

26th December 2021 and 2nd January 2021
THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH, YEAR C

“Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God’s children; and that is what we are.”

1 John 3:1

<p align="center">Immaculate Conception Church Within the Pastoral Area of Southampton East 346 Portswood Road, Southampton, SO17 3SB Tel: (023) 8055 5470 Website: www.immaculateconception.church Email: office@immaculateconception.church Facebook: Immaculate Conception Church, Portswood Twitter: @icportswood</p>	<p align="center">Parish Priest: Fr Antony Gatt Hospital Chaplaincy: (023 8120 8517) University Chaplain: Sr Emelliana Silva (07426 000213) Safeguarding Officer: Pat Saunders Parish Secretary: Rachel Brady (023 8055 5470) Confessions: Saturdays, 10.30 am (after Mass) Hall Bookings: contact the parish secretary (currently available for regular bookings only)</p>
--	---

ALL MASSES ADVERTISED BELOW ARE AVAILABLE TO JOIN LIVE, ONLINE AT
www.churchservices.tv/portswoodchur

Date	Solemnities & Feast days	Mass Times	Mass details & intentions	 THIS SUNDAY: 1st Reading: 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28 Psalm: 83:2-3,5-6,9-10 2nd Reading: 1 John 3:1-2,21-24 Gospel: Luke 2:41-52 NEXT SUNDAY: 1st Reading: Ecclesiasticus 24:1-2,8-12 Psalm: 147 2nd Reading: Ephesians 1:3-6,15-18 Gospel: John 1:1-18
Fri 24 Dec	CHRISTMAS EVE Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord	5.00 pm 8.30 pm 9.00 pm	Family Mass Carol Service Vigil Mass	
Sat 25 Dec	NATIVITY OF THE LORD	9.00 am	Christmas Day Mass	
Sun 26 Dec	THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH	8.30 am 10.30 am	†Alec Palmer RIP †Gobbi/O’Brien families RIP	
Mon 27 Dec	St John	-	No Mass	
Tues 28 Dec	The Holy Innocents	10.00 am	Stella Goold O’Keefe	
Wed 29 Dec	St Thomas of Canterbury	10.00 am	The Father of Daz Hall	
Thur 30 Dec	Liturgy of the day	10.00 am	-	
Fri 31 Dec	Liturgy of the day	11.15 pm	-	
Sat 01 Jan	Mary, the holy mother of God	10.30 am	-	
Sun 02 Jan	SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS	8.30 am 10.30 am	†Virginia Gundayao & her son Jonathan Gundayao RIP -	
Mon 03 Jan	Liturgy of the day	-	No Mass	
Tues 04 Jan	Liturgy of the day	10.00 am	-	
Weds 05 Jan	Liturgy of the day	11.00 am	-	
Thurs 06 Jan	THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	10.00 am 7.30 pm	- -	
Fri 07 Jan	Liturgy of the day	10.00 am	-	
Sat 08 Jan	First Mass of Sunday	10.00 am	†Irene Delves RIP	
Sun 09 Jan	THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD	8.30 am 10.30 am	†Roland & Annabel Surlis RIP -	

TEA AND COFFEE AFTER SUNDAY MASS

Please join us in the hall for refreshments after the 10 am Mass on Sunday this weekend



LOOKING FOR LAST MINUTE CHRISTMAS CARDS? PARISH CHARITY CHRISTMAS CARDS ARE STILL AVAILABLE IN THE BOOKSHOP!

All proceeds to parish charities. Also in the bookshop a range of other cards and religious items/gifts

CHRISTMAS CARD POST BOX

Available in the porch, please just sanitize your hands before using it! It will be on the shelf near the bookshop and will be removed on the Epiphany.

CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE WINNERS

Thank you to all those who bought tickets for the Christmas Hamper Raffle. £300 was raised to support parish/community winter outreach work. Congratulations to the winners of the 10 hampers:

- Ticket 74 - Sheila Petch
- Ticket 6 – Fiona Thompson
- Ticket 140 – Reena Thompson
- Ticket 221 – Rachel Porter
- Ticket 198 – Moira Earl
- Ticket 53 – Veronica White
- Ticket 213 – James Gobbi
- Ticket 207 – Collette Nurser
- Ticket 154 – Ann Newell
- Ticket ? – Albert

PARISH OFFICE
CLOSED
NEXT WEEK
 Re-opens on 4th Jan

My dear Friends:

A Blessed, Loving and Joy-filled Christmas to each one of you! May those symbolic flames of the Advent Candle be born in our hearts as *Hope, Faith, Joy and Peace*. As the Faith Community/Family, of the Immaculate Conception, may we be rooted in, grounded in, the green Advent Wreath, *Hesed, God's Gentle Mercy*. As family, friends and relatives gather round the Christmas table to celebrate Christ's birth, may He be truly born within our hearts and lives.

