

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

9th February 2025

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men.” Luke 5,10



**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
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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**

Date	Solemnities & Feast days	Times & Liturgies		Mass Intentions
Sun 9 February	FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Anna Zepler Zbigniew Wolas RIP
Mon 10 February	St Scholastica, Virgin		NO MASS	
Tue 11 February	Our Lady of Lourdes	9.00 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration Mass	Deceased members of Fuller and Ravenhill families
Wed 12 February	Feria	10.00 am 6pm	Mass Eucharistic Adoration	
Thu 13 February	Feria	10.00 am	Mass	
Fri 14 February	St Cyril, Religious & St Methodius, Bishop, Patrons of Europe	9.00 am 9.30 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic adoration Rosary Mass	
Sat 15 February	Our Lady on Saturday	10.00am	Mass	Sr Mary de Sales
Sun 16 February	SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Rem Treacy RIP Ghislain Dagnon & Mother, Yvonne Dagnon

READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY



1st Reading: Isaiah 6:1-2a, 3-8
Psalm: Ps 138(137):1-2a. 2bc, 3. 4-5. 7c-8. R1c
2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

SECOND COLLECTIONS:

No second collections this week and the next.

NEXT WEEK IN THE PARISH

Tues 11th Tea & Coffee after 10 am service – parish hall
RCIA Course – 7.30-9 pm in the parish hall
Wed 12th Adoration for students and anyone else who would like to join us – 6-7 pm in the Lady Chapel
Thurs 13th Caritas activity group– 10.30am
Sat 15th Repair café – 10.30am in the parish hall
Sun 16th Refreshments after mass –
Choir Practice - 11.30 am in the church. All welcome to join.

OVERCOMING DISCOURAGEMENT

“After he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch.” Simon said in reply, “Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets.” When they had done this, they caught a great number of fish and their nets were tearing.” Luke 5:4-6

Jesus had just cured Simon Peter’s mother-in-law as one of His first miracles. As a result of this and other miracles, Peter’s entire hometown of Capernaum, as well as many of the surrounding towns, were quickly coming to faith in Jesus. Today’s Gospel takes place during this initial excitement over our Lord. In it, Jesus personally invites Peter to become an Apostle, promising to make him a fisher of men.

There is much symbolism in this passage worth pondering. First, notice that Jesus uses something very familiar to Peter to invite Him to become one of the Twelve Apostles. He used his trade of fishing. This is similar to the way God used a star to draw the Magi, who were astrologers, to Bethlehem.

Another symbolic action Jesus uses is that of putting out “into deep water.” It was not enough to simply go a short distance from shore. Instead, the deep water was to symbolize the fact that the Gospel was to go forth to the ends of the earth, just as the fishermen were to fish in the depths of the sea.

Finally, the fact that they “caught a great number of fish” symbolizes the superabundance that would come forth through Peter’s apostolic ministry. And the fact that the “nets were tearing” points to the fullness that everyone will experience when they embark upon the mission of Christ.

Though the symbolic aspects of this Gospel passage are worth much prayerful pondering, there is another line within the Gospel that might speak to you just as powerfully. Peter had been fishing all night and had caught nothing. The fact that he relates this to Jesus suggests that he was tired and perhaps even discouraged. Any fisherman could relate to this. But the important lesson Peter teaches us is that he does not give in to that discouragement. And the reason he doesn’t give in to discouragement is because it was Jesus Who commanded him to lower the nets.

In our own lives, we can all get discouraged at times. But the real test of our fidelity to God is whether or not we continue to listen to His commands of love and respond generously, dispelling any temptations to discouragement when things do not seem to be going our way. If we can do this, it is especially in these moments that God often uses us in powerful ways.

Reflect, today, upon the voice of God in your life. What is it that you sense Him calling you to do? What is that “deep water” to which He is calling you? As you ponder this, reflect especially upon the words of Peter, “Master... at your command I will lower the nets.” Say “Yes” to the command of our Lord. Do so even if it is difficult, and especially if you do not feel like doing what He asks of you. If you do, you will find that in this act of fidelity, God will bring forth an abundance of good fruit.

A reflection for the Fifth Sunday In Ordinary Time (Year C)
www.mycatholic.life

WELCOME TO FR KEVIN BIDGOOD CELEBRATING MASS TODAY!

PARISH NOTICES

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 under 30s 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 Tel: -023 80555470 or Chris (mor204@yahoo.co.uk). Tel: 07780 117 811, or **use the sign-up sheets in the church porch.**

REMINDERS

KEY HOLDERS

Thanks to those who have already submitted the form recording what keys various serving parishioners are holding. If you have not done so, 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!

PENCIL CASE AMNESTY



Can we please ask the Parents and Guardians of the children who make use of the Pencil Cases at Church on a Sunday to make sure they are returned to the box in the Porch? At the same time, if anyone has taken one or more of these home, we really would appreciate it if you could bring them back

DISABLED PARKING OUTSIDE OF CHURCH



Those who use this bay please be considerate of others who would also like to use this space. There should be sufficient room for three cars, but more often there are often only two cars because of the extra space left between the cars.

KITCHEN FIRE SAFETY

When using the kitchen please ensure that neither the fire extinguisher, nor the fire exit doors are blocked, so in case of a fire there is unhindered access to these.



EASTER STORY – PAGEANT

29 March 2025



We are delighted to share with you that - with thanks to the wonderful works and proposal from Dave Maddocks, not forgetting Maria - we will be presenting the Easter Story at the start of Mass on 29 March 2025 (Mothering Sunday).

This will be an opportunity to experience the journey from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday through movement and action in the Church.

We really want this to be joyful occasion for us a Parish Community, and it will come as no surprise that we will need many volunteers to make this a success. We really need the support from our Children, Teenagers and Adults. Please can you give this some thought and don't be shy!

If you would like to know more, please speak to Dave Maddocks; Mary Gobbi or Deacon Gerard in the first instance. Also, watch this space for more details in the next few weeks.

CAKE SALES

Second Sunday of every month after 10.30 am Mass.

Thank you to those who contributed to last week's cake sale. The next date is 9th March.



The organisers Gemma and Maria are looking for more bakers and helpers (shop cakes ok too!). Bring your cake donations to the church hall before the 10.30 am Mass on the second Sunday of each month, together with a list of the ingredients (for those with allergies). All proceeds go towards the general Parish Funds.

NEXT SATURDAY - REPAIR CAFÉ

The Repair Café returns to Immaculate Conception church hall this coming Saturday 15 February, 10.30 am till 1pm and the jewellery lady will be present this time for jewellery repairs. In addition repairs to clothing, electronics, electrical items and many other items are undertaken for a donation.



Refreshments available including homemade cakes

CARITAS GROUP

The Caritas group welcomes every parishioner. Since at the moment the majority of attendees is from the Chinese community, the theme is predominantly Chinese, but this can be subject to change.

Programme for the upcoming next few weeks:

13/2; First Full Moon (Sweet dumplings)
20/2; Board Game + Mahjong Competition
27/2; Calligraphy

LOST AND FOUND

The following small items can be collected from the office

- Two hair bands
- A pair of sunglasses
- A notebook
- A silver looking bracelet
- An ear clip with a stone



There are also lost and found items in the church porch, please check the trays.

LIVE SIMPLY AND GO GREEN

The Red Bin in the Church entrance collects bottle tops, stamps, medicine blister packs and printer cartridges.



If you have any of these items lying at home, please recycle them instead of sending it to landfill.

INCOME FOR JANUARY 2025

Repository and Papers	242.72
Candles	563.44
Flowers	19.68
DONA	334.59
Envelopes	280.50
Online Giving	379.91
Offertory	1,879.51
St Orders & DDs	3,034.00
Total	6,734.35

Special Collections

Cathedral	390.11
CRIB	72.35
Life	14.76
Total	477.22

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



NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER & FASTING FOR LIFE

Monday 10th FEBRUARY 2025

On Monday 10th February please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia in this country. Your prayer and fasting is urgently needed.

Pray especially that Assisted Suicide won't be introduced.

For information on the days of Prayer and Fasting contact; The Good Counsel Network on 020 7723 1740. Please Invite others to join us on the day, by Inviting them via Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/events/618329970650531/>

Vocations Prayer Newsletter February 2025

<https://portsmouthvocations.org/so/04PlxgwX9?languageTag=en&cid=8eeb309f-dcf5-4938-a4a3-1108ca4991af>

ALTON DAY OF RENEWAL – 22nd FEBRUARY



Please join us for a mini-retreat morning of spiritual renewal on Zoom. Through our worship at Mass, Adoration, Prophetic reflection, Praise, Testimony and inspiring Talk, we will travel together as Pilgrims, moving forward with expectant hope in the providence of God; a firm trust in the victory of Christ; and joy in the blessings and gifts of the Holy Spirit for revitalising the Church.

This month's guest speaker is Gerry Penfold, leader of Leader of Called and Gifted UK. Called and Gifted is a spiritual journey that helps you understand your own calling and identify the specific charisms that the Lord has given you to share with others.

Timetable for 22nd February (approx.. timings):

10.00am Mass & Adoration
10.50am Prophetic Sharing
11.10am Break
11.20am Praise & Worship, Testimony
11.55am Main Talk and Prayer
12.30pm Q & A on Talk
1.00pm End of Zoom meeting
1.30-5.00 Telephone Prayer Ministry



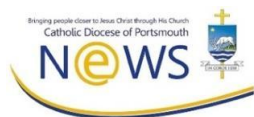
For prayer, please call : 07579 824523

Please register in advance at bit.ly/ADOREFEB2025 or scan the QR code above, complete the form and we will send you the Zoom link for the meeting.

JUMBULANCE VOLUNTEERS – LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 8 – 17 May 2025

There is an opportunity to join a Jumbulance leaving Winchester on 8th May returning on 17th May.

If you might be interested in helping as a volunteer, please contact the Parish Office and we will put in you contact with the group arranging the Pilgrimage.



PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE E NEWS & JOB VACANCIES

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

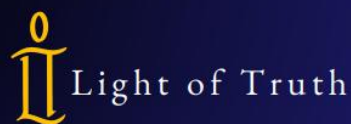
<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue477?e=34c55ac6ce>

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



CERTIFICATE IN CATECHESIS



This two-year course is for catechists and for those who wish to transmit the Catholic faith to others.

The Light of Truth Certificate in Catechesis prepares you for these essential roles:

- Catechetical work in your parish, school, or diocese
- Understanding and communicating the Catholic Faith to adults, youth, and children in face of cultural challenges
- Teaching, witnessing to, and accompanying others in their journey of faith

It is designed for new or experienced catechists who wish to gain a greater understanding of their mission in the Church and of the mysteries of faith which they transmit to others in a changing cultural context. It equips them to share their faith with confidence, passion, and in faithfulness to the Catholic tradition, using the sources of catechesis. For more details and to apply please visit:

<https://www.lightoftruth.uk/certificate>

WISDOM CENTRE ROMSEY February and March programme

Friday 28th February | 12-1.30pm then 1.30-3.30pm
Community Café followed by Creative Café
Making Easter Cards

Saturday 8th March | 10am-4pm
Entering into Lent Praying, Loving, Remembering
Facilitated by Malcolm Clayton

Friday 28th March | 12-1.30pm then 1.30-3.30pm
Community Café followed by Creative Café
Making Stamped Pebbles

Every Wednesday evening 7.30pm-8.30pm
Weekly in-person meditation

For more detail please visit:

www.wisdomhouseromsey.org.uk/our-programme/