 10 Jan	Feria	10.00 am	Mass	-
Wed 11 Jan	Feria	10.00 am	Mass	-
Thur 12 Jan	St Aelred	10.00 am	Mass	-
Fri 13 Jan	St Hilary	9.30 am 10.00 am	Rosary Mass	-
Sat 14 Jan	Our Lady on Saturday	10.00 pm	Mass	-
Sun 15 Jan	<b>SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Jimmy & Queenie Marmion RIP Lawrence & Luigina Clegg RIP



### THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Wisdom 4:7-15

**Psalm:** 22

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** Romans 8:31-35,37-39

**Gospel:** John 17:24-26

### TEA AND COFFEE AFTER MASSES

Please join us on **Sundays after the 10 am Mass** in the hall for tea and coffee. **TUESDAYS** – Please join us in the hall on Tuesdays after Mass for coffee. A friendly welcome awaits you.



### CHOIR

**We would like to invite members of the congregation who can play musical instruments to join the choir.**

Practices take place every Thursday in the church at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome.

### BAPTISM PREPARATION

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February 10.30 am – 1 pm**

For parents of any children to be baptised in the parish. If you would like your child to be baptised, please contact the parish office as soon as possible to register on the course and arrange a date for your child's baptism.

### CHANGES TO OFFICIAL DIOCESE NAME AND CHARITY

**NUMBER:** From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023, the Diocese will be called Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth, with registered Charity number 1199568.

### Growing in Faith

**Tuesdays 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> January 2023** and ongoing with further dates to be set.  
7.30 pm – 9.00 pm in the hall

*An opportunity for all to explore, question, discuss and grow in your relationship with God, wherever you are in your faith journey. No questions excluded!!*

### HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE GROUP

A group for those who work or volunteer in the Health & Social Care sector is being formed to enable members to discuss together common challenges at work and seek advice from one another. The first meeting will take place in February - date and time to be finalised. If you are interested in joining this group, please email the parish office with your name, contact number and also stating if you are happy to be part of a Whatsapp group. This will then be passed on to the group organiser to contact you with further details.

If you have any queries, please contact the parish office.

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS NEXT WEEK

Tues, Weds, Thurs, Fri 9.30 am – 1.30 pm

## “You are My Beloved Son”

*It happened in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John. On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”* [Mark 1:9-11](#) (Gospel from Year B)

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord concludes for us the Christmas Season and transitions us into the beginning of Ordinary Time. From a Scriptural point of view, this event in Jesus’ life is also a transitional moment from His hidden life in Nazareth to the beginning of His public ministry. As we commemorate this glorious event, it’s important to ponder a simple question: Why was Jesus baptized? Recall that John’s baptism was one of repentance, an act by which he invited his followers to turn from sin and to turn to God. But Jesus was sinless, so what was the reason for His Baptism?

First of all, we see in the quoted passage above that Jesus’ true identity was made manifest through His humble act of baptism. “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased,” spoke the voice of the Father in Heaven. Furthermore, we are told that the Spirit descended upon Him in the form of a dove. Thus, Jesus’ baptism is in part a public declaration of Who He is. He is the Son of God, a divine Person Who is one with the Father and the Holy Spirit. This public testimony is an “epiphany,” a manifestation of His true identity for all to see as He prepares to begin His public ministry.

Second, by His baptism, Jesus’ incredible humility is made manifest. He is the Second Person of the Most Holy Trinity, but He allows Himself to become identified with sinners. By sharing in an act that was focused upon repentance, Jesus speaks volumes through His action of baptism. He came to unite Himself with us sinners, to enter our sin and to enter into our death. By entering the water, He symbolically enters into death itself, which is the result of our sin, and rises triumphantly, allowing us to also rise with Him to new life. For this reason, Jesus’ baptism was a way of Him “baptizing” the waters, so to speak, so that water itself, from that moment onward, would be endowed with His divine presence and could be communicated to all who are baptized after Him. Therefore, sinful humanity is now able to meet divinity through baptism.

Lastly, when we share in this new baptism, through water that has now been sanctified by our divine Lord, we see in Jesus’ baptism a revelation of who we become in Him. Just as the Father spoke and declared Him as His Son, and just as the Holy Spirit descended upon Him, so also in our baptism we become the adopted children of the Father and are filled with the Holy Spirit. Thus, Jesus’ baptism gives clarity as to whom we become in Christian baptism.

A reflection for the Baptism of the Lord, Year A  
My Catholic Life, [www.mycatholic.life.com](http://www.mycatholic.life.com)

### SECOND COLLECTIONS:-

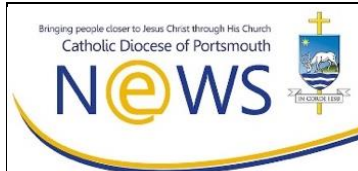
TODAY SUNDAY 08<sup>th</sup> January 2023 – No second Collection

NEXT SUNDAY 15<sup>th</sup> January 2023 – Pax Christi

**Any donations can be made in cash or by cheque via the collection baskets in the church or using our card payment machine in the church porch.**

**The Parish Bank Account details are:**

Name: CDP, Immaculate Conception Church,  
Sort Code: 30-93-04, Account No: 00887995



### PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE E NEWS

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

locally and further afield.

<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue391?e=34c55ac6ce>

**To keep up to date with the news of the Diocese and the Bishop please follow us on:**

- Facebook: @PortsmouthRC
- LinkedIn: Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth
- Twitter: @PortsmouthRC

**The Diocesan website:**

- <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk>

**If you have news that you would like to share with the rest of the Diocese, please contact:**

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

## WARM SPACES

coming to Immaculate Conception Church

**\*WE NEED VOLUNTEERS FROM THE PARISH TO HELP\***

This is a scheme which has been set up across the UK to provide many places where anyone in need of warmth & community is invited to a warm space to share with others – libraries, church halls, community centres etc. With a cost of living & climate crisis, many of us are facing tough decisions. Some of us have moved to working from home following the pandemic and are facing a winter with increased energy bills. Others are facing even harder decisions about whether to heat or eat.

We are providing our church hall as a ‘Warm Space’ on Tuesday afternoons, starting from 10<sup>th</sup> January. We hope to serve refreshments and provide access to the internet.

**If you have an hour or two you could spare on Tuesday afternoons during January and February, please speak to Fr Anthony, Deacon Gerard or the parish office.**

**Thank you so much for your support for CAFOD in 2022** especially for our emergency appeals. Your donations make a huge difference to the communities that we work with around the world. Have you considered using your time and skills to volunteer for CAFOD? Please contact Jo for information on our volunteering opportunities [jewry@Cafod.org.uk](mailto:jewry@Cafod.org.uk) or call 07710 094447

## OUR CHRISTMAS CRIB

Some of you might be wondering why is the Crib still up? Is it not supposed to come down on the 12<sup>th</sup> night (Ephiny)?

We would like to share a brief explanation as to why we are leaving it in place until Candlemas. The name Candlemas comes from the use of candles to celebrate Jesus as the light of the world.

In some countries it is not unusual to retain some Christmas decorations until the feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas). St. John Paul II would make his last visit to the crib in St Peter's Square after evening Mass on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February, after which the Crib would be dismantled.

2<sup>nd</sup> February is 33 days on from 1<sup>st</sup> January when Jesus was circumcised. Jesus was then presented in the Temple and an offering was made for the purification of Mary his mother. It was at this time when Mary and Joseph having made their offering they met Simeon, who had been told that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Simeon with the help of the Holy Spirit found Mary and Joseph in the Temple took Jesus in his arms and praised God saying 'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised ; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.'

Candlemas is the moment in the church year when we 'turn from the crib to the cross', remembering that Jesus came into the world in order to die for our sins.

## HELP MARRIAGES

**Would you like to improve communication in your marriage?**

Holidays, children and work can put stresses on relationships. Retrouvaille is a course that shows you new ways of dealing with them. Please use the following links to find out more.

[www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk)

[www.retrouvaille.ie](http://www.retrouvaille.ie)

## VACANCY AT SPRINGHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

### LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT

Term time only, 8.30am - 3.15pm

Working with children in school, either in class or on a 1:1 basis.

Full details and an application form can be found on the school website -

<http://www.springhillcatholic.co.uk/staff-vacancies/>

Closing date Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January.

## CAFOD LENT PLANNING MEETING

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February, 10.30 am – 12.30 pm

Immaculate Conception Church Hall

Come and find out more about CAFODs work in Bangladesh which is the focus story for Lent fast day (3<sup>rd</sup> March), explore the resources and meet other parish volunteers.

## INTERNATIONAL MEAL

Saturday 28th January

In the parish hall, from 6.30 pm.

ALL WELCOME

Tickets will be available for sale after both Sunday Masses during January, or contact Anastasia.