You know, once again, I was thinking of those poignant words of St. Teresa of Avila, on the ways in which Jesus needs us to give birth to him as the *God-Bearer (Theotokos/Θεοτόκος)*, ... *Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours... and yet... how easily it is to be 'derailed', and diverted, from this divine quest!*

King Herod, and various leaders of his day, were derailed from their divine quests by ambition, fear and greed. It is so easy to become 'derailed' on one's life's journey - when we forget its purpose! On this, the celebration of Christ's birth, we are reminded that we are God's unique creations called to be His Bearers of Love, Peace, Justice Compassion and Healing in our world.

One of the great mystics once said: *Wear gratitude like a cloak and it will feed every corner of your life... it is the path of tender heroes, of the heroes of tenderness who, whatever happens, keep the flame of adoration burning on the altar of their hearts.* That flame of 'adoration' is the loving unfolding, and fusion, of our souls with God. It is our life's journey, in Gibran's words, *of making the human heart a temple, the soul and altar, and the mind a priest!*

I think, essentially, this means having a spirit of gratitude for the *gift of being alive/life* and the blessings with God has graced us. And so, my dear friends, perhaps, on this special day, we can look around us, rejoice in the gifts of Love, Joy, Family and friendship and, in a *spirit of gratitude* ask God to help us give birth to that same, divine gratitude in our own daily lives. It is then that, in the words of Howard Thurman:

*When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the people,
to make music in the heart.*

Remember me as Loving you,
Fr. Antony



FINAL REMINDER

NEW FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME

CLOSING DATE COMING UP



Our next First Holy Communion programme will be starting in February. If you would like to register your child to begin this programme please contact the parish office as soon as possible to request a

registration form by e mail, or pick one up at the back of the church. Please return all forms, copies of baptism certificates and payment to the parish office before 31st December 2021.

PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE E NEWS

<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue348?e=34c55a6ce>

SECOND COLLECTIONS:-

CHRISTMAS MASSES 24TH & 25TH DECEMBER

- Parish Priest

TODAY, SUNDAY 26TH DECEMBER

- No second collection

NEXT SUNDAY, 2ND JANUARY

- Friends of the Holy Land

The collections at the Christmas Masses are all donated to the parish priest. This is an important part of clergy income. Apart from this they depend on a limited stipend from the Diocese. Please be as generous as you can. Envelopes will be available to put your donation in. Alternatively donations can be made on line via the following page:

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/southampton-immaculate-conception-catholic-church-christmas-collection-2022>

For all donations given in ANY envelope – purple, yellow, brown or your own, PLEASE MAKE IT CLEAR WHAT YOUR DONATION IS FOR, so that we can ensure it goes to the fund to which it was intended, ie General Fund (Offertory collection) or the name of the second collection you are donating to. **If you are registered with the parish for gift aid, please also ensure your gift aid number is given on the envelope.**

The Parish Bank Account details are:

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

COVID UPDATES

Should there be any changes in relation to current Covid precautions, Fr Antony will update on these at the end of Masses and a link to any relevant information will also be added to the front page of the parish website.

LOOP SYSTEM

If you are a hearing aid user and are finding that our Loop System is not effective, please let us know. We are trying to work out whether there is a fault with it. Thank you!

RECENTLY DIED

Ludovica and Gino Turinelli

More 'senior' parishioners may this family from the 1970s and 1980s. Gino was a senior executive at the former Pirelli General and they returned to Milan after several happy years in Southampton where they were active members of the parish. We have recently heard that Gino (85) died last Tuesday in Milan and Ludovica died in May.

Christina Troth

Died, aged 63, on 3rd December, sadly in a house fire
Funeral to be held on 5th January, 12.15 pm at the Crematorium

Anthony Brady

As previously advised. Funeral to be held on 11th January, 11 am in the church.

THE HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND

Struggling to pay for food, warmth and other essentials? This fund is available for those on low income and facing financial hardship. To apply you can submit a self-referral form at the following link where you can also find further information.

<https://www.southampton.gov.uk/benefits-welfare/money-advice/household-support-fund/>



SPRINGHILL CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL - APPLICATIONS FOR NEW RECEPTION CHILDREN STARTING IN

2022 Closing date: 15th January 2022.

Click [here](#) to apply for a school place online directly through Southampton

City Council. Additionally you should complete [this](#) supplementary information form and submit it with supporting documentation, as per Springhill Catholic Primary School's Admissions Policy 2022-23. The school are also offering Tour dates as follows to any prospective parents:

Friday, 10 December at 9:30am

Tuesday, 4 January at 9:30am

JOB VACANCY

DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF ESTATES

Working for the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

The diocese are looking for a chartered surveyor or equivalent to provide support to oversee the management of all Diocesan Properties, working towards the decarbonisation of our estate and to undertake line management responsibilities for the Estates Team. Salary: up to £50,000 per annum
For a Job Description and details of how to apply please contact:

Recruitment@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

Further details are also available on the Diocesan website at the following link:

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

Closing Date for applications: 12 noon on Monday 17th January 2022