

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH



3rd September 2023,

Twenty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

*"Whoever wishes to save his life will lose it,
but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it"*

Matthew 16:25

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: Vacant Position

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 03 Sept	TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	John Sheridon RIP -
Mon 04 Sept	St Cuthbert	-	NO MASS	
Tues 05 Sept	Feria	9.00 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration Mass	A special intention
Wed 06 Sept	Feria	10.00 am	Mass	-
Thurs 07 Sept	Feria	10.00 am	Mass	-
Fri 08 Sept	The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary	9.00 am 9.30 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration Rosary Mass	-
Sat 09 Sept	St Peter Claver	10.00 am	Mass	-
Sun 10 Sept	TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Nora Savage RIP Arthur Maxfield RIP

READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY



1st Reading: Jeremiah 20:7-9

Psalm: 63:2-6,8-9

2nd Reading: Rom 12:1-2

Gospel: Matthew 16:21-27

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**



CHRISTMAS SHOE BOX SCHEME

Christmas presents for disadvantaged and displaced children in Eastern Europe.

If you would like to put together a box of small presents which will be personally

delivered by one of the local Rotary Clubs **please take a cardboard 'ready to fold' box and a leaflet from the church porch.** The leaflet explains exactly what sort of items can be included. Please return the boxes, together with £2 cash, taped to the top (to help cover transport costs) and return it next time you are here. All shoe boxes should be returned by Sunday 22nd October at the latest. If you have any questions, please talk to Norman or Mary Fairchild.



IMPORTANT

if you gift aid your donations....

GIFT AID FORMS

Don't forget to complete a NEW UPDATED gift aid form available in the church porch before you leave today, if you normally gift aid your donations to the parish. The only information needed on the form is your name, address and signature. This is essential in order for us to claim any further Gift Aid on your donations from now on, as our official charity number has changed.

If you are a tax payer and would like to start gift aid on your donations, please also complete the form and ensure any cash donations are made via the Gift Aid Envelopes also available in the porch this weekend. Any standing order you set up as a donation to the parish will also have gift aid applied to it.

NEW GIFT AID ENVELOPES

If you normally use Gift Aid envelopes to make your donation, please take a small supply of new envelopes from the church porch. We are expecting more and will make these available as soon as they arrive. **We cannot accept donations made via the old purple or yellow envelopes any more.**

A BIG THANK YOU FROM THE STREET PASTORS, to all those who have given sleeping bags and bibles. They are much appreciated.

PARISH OFFICE OPEN NEXT WEEK:
Weds – Friday, 9.30 am – 2.30 pm

Fear of the Cross

“Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? Or what can one give in exchange for his life?” [Matthew 16:24-26](#)

Just before Jesus gave this teaching, He predicted to the Twelve for the first time that He would “suffer greatly from the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed and on the third day be raised.” In fear, Peter objected, saying, “God forbid, Lord! No such thing shall ever happen to you.” To Peter’s statement, Jesus responds firmly, “Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do.” What a difficult thing that must have been to hear from Jesus!

Jesus was ready and willing to suffer and die for the salvation of the world. He knew that by dying He would transform death itself into the very means of eternal salvation. He knew that laying down His life in this way was the greatest act of love He could offer; therefore, Jesus didn’t hesitate at all. He was ready and willing to give His human life so that we could live.

To understand this we must realize three things. First, by assuming our human nature, Jesus forged a bond between God and humanity. Second, by sharing in our death He made it possible for us to cling to Him in our own death. Third, by rising from the dead, Jesus made it possible for those who cling to Him in death to also share in His Resurrection. Though we will only fully understand this great mystery of redemption in Heaven, we must strive to comprehend it as best we can here on earth. Peter did not understand this, at least not at that moment when Jesus first revealed it. Peter allowed fear to tempt him to interfere in Jesus’ glorious act of salvation. This is why Jesus rebuked him so strongly. It was a loving rebuke meant to free Peter from his fear and to give him courage to embrace the Sacrifice Jesus was about to offer.

