

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

26<sup>th</sup> January 2025

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

*'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'* Luke 4,18-19



**Our Parish vision is to bring people closer to Christ  
by inviting, welcoming, nurturing and nourishing everyone**

**Address:** 346 Portswood Road, Southampton, SO17 3SB  
**Tel:** (023) 8055 5470  
**Website:** www.immaculateconception.church  
**Email:** [office@immaculateconception.church](mailto: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:** Laura Sparmann  
 (safeguarding@immaculateconception.church)  
**Parish Secretary:** Cecilia Kovacs (023 8055 5470)  
**Confessions:** After 10 am Mass on Saturdays  
**Hall Bookings:** contact the parish secretary

**PARISH OFFICE OPEN NEXT WEEK: Tuesday/Friday 10:00 5 pm, Wednesday/Thursday 1-5pm**

**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 26 January	<b>THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Dan and Maureen McCarthy RIP Elonor Sonte RIP
Mon 27 January	St Angela Merici, Foundress		NO MASS	
Tue 28 January	St Thomas Aquinas, Religious, Doctor of the Church	9.00 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration Mass	Wilfrid White RIP
Wed 29 January	Feria	10.00 am 6pm	Mass Eucharistic Adoration	Carmen Shields, Maureen Villars & Elizabeth Villars birthday
Thu 30 January	Feria	10.00 am	Mass	
Fri 31 January	St John Bosco, Founder	9.00 am 9.30 am 12.00 pm	Eucharistic adoration Rosary Funeral Mass	<b>CANCELLED</b> <b>CANCELLED</b> Ann Dunkley RIP
Sat 1 February	Our Lady on Saturday	10.00am	Mass	Albert & Rita Burkwood RIP
Sun 2 February	<b>THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD</b>	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	

**READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY**



**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10  
**Psalm:** Ps 19(18):8. 9. 10. 15. R  
 John 6:63c  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** 1 Corinthians 12:12-30  
**Gospel:** Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

**SECOND COLLECTIONS:**

26<sup>th</sup> January - Portsmouth Cathedral  
 2<sup>nd</sup> February - no second collection

**NEXT WEEK IN THE PARISH**

**Tues 28<sup>th</sup>** Tea & Coffee after 10 am service – parish hall  
**RCIA Course** – 7.30-9 pm in the parish hall  
**Wed 29<sup>th</sup>** Adoration for students and anyone else who would like to join us – 6-7 pm in the Lady Chapel  
**Fri 31<sup>st</sup>** **Funeral mass and wake (Ann Dunkley RIP) – 12pm**  
**Sat 1<sup>st</sup>** **FHC – Session 9 – 11am in the Parish Hall**  
**Sun 2<sup>nd</sup>** **Refreshments after mass –**  
**Choir Practice - 11.30 am in the church. All welcome to join.**

**FR ANTHONY ANNUAL LEAVE**

Fr Anthony is taking his annual leave between 3 – 10<sup>th</sup> February.  
 Fr Kevin Bidgood will be celebrating masses on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February..

## ENTHUSED BY THE GOSPEL

*Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news of him spread throughout the whole region. He taught in their synagogues and was praised by all. Luke 4:14–15*

This Gospel passage reveals to us the very beginnings of Jesus' public ministry. He began His public ministry immediately after spending forty days in the desert being tempted by the devil. As He began, He went to Galilee "in the power of the Spirit." Many people heard about Him and welcomed Him with much enthusiasm.

Though Jesus was initially welcomed with praise, we know that things quickly changed. Some eventually became so hostile that they put Jesus to death, but it's useful to ponder the initial response He received. This initial response is one that must become continuously new in our lives. The initial response was that He "was praised by all."

Jesus would later teach about this initial experience many would have toward the Gospel when He taught the Parable of the Sower. Recall that the seed that was sown on rocky ground, that fell among thorns, and that was sown in good soil all began to grow. Only that which was sown on the path failed to grow, because the birds came and ate it up. This latter case describes those who are completely indifferent to the Gospel. But in today's Gospel, the "all" are those who at least paid attention and initially responded with enthusiasm. The seed began to grow in these three scenarios—but, of course, in only one of those cases did the seed ultimately bear good fruit.

Another way to look at this initial encounter with the Gospel is to consider a child. In almost every case, when a child is presented with the Gospel, they will begin to respond and even find excitement in the faith. But, as many parents have seen, this initial welcome is sometimes followed by a rejection of the Gospel later in life.

When did you initially encounter the Gospel? For some it was during childhood. For others, there was a powerful experience of conversion later in life. Think of that initial encounter you had and the ways that you were excited by your newfound faith. Has that experience continued and grown in your life? Or has your initial praise of God and enthusiasm dwindled or even died?

Reflect, today, upon the fact that God wants us to continuously experience the Gospel as something new and transforming. The newness of the life of grace must never wear off. Ponder this experience in your life and try to see yourself as one of the people in today's Gospel who heard Jesus for the first time. Ponder their enthusiasm and join in their praise of our Lord so that you will be motivated to let God and the preaching of His holy Word continuously transform you.

*A reflection for the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)*

[www.mycatholic.life](http://www.mycatholic.life)

## PARISH NOTICES

### WELCOME TO BABY RACHEL!



We are overjoyed to announce the safe arrival of our baby girl Rachel Maria Sparmann born on 2.1.2025 and give heartfelt thanks to God for this wonderful gift. We are deeply grateful for the prayers and support of our parish family during this time. We pray that she will grow in faith and love, becoming a blessing to all those around her.

May **God continue to protect her over the years to come.**

**Jochen and Laura and family xxx**

### FUNERAL SERVICE OF ANN DUNKLEY (1931-2024)



Ann's funeral service will be held at Immaculate Conception Church on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January, 12 pm, followed by a buffet in the parish hall. The family kindly requests attendees to wear colourful clothing to honour Ann's vibrant spirit and celebrate her life.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations to breast cancer charities in memory of Ann.

## OCTAVE OF CHRISTIAN UNITY



18-26 January is the Octave, also known as **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**. As a parish, we are committed to work with other Christian communities and take part in joint services and mission to the wider local community through Churches Together.

**We will be having a shared service at Swaythling Baptist Church at 6.30pm on 26 January (Sunday Evening).**

As we commemorate the 1,700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea in 325AD, the service led by Peter Dockree focuses on the Nicene Creed, which was agreed there by the early Church Fathers.

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

## SECOND COLLECTIONS ANNOUNCEMENT

**From Canon James McAuley, Cathedral Dean**

Since I became Dean of our Cathedral Church of St John the Evangelist in September 2022, the parish has had to pay for the emergency repair of three serious roof leaks, as well as the replacement of two failing flat roofs. The cost of these repairs was met from parish funds. In 2023, the 120-year-old West Window had to be shored up, removed and completely restored to prevent its imminent collapse. So far, generous donors from the parish and from across the diocese have contributed £84,130 of the £90,100 cost of repair.

Our most recent quinquennial architectural survey (autumn 2023) indicated work required over the next few years to the roof, windows, heating, and electrical systems at an estimated cost of £2 million plus VAT.

I fully appreciate the financial pressures being felt by you and by your parishioners but would appeal to you to promote and support the Second Collection for the Cathedral this Sunday. Never has this annual collection by parishes for the Mother Church of the Diocese been more critical or needed. Your support is vitally important to us.

Online donations for the Second Collection can be made at the following link:

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/campaign/st-johns-cathedral-second-collection-2025>

or by scanning the QR code with a Smart Phone



Thank you!

## Immaculate Conception Parish Liturgy Group

### New Members Wanted

The Parish Liturgy Group is made up of a mixture of teams/subgroups working together to ensure that we meet our Parish Vision; to bring people closer to Christ by inviting, welcoming, nurturing and nourishing everyone.

#### The subgroups include:

- Children's Liturgy
- Bidding Prayer Writing
- Liturgy Reading
- Sacristans and Altar servers
- Music and Choir
- Welcome and Hospitality - porch welcome, ushers, refreshments after Mass, etc,
- Organisation and Planning - including liturgical calendar for the year, training and guidance for EMs, Readers, Bidding Prayer writing, OHP slide contents and editing, regular Special Events - Cultural Diversity Sunday, etc

We are seeking new members to join any of the above subgroups to lessen the burden of our currently limited membership. We are keen to attract diverse age groups (particularly GenZs, Millennials, and students} from our parish community.

If you are interested in joining any of our dynamic and friendly subgroups, please contact the Parish Office [office@immaculateconception.church](mailto:office@immaculateconception.church) Tel: -023 80555470 or Chris ([mor204@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mor204@yahoo.co.uk)). Tel: 07780 117 811.

## KEY CENSUS

### Are you a keyholder in our church? We need your help!

We would like to take stock of all the keys that are being held by various members of the parish to ensure that we have enough spare keys and know who has access to what keys.

