

12th MARCH 2023

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR A

“anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again.”

John 4: 14

Immaculate Conception Church

(Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth, Reg Charity No: 1199568)

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

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

Date	Solemnities & Feast days	Times & Liturgies		Mass Intentions
Sun 12 Mar	THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	- Terry Gurd RIP
Mon 13 Mar	of the 3 rd week of Lent	-	No Mass	
Tues 14 Mar	of the 3 rd week of Lent	9.30 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration Mass	Catherine Treuaman-John RIP
Wed 15 Mar	of the 3 rd week of Lent	10.00 am	Mass	-
Thur 16 Mar	of the 3 rd week of Lent	10.00 am	Mass	-
Fri 17 Mar	St Patrick	10.45 am 11.30 am	Stations of the Cross Mass	-
Sat 18 Mar	of the 3 rd week of Lent	10.00 pm	Eucharistic Service	
Sun 19 Mar	FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	- Maureen Slevin RIP



READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY

1st Reading: Exodus 17:3-7

Psalm: 94:1-2,6-9

2nd Reading: Romans 5:1-2,5-8

Gospel: John 4:5-42

TEA AND COFFEE AFTER MASSES

Please join us in the hall on **Sundays** after the **10.30 am Mass** for tea and coffee. **And also after Mass on**

TUESDAYS –A friendly welcome awaits you.



LENT SOUP LUNCHES
Every Friday during Lent
12 noon – 2 pm

Come and join us in the hall for lunch on Fridays during Lent. A selection of delicious homemade soups and fresh bread plus tea and coffee.

No entry fee but each week a different charity will be collecting donations. The charities we are supporting are as follows:



- 10 March – Christian Aid
- 17 March - Parish SVP group
- 24 March – Aid to the Church in need
- 31 March – (Charity to be confirmed)

Please come along and support us. If you need a lift, please contact the parish office.

CAFOD'S BIG LENT WALK

Our Parish is joining with St.Edmund's, St.Joseph's, St.Boniface and other Southampton Catholic parishes to do the CAFOD BIG LENT WALK together.

We will do this on **Saturday 25th March**, starting at **10.00am** from St.Boniface Church hall and walking to the Common and then back to St.Boniface for approx. 11.45, when there will be a sharing of **Hot Cross Buns, Tea and Coffee**. We will be sharing along the way with some stories and prayer.

ALL ARE WELCOME,
YOUNG AND OLD, WITH DOGS/OTHER PETS!

CHURCH BIG CLEAN

Afternoon of Saturday 25th March

Before Easter we are organising a BIG CLEAN. Could you offer an hour or two to help out? There will be a number of different jobs to do. If you are able to help, we would be grateful if you could sign up on the list available in the church porch before or after Masses. This will help us assign people to task.

THANK YOU!

PARISH OFFICE OPEN NEXT WEEK

Tuesday – Friday, 9.30 am – 2.00 pm

Living Water for a Thirsty Soul

Jesus came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of land that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there. Jesus, tired from his journey, sat down there at the well. It was about noon. A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." [John 4:5-7](#)

Today, throughout the world, Catholic liturgies will celebrate the first of three Scrutinies of those adults who are preparing to receive the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil. The word "scrutiny" comes from the Latin word *scrutari* which means an inquiry, close examination or search of something. It originally referred to rummaging through rubbish so as to find something of value. In a sense, this is what God does with all of us. When we first turn to Him, He sorts through the disorder of our fallen human nature and our sins so as to point to the goodness and beauty of the child He created. As for the liturgical rite that will be celebrated in churches throughout the world today, the *Right of Christian Initiation of Adults* describes it as follows: "The scrutinies are meant to uncover, and then heal all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of the elect; to bring out, then strengthen all that is upright, strong, and good". The Gospel story we read today depicts this action beautifully. It is the long and inspiring story of the woman at the well. This story is filled with symbolism, much of which the casual reader could easily miss.