The passage quoted above follows Peter’s rebuke and is Jesus’ instruction on how we will all share in His gift of salvation. In order to rise with Christ, we must freely die with Him. We must deny ourselves, meaning all selfishness and sin, and imitate Jesus’ heroic sacrificial gift of His life. The result will be that we are united to Him in His death and in His Resurrection to new life.

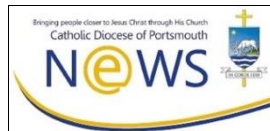
Fear can paralyze us. But fear, in this case, is a response that is based on an error. We embrace that error when we act out of selfishness. Each of us will die. That’s a fact. The question is how we die. We can either die selfishly, seeing our earthly life as the centre of all. Or we can die in a self-giving way with our Lord by uniting ourselves to His act of sacrificial love. We do this by turning our eyes away from ourselves and seeking out every way that we can imitate Jesus’ death. We must strive to serve, live sacrificially, put God’s will first, unite ourselves to Christ, and make love for our neighbour our mission in life. This is what Jesus did. When we do this, we take up our cross, follow Him, die with Him, and are prepared to share in His Resurrection. This is the only way to eternal life.

Reflect, today, upon the words “Take up your cross and follow Me.” This is Jesus’ most sacred instruction to us all on how we should live and how we will share in His gift of eternal life. What cross in your life are you fearful of? What act of sacrifice do you avoid? True love hurts in the sense that it is always selfless. We must die to ourselves. Reflect upon any way that you fail to do this, and allow Jesus’ rebuke of Peter to also rebuke you so that you will be freed from the fear of this holy sacrificial love that will unite you to our Lord.

SECOND COLLECTIONS:

THIS SUNDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER – No Second Collection

NEXT SUNDAY - 10th September – Education Sunday



LATEST EDITION OF PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE E NEWS & JOB VACANCIES

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

<https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/communications/news/enews/>

A POLITE NOTICE! If you are using the hall kitchen, please ensure that when you finish, you leave it as you would wish to find it – tidy away any items left out on worktops and take home everything which belongs to you. *Thank you*

THE LORD MAYOR’S CHARITY EVENTS 2023/24

As many of you will know, the current Lord Mayor of Southampton is our parishioner, Val Laurent. The Lord Mayor traditionally runs a number of charitable events throughout the year, some very informal and some higher profile, to which anyone is invited. There are some exciting events taking place, which you can see advertised in the leaflet in the church porch and in the church hall. Please take a copy and have a browse through. Bookings can be made via Eventbrite – details on the leaflet.

MISLAID WALKING STICK - HAVE YOU SEEN IT?

An aluminium walking stick with orange tape has been mislaid in the church. Have you seen it or accidentally mistaken it as yours? – the owner is currently using another one he found in the church with yellow tape on it! If you can help please contact Fiona Thompson or the parish office.

FREE - CIRCULAR WOODEN DINING TABLE & FOUR CHAIRS

This set has been offered to SVP. If you are interested in it please contact Anne Dempsey on 023 80552064.

JOB VACANCY – SPRINGHILL SCHOOL SITE MAINTENANCE

We are seeking a reliable, enthusiastic person who is prepared to become an active member of our team to help maintain our site buildings and grounds to a high standard.

Responsibilities will include:

- Maintaining a clean and tidy site, including cleaning as required.
- Decorating
- Moving and handling
- Minor maintenance jobs

For further details and an application form please visit the school website www.springhillcatholic.co.uk/staff-vacancies or contact the school by e-mail info@springhillcatholic.net or by phone 023 80333954

GRASS CUTTING Is there anyone who could offer some time to cut the grass around the property once over the next few weeks? Most urgently the grass behind the hall needs to be cut. Lawnmower and gardening tools are all available here. Please let Fr Anthony or the parish office know if you can help out. You will be rewarded with tea, coffee and biscuits!

CTS SUNDAY MISSAL FOR YEAR B If you would like to order a copy of next year’s Sunday Missal to purchase through the bookshop please e mail the parish office as soon as possible.