Please complete this simple questionnaire to help us.

<https://forms.office.com/e/NjvHXpYEm2>



At this stage there is no requirement to bring your keys to the office, we will notify you if this becomes necessary. If however, you have a key that you no longer need to use, please return it to the parish office. Thank you!

## TUESDAY COFFEE MORNING

Every Tuesday morning after mass a friendly group of people is gathering in the hall for a chat over coffee, tea and biscuits. They welcome everyone who wants to join.

The group has **raised a donation of £120.36** from drink contributions **for the benefit of Mountbatten Hampshire**, who provide end-of-life care for local residents. **Well done!**

## Vocations Prayer Newsletter January 2024

<https://portsmouthvocations.org/so/obPGSvPm6?languageTag=en&cid=8eeb309f-dcf5-4938-a4a3-1108ca4991af>



## HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

27th January 2025

This Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) marks the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi concentration camp complex, and the 30th anniversary of the genocide in Bosnia.

“For a Better Future” is the theme of this Holocaust Memorial Day and we hope that it can be an opportunity for people to come together, learn both from and about the past, and take actions to make a better future for all. Prayers and other resources can be found at:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/theme-for-holocaust-memorial-day-2025/>

## ANOTHER THANK YOU FROM STELLA MARIS

Stella Maris would like to offer the parish their heartfelt thanks for the generous support of £357.24 raised on Sea Sunday last year.



## CARITAS GROUP

Please note that there is **no group meeting** the next two Thursdays, 30<sup>th</sup> January and 6<sup>th</sup> February, as we celebrate the Chinese New Year.

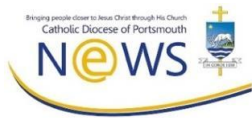
We will return on the 13<sup>th</sup> February to mark the First Full Moon with a cooking activity (Sweet dumplings)

## CAFOD CAFOD MEETING

Saturday 15th February 10:30am - 1:30pm  
St Margaret Mary Church Hall, Middle Road,  
Park Gate SO31 7GH

Please join us to find out how your donations to CAFOD are making a difference to communities in Kenya. Everyone is welcome and please book your place so that we have an idea of numbers, as a simple lunch will be provided.

Please email Jo on [jlewry@cafod.org.uk](mailto:jlewry@cafod.org.uk)



## PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE E NEWS & JOB VACANCIES

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

<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue475?e=34c55ac6ce>

## CANCELLATION - INVITATION TO ENGAGED COUPLES

In last week's newsletter we published an invitation for a special blessing and Valentine's Day Breakfast for engaged couples. Unfortunately this has been cancelled since by the Diocese. Thank you for your understanding.

## VOLUNTEER WITH SOUTHAMPTON STREET PASTORS

Applications are open now for the next training programme this Spring, taking place on the weekends of 14-16 March, 28-30 March and 11-13 April.



Call 02380333387 or visit

[www.southamptonstreetpastors.org](http://www.southamptonstreetpastors.org)

Saturday 5 April 2025 | 10am - 6pm

£12.50 for adults | £10 for Y10-Y19 | Free for Y9 and under

# Stay Awake

Adore † Abide † Arise

Community + Praise and Worship +  
Kids' Activities + Workshops +  
Tea + Coffee + Homemade cakes +  
Mass at 4:45pm + Pizza from 6pm

Venue: All Saints Church of England Academy, Weymouth, DT4 9BJ

More information at: [www.stayawake.jc.com](http://www.stayawake.jc.com)



Join Bishop Barron in the UK for the Evangelisation & Culture Conference

To proclaim Christ in the culture, we must know Christ; and to know Christ, we must know Scripture. As St. Jerome observed, "Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ."

But in order to uncover the spiritual and theological meaning of the Bible, we need to take a genuinely Catholic approach: reading it within the context of the great and beautiful chorus of voices from across the centuries of the Church's tradition.

Join us in London this February for our first-ever conference on the Bible. This conference is for you if you are seeking to gain a deeper appreciation of the Sacred Scriptures and the beauty of the Catholic faith while growing in your evangelisation efforts.

When is it? 21-22 February 2025

Where is it? London, England at Excel London.

Meet the Speakers



Professor N.T. Wright



Professor Tracey Rowland



Bishop Robert Barron



Dr. Matthew Petrussek



Dr. Holly Ordway



Haley Stewart



Brenden Thompson



Justin Brierley



[wordonfire.org/the-bible-event](http://wordonfire.org/the-bible-event)