

4<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2022

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR A**

*"I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who comes after me is more powerful than I am I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and Fire."*

Matthew 3:11

**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 04 Dec	<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	8.30 am	Mass	Mr & Mrs John Broderick RIP
		10.30 am	Mass	Mavis Rosario RIP
Mon 05 Dec	of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> week of Advent	-	NO MASS	
Tues 06 Dec	of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> week of Advent	-	NO MASS	
Wed 07 Dec	St Ambrose	10.00 am	Mass	James & Betty Oliver RIP
Thur 08 Dec	THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	10.00 am	Mass	John Nurser RIP
		7.30 pm	Mass	Maureen Brackenbury RIP
Fri 09 Dec	of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> week of Advent	9.30 am	Rosary	
		10.00 am	Mass	-
Sat 10 Dec	of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> week of Advent	10.00 am	Mass	-
Sun 11 Dec	<b>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	8.30 am	Mass	Pat & Stella MacDonald RIP
		10.30 am	Mass	Gerard Perrin & Houdikin Godfroy RIP



**THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Isaiah 11:1-10

**Psalm:** 72:1-2,7-8,12-13,17

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** Romans 15:4-9

**Gospel:** Matthew 3:1-12

**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.



**\*\*TODAY AFTER MASS\*\***

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December, 11.30 am, in the church**  
**REHEARSAL FOR ALL CHILDREN WHO WOULD LIKE TO TAKE PART IN THE NATIVITY PLAY**  
Please speak to Sue Deadman for more information

**CHRISTMAS ARTWORK COMPETITION FOR ALL YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 0 - 16**

All children and young people are invited to take part in our Christmas Artwork competition. It will be judged in school year groups and paper is available at the back of the church after Masses during advent to create a piece of 'holy' art based on anything related to the Christmas story. Judging takes place on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> Dec. Please pick up further details from the church porch.

**NATIVITY PLAY**

**Sunday 11th Dec 2:30 in the church**  
followed by refreshments **EVERYONE WELCOME!**

**A PARISH CHRISTMAS SOCIAL EVENING AND TALENT CELEBRATION**

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December, 5 pm in the parish hall**  
Come to share and celebrate your skills and talents! Adults and children of all ages and backgrounds - If you can sign a song or two, play some music, tell a story or some jokes, share a dance routine, do some magic, read a poem, perform a short play or sketch..... it can be about Christmas or something else.

We would love you to share your skills and talents. We will provide the Stage, Mics, teas and coffees. Please bring other food and drinks, as you wish. Please talk to Steve Deadman for further information.

**PLEASE COME AND JOIN US FOR A FUN EVENING.**

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS NEXT WEEK**

Tues, Weds, Thurs, Fri 9.00 am – 1.00 pm

## Public Repentance

When he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance." [Matthew 3:7-8](#)

This was both a very intense and yet very holy encounter. It was intense in that Saint John the Baptist, who had become quite popular and respected and was considered a great prophet, spoke harshly toward the Pharisees and Sadducees. "You brood of vipers!" he says. This was not the way the Pharisees and Sadducees were normally spoken to.

John speaks this way because it was the truth. These religious leaders were not leading anyone closer to God. One only needs to ponder all that Jesus would eventually say to the Pharisees and Sadducees to understand what kind of people these religious leaders had become.

So this passage is certainly intense. But it is also very holy. It is holy because this "brood of vipers" needed to be chastised. They needed to be condemned and challenged. They needed to be humbled. And there is nothing more humbling than sincerely repenting of one's sins in a public way.

Notice that John does not dismiss the leaders outright. Rather, he requires of them "evidence" of their repentance. Why? Because of the spiritual damage these men did to the people of Israel on account of their pride, self-righteousness, hypocrisy, love of public honors, condemnation of others, etc. They had so distorted the faith that the good of their souls required public repentance. It required that everyone see sincere good fruits flowing from their lives as a sign that they had changed. Though this is a tall order for the Pharisees and Sadducees, it's the way to holiness for them.

The same is true for us. If you have allowed yourself to fall into some of the same traps as the Pharisees and Sadducees, then you, too, will greatly benefit from clear and humble public change. If you have struggled with self-righteousness, a critical tongue, a "holier than thou" attitude or a judgmental attitude toward others, then you might have great need for a humble and public repentance.

Reflect, today, upon the Pharisees and Sadducees. Try to understand their sin and the reason John called them a "brood of vipers." If you see any of their pride and self-righteousness within your own soul, then listen to this exhortation from John the Baptist as if it were spoken to you directly. "Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance." Do this, and God will free you through the gift of true humility.

A reflection for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent, Year A  
My Catholic Life, [www.mycatholic.life.com](http://www.mycatholic.life.com)

### SECOND COLLECTIONS:-

TODAY SUNDAY 4<sup>th</sup> December 2022 – Flowers for Christmas

NEXT SUNDAY 11<sup>th</sup> December 2022 - Life Group

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

### 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.

### \*SAVE THE DATES\*

#### Growing in Faith Group

Tuesdays 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> January 2023 and ongoing with further dates to be set next year.

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!!*

**More details to come**

### THANK YOU to all who gave donations, helped, attended or supported the Christmas Fair in any way last weekend.

It was a great teamwork and social event, bringing parishioners and a few members of the wider local community together to begin the season of Advent whilst raising some funds for the parish – details of which will be available next weekend.

### SICK, HOUSEBOUND OR IN HOSPITAL

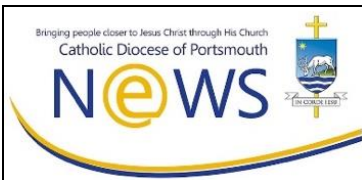
If you or a friend or relative are not able to get to Mass because of illness, frailty or disability, please do let us know, so that we can ensure you/they are offered a visit from Fr Anthony or one of our visiting group who can bring Holy Communion. If you are in hospital, do also remember that there is a hospital chaplaincy team available to visit/bring communion to you. They can be contacted at the hospital on the following number: 023 8120 8517 (always at the top of this newsletter)

### BIDDING PRAYERS SICK LIST

If you, or someone you know, would like their name mentioned in our Bidding Prayer list during Mass, please let us know. A reminder to also let us know if we need to take anyone off the list so that we can ensure it is kept up to date.

### CHRISTMAS CARDS AVAILABLE TO BUY IN THEPORCH

All proceeds to support the running of our parish



## PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE E NEWS

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

[https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue387?e=\[UNIQID\]](https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue387?e=[UNIQID])

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)

## PORTSMOUTH VOCATIONS

### December newsletter

[https://www.portsmouthvocations.org/so/b1OJ2z\\_o\\_?!languageTag=en&cid=8eeb309f-dcf5-4938-a4a3-1108ca4991af#/main](https://www.portsmouthvocations.org/so/b1OJ2z_o_?!languageTag=en&cid=8eeb309f-dcf5-4938-a4a3-1108ca4991af#/main)

**ROAD WORKS** starting from Monday 7 November for approximately 6 weeks. This will require the closure of the junction of Mayfield Road and Thomas Lewis. Please bear this in mind if you would normally use this junction to travel to the church.

**CAFOD World Gifts: Give a gift of hope this Christmas**  
You can buy CAFOD's World Gifts for family and friends this Christmas online at <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/> or pick up a catalogue in the church porch. World Gifts such as "super soup kitchens", "trees for life", or "water for a family" will help transform lives in a world filled with challenges.

In Advent, let's share the promise of hope that has been made to us with our sisters and brothers around the world.

## MARY'S MEALS – DOUBLE THE LOVE

Mary's Meals provides life-changing school meals to over two million children every school day, living in some of the world's poorest countries, helping these hungry children to remain in the classroom, giving them the energy to learn and hope for a better future.

From 1 November 2022 to 31 January 2023, donations made to Mary's Meals will be doubled by a group of generous supporters, up to £1.5million. With Double the Love, your donation will be matched and your kindness will go even further – meaning we can reach even more desperately hungry children with a life-changing school meal. Donations can be made at the following link:  
<https://donate.marysmeals.org/gb>

## FOUND – PHOTOS

A wallet of lots of old family photos found inside a photo album donation to the Christmas Fair. If it is yours or you know who's it might be please contact the parish office.

## PERFORMANCE OF HANDEL'S MESSIAH

O2Guildhall, Southampton

Saturday 10th December 2022 at 7.30pm

Performed by Southampton Philharmonic Choir and Southampton University Philharmonic Choir, together with The Hanover Band

Tickets available online at

[o2guildhallsouthampton.co.uk](http://o2guildhallsouthampton.co.uk)

## JOB VACANCIES

### Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

Caritas – Head of Charity

Salary up to £45k, depending on experience

Full details on this post plus other current vacancies within the diocese can be found on the noticeboard in the church porch or at the following link

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

### Springhill Catholic Primary school

ELSA / Home Link Support Worker

We are looking to appoint an enthusiastic, passionate and caring ELSA / Home School Link Worker to join our busy team.

- 3 days/week with some flexibility at times to extra hours or change of hours, term time only.

- Hours 8.00am – 4:30pm

A job description and a Catholic Education Service support staff application form is available from the school office or on the website at

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

## SOME WEEKLY THOUGHTS ABOUT THE MASS.....

A quote from Pope Paul VI:

*The Mass is the most perfect form of prayer!*

## TO FOLLOW BIDDING PRAYERS DURING ADVENT

### Marian Anthem

*Mother of Christ! Hear thou they people's cry*

*Star of the deep, and portal of the sky!*

*Mother of him who thee from nothing made*

*Sinking we strive, and call to thee for aid:*

*Oh, by that joy which Gabriel brought to thee*

*Thou Virgin first and last, let us thy mercy see.*