To begin, it is important to prayerfully imagine the scene. Jesus was all alone sitting next to Jacob's Well around noon. Few women would come to the well at that time of day due to the heat. But this woman came at this time because she knew others would not be around. She was a sinner, and many of the other women of the town knew it. Therefore, in an attempt to avoid them and avoid feeling shame, she came at a time when she could avoid the other women. So the first thing to consider is the suffering this woman was enduring because of her shame and embarrassment over her sinful life.

As she approached the well, she was surprised to hear Jesus ask her for a drink. She was a Samaritan. Jews generally considered Samaritans as ritually unclean. For that reason, Jews would not drink from their vessels. But Jesus broke this unholy custom and looked at her as a daughter of God with innate dignity and value as He engaged her in conversation.

Within the heat of the day, Jesus spoke lovingly to this woman and said, "Give me a drink." Saint Augustine states that, symbolically speaking, Jesus thirsted for her soul, for her salvation. He longed to give her the grace soon to be won through His Cross. Her willing reception of this gift would also bring satiation to the Heart of our Lord. Jesus didn't dwell upon her past; He knew all about it. He could read her soul. All He wanted to do was to rummage through the sin and rubbish that was cluttering her soul so as to discover her dignity within. If she were to

allow Jesus to offer her this mercy, not only would she receive true Living Water to quench her spiritual thirst, she would also satiate the spiritual thirst in the soul of our Lord that could only be satiated by the dispensing of His mercy.

As we celebrate the Scrutinies this Sunday, reflect upon this woman at the well. First, she is a symbol of every person coming to faith in Christ and preparing for the Living Water of Baptism this Easter. But she is also a symbol of your own soul, to the extent that it has become cluttered with the rubbish of sin and disorder. Do not let shame, fear or a sense of unworthiness deter you from engaging in this same conversation with our Lord. Hear Him say to you that He thirsts for you and longs to be satiated by the sacred act of the ongoing bestowal of His Divine Mercy, poured forth through the Living Water superabundantly given to you at your baptism.

A reflection for the Third Sunday of Lent, Year A
My Catholic Life, www.mycatholic.life.com

SECOND COLLECTIONS:-

TODAY SUNDAY 12th March 2023 – No 2nd Collection

NEXT SUNDAY 19th March 2023 – Clergy Assistance

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

FRIDAY MORNINGS DURING LENT

Stations of the Cross followed by **Mass** on Fridays
Stations of the Cross will take place at 10:45am on Friday mornings during Lent, followed by Mass at 11:30am; then there is the invitation to make your way to the Parish Hall to join in the **Friday Soup Lunches** which are being offered in aid of individual charities.

10.45 am – Stations of the Cross

11.30 am Mass

12 noon – 2 pm – Soup Lunch

(Note the change in Mass time for Fridays!)

REPAIR CAFÉ

Saturday 18 March, 10.30 am – 1 pm

St Denys Community centre, Priory Road

Do you have anything which you need help repairing? Most items tackled including, electrical items, sewing, computers, bikes, jewellery, etc etc. Bring it along and have a cuppa and home made cake while you watch your repair being done.

(Next Repair Café at Immaculate Conception
Saturday 15th April, 10.30 am - 1 pm)

Immaculate Conception Easter Art Competition for young artists



What is the Easter story?
Can you think of a way to show the most important part of the story for you? It could be one picture or several smaller pictures on one page. You will find some drawings in the church porch to give you some ideas.

Once completed, remember to include your name and age, give your art work a title and bring your picture to the box in the porch before 12 noon on Palm Sunday.

We would love to display the finished artworks in the church or the hall. Please do let us know if you are not happy with that.

Everyone who enters will receive a prize for their entry!

*****Every Wednesday during Lent*****

LECTIO DIVINA LENTEN COURSE

This Lent the Verbum Dei community will be running a five week **Lectio Divina** course in the parish.....

What is Lectio Divina?

Lectio Divina is a dynamic way of reading the Scriptures. It follows a four-step approach of:

- Reading
- Meditation
- Prayer
- Contemplation

Lectio Divina invites you to savour and mull over God's words quietly, slowly and intently. It gives you the space to respond to what you feel God is saying and helps you build a vital bridge between your encounters with God and everyday life with its joys, humdrum and challenges.

**"Turn to the Lord with all your heart"
Starting on Wednesday 1st March
and every following Wednesday during March.
7 pm – 8 pm, In the parish hall**

Each session will last around an hour and include a short input, some helpful background information and tips, and a time of prayer.

We would love for you to join us. Just turn up, but if you would like more information please contact Issy and Dom from the Verbum Dei community on verbumdei.soton@gmail.com

WHAT IS A DEACON?!

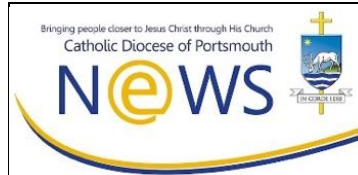
The third area of the deacon's ministry – Charity - To be continued next week....



STELLA MARIS CHOCOLATE EASTER EGG APPEAL

Can you help us give an Easter egg to Seafarers this Easter? Stella Maris Chaplains and Volunteer Ship Visitors will be visiting ships in our Southern ports during Holy Week and after Easter and will be bringing this great celebration to many hundreds of seafarers who remain confined to their ships at this time, without the prospect of taking shore leave or visiting a church. Together with faith materials, we would like to offer Easter Eggs and chocolates, the international symbol of celebration of this Solemnity of Solemnities and would greatly appreciate the support of your parish in our Stella Maris Easter Egg appeal. Can you help us by donating Easter eggs and chocolates? Please leave any donations in the box in the church porch.

Thank you!



PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE E NEWS

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

locally and further afield.

<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue400?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

JOB VACANCIES WITH THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PORTSMOUTH

Current Vacancies:

- Accounts Technician f/t – Portsmouth
- Parish Administrator p/t – Tadley
- Carers p/t, Southampton
- Head of Andover food bank
- Various Diocesan school vacancies

For full details and to find out how to apply, please see the job vacancy section of ENews (in the item above) or go to the following link on the Diocesan website

<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/current-vacancies>

**WORKING FOR CATHOLIC HOMECARE
CARER VACANCIES....**

Catholic Home Care is looking to recruit new carers to join a friendly and supportive team undertaking general domestic support, helping older people in their own homes. If you like elderly people and have time spare during the week, this is the job for you with a good rate of pay. Car driver is an advantage (but not essential) and full training given. Success at interview will lead to an enhanced DBS check before appointment.

Permanent and holiday cover carers required. Full details available from:

Anne Monaghan or Marina Joyce 023 8017 0498

Closing date – 17 March '23

Interviews 21 March '23

Additional Note:

We have an urgent need of more home care assistants to join our team. In particular, carers for the east side of the city, but there is an increased demand across the whole of our area at the moment. If you are aware of people who would suit this work, giving older people domestic support, please encourage them to ask for more information so we can encourage an application.

SPRINGHILL CATHOLIC PRIAMRY SCHOOL

Caretaker – p/t

20 hours a week, 2.00pm - 6.00pm (hours can be flexible for the right candidate) and this role would have opportunities for overtime.

Full details can be found on the school website. <https://www.springhillcatholic.co.uk/Staff-Vacancies/>

Advert from local florist – sister of a parishioner:



Mother's Day

I SHALL BE TAKING MOTHER'S DAY ORDERS
BOUQUETS @ £20.00 PER BOUQUET, INCLUSIVE OF
A GLASS VASE, £25.00

FLORIST'S CHOICE.
FREE DELIVERY IN EASTLEIGH AND SOUTHAMPTON
AREA

PLEASE ORDER BY MONDAY 13TH MARCH FOR
GUARANTEED DELIVERY.

TELEPHONE: 07747 871992 / INSTAGRAM AND
FACEBOOK: BLOEMEN COUTURE FLORISTRY



Whoever drinks this water
will get thirsty again
But anyone who drinks the water
that I shall give
will never be thirsty again:
The water that I shall give
will turn into a spring inside him,
welling up to eternal life