

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

2nd February 2025

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

'For my eyes have seen your salvation! .' Luke 2,30



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

Address: 346 Portswood Road, Southampton, SO17 3SB
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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 2 February	THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Pina Franco birthday Peggy Mulvihill RIP
Mon 3 February	St Blaise, Bishop & Martyr		NO MASS	
Tue 4 February	Feria	10.00 am	Eucharistic Service	
Wed 5 February	St Agatha, Virgin, Martyr,	10.00 am 6 pm	Eucharistic Service Eucharistic Adoration	
Thu 6 February	St Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs	10.00 am	Eucharistic Service	
Fri 7 February	Feria	10.00 am	Eucharistic Service (TBC)	
Sat 8 February	Our Lady on Saturday	10.00am	Eucharistic Service (Mary G)	
Sun 9 February	FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Anna Zepler

READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY



1st Reading: Malachi 3:1-4
Psalm: Ps 24(23):7. 8. 9. 10.
 R8a
2nd Reading: Hebrews 2:14-18
Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

NEXT WEEK IN THE PARISH

Tues 4th Tea & Coffee after 10 am service – parish hall
RCIA Course – 7.30-9 pm in the parish hall
Wed 5th Adoration for students and anyone else who would like to join us – 6-7 pm in the Lady Chapel
Sun 9th Refreshments and Cake Sale after mass –
Choir Practice - 11.30 am in the church. All welcome to join.

SECOND COLLECTIONS:

No second collections this week and the next.

Please note that the DONA machine at the porch is now displaying the 'Cathedral' option, which wasn't available last week due to a technical error. If you intended to give for last week's Cathedral collection you may do so now.

FR ANTHONY CHRISTMAS BREAK

Fr Anthony is taking his Christmas break between 3 – 10th February.
 Fr Kevin Bidgood will be celebrating masses on Sunday 9th February.

THE CULMINATION OF A LIFE OF FAITH

"Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel." Luke 2:29-32

At the time of Jesus' birth, there was a man named Simeon who had spent his whole life preparing for one significant moment. Like all faithful Jews at the time, Simeon was waiting for the coming Messiah. The Holy Spirit had revealed to him that he would indeed see the Messiah before his death—and so this happened when Mary and Joseph brought Jesus into the Temple to offer Him to the Lord as an infant.

Try to imagine the scene. Simeon had lived a holy and devout life. And deep within his conscience, he knew that his life on earth would not come to an end until he was privileged to see the Savior of the World with his own eyes. He knew this by a special gift of faith, an interior revelation of the Holy Spirit, and he believed.

It's helpful to think about this unique gift of knowledge that Simeon had throughout his life. Normally we gain knowledge through our five senses. We see something, hear something, taste, smell, or feel something, and as a result come to know it to be true. Physical knowledge is very reliable and is the normal way we come to know things. But this gift of knowledge Simeon had was different. It was deeper and was spiritual in nature. He knew he would see the Messiah before he died, not because of some external sensory perception he had received but because of an interior revelation from the Holy Spirit.

This truth begs the question, which type of knowledge is more certain? Something you see with your eyes, touch, smell, hear or taste? Or something that God speaks to you in the depths of your soul by a revelation of grace? Though these types of knowledge are different, it's important to understand that the spiritual knowledge that is given by the Holy Spirit is far more certain than anything perceived through the five senses alone. This spiritual knowledge has the power to change your life and direct all your actions toward that revelation.

For Simeon, this interior knowledge of a spiritual nature suddenly united with his five senses when Jesus was brought into the Temple. Simeon suddenly saw, heard and felt this Child Whom he knew he would one day see with his own eyes and touch with his own hands. For Simeon, that moment was the culminating moment of his life.

Reflect, today, upon anything that our Lord has spoken to you in the depths of your soul. Too often we ignore His gentle voice as it speaks, preferring instead to live only in the sensory world. But the spiritual reality within us must become the center and foundation of our lives. It is there where God speaks, and it is there where we, too, will discover the central purpose and meaning of our lives.

A reflection for The Presentation of the Lord (Year C)
www.mycatholic.life

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.**

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!



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.

CAKE SALES

Second Sunday of every month after 10.30 am Mass



Bakers always needed (shop cakes ok too!). Bring your cake donations to the church hall before the 10.30 am Mass on the first Sunday of each month, together with a list of the ingredients (for those with allergies).

Raising money for general Parish Funds.

The organisers are also looking for any spare containers.

KITCHEN EQUIPMENT

Earlier this week we received some of the new equipment, and in the coming weeks we will be replacing existing with the new. Currently, we have swapped over the plates; mugs and glasses. Whilst we continue to move over to the new equipment, we will also be looking at how best to accommodate the new by removing some of the existing things and make best use of the space(s) available.



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.



Bringing people closer to Jesus Christ through His Church

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth



PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE

E NEWS & JOB VACANCIES

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

<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue476?e=34c55ac6ce>

CARITAS GROUP

Please note that there is **no group meeting** on 6th February, as we celebrate the Chinese New Year.

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

THANK YOU FROM STEVE DEADMAN

A big thank you to parishioners who have helped in the winter night shelter and also to all those who gave to CAFOD in the Harvest collections.



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

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 0238033387 or visit

www.southamptonstreetpastors.org



MODERN SLAVERY

Historically, Jubilee Years were times when debts were cancelled, and slaves liberated. This Jubilee Year, Caritas is redoubling efforts to combat and speak out against all forms of Modern Slavery.

Please see the following events and resources:

- The National Justice and Peace Network is holding an online webinar on 6 February 7-8:30pm.

'Opening the doors to freedom from human trafficking'

Further information including a registration form can be found here: <https://bit.ly/4hsCMoG>

- The feast day of St Josephine Bakhita, the Parton Saint of Victims of Human Trafficking is on February 8th. Link to Novena leading up to her feast day, starting 30th January.

<https://www.praymorenovenas.com/st-josephine-bakhita-novena>

- True Freedom is a 6 weeks study to learn more about slavery through the teachings of St Paul's Letter to the Galatians put together by the Clewer Initiative and World Council of Churches. This study can be done as a self-study at any time of the year and downloadable from: <https://www.truefreedom24.com/>
The diocese will be hosting a version via Facebook starting on February 8th.

You can join the Facebook group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/cdptruefreedomstudy>

WISDOM CENTRE ROMSEY February and March programme

Saturday 8th February | 10am-4pm

New Life and Renewal in Celtic Spirituality
Facilitated by David Cole

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/