

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

15th DECEMBER 2024 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“I baptise you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming,
the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.
He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.” Luke 3.16

**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 15 December	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Gaudete)	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Fr Michael Peters RIP Alfred Rosario RIP
Mon 16 December	of the 3rd Week of Advent		NO MASS	
Tues 17 December	Liturgy of the Day	9.00 am 10.00 am 7pm	Eucharistic Adoration Mass Reconciliation service	Lorance Perera RIP
Weds 18 December	Liturgy of the Day	10.00 am 6pm	Mass Eucharistic Adoration	Dunn/McCarthy families RIP
Thurs 19 December	Liturgy of the Day	10.00 am	Mass	Thanksgiving for intercession of Virgin Mary and St Jude
Fri 20 December	Liturgy of the Day	9.00 am 9.30 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic adoration Rosary Mass	
Sat 21 December	Liturgy of the Day	10.00am	Mass	Krystyna Madej RIP and Adam Madej RIP
Sun 22 December	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Babagbeto Anna Mahinou, Quenum Dossi RIP

READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY

 **1st Reading:** Zephaniah 3:14-18a
Psalm: Is 12:2-3. 4b-d. 5-6. R6
2nd Reading: Philippians 4:4-7
Gospel: Luke 3:10-18

NEXT WEEK IN THE PARISH

Tues 17th Tea & Coffee after 10 am service – parish hall
Reconciliation service – 7pm
Wed 18th Adoration - 6-7 pm in the Lady Chapel
Fri 20th **Baptism after mass** - 11am Michelle Owolabi 4 months
Sun 22nd **Baptism after mass** - 12.30pm Joshua Vigneron 18 months
Choir Practice 11.30 am in the church. Anyone welcome to join.

SECOND COLLECTIONS: No second collections, please look out for special collections coming up at Christmas!

TURN FROM SIN

The crowds asked John the Baptist, “What should we do?” Luke 3:10

Among those within the crowds who were asking Saint John the Baptist this question were tax collectors, soldiers and ordinary people. John gave an answer to them all, first telling them to turn away from the sins that they struggled with the most. Sin takes on many forms and often is closely associated with our daily duties in life. Some sins are sins of commission, meaning sins we commit by an intentional act. Some sins are those of omission, meaning a lack of certain virtues or a failure to do what we ought to do.

After addressing the particular sins that those in the crowds were struggling with, John then turns their attention to Christ. He states to them that “one mightier than I is coming” and that “He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.” In other words, John was giving the people a twofold command. First, work to overcome sin. And second, turn your eyes to Him Who is coming to you. Repenting from sin is not enough. Once we repent, we must then fill the void within our souls with the presence of Christ.

Advent, just like Lent, is an important time within our liturgical year to heed these messages. Though it’s true that we must work to overcome sin and turn to Christ every day of the year, God knows we need a special time each year when we give concerted effort to these spiritual endeavors. So before Advent passes you by, heed the words of the Baptist and take some time to examine your conscience thoroughly. Perhaps use a detailed list of the Ten Commandments or the Seven Capital Sins. Once you do that, seek out an opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Doing so is essential to a fruitful Advent season.

Once you thoroughly repent of the sins you struggle with the most right now, turn to the Savior of the World with special attentiveness to the miracle of the Incarnation this Advent. Spend time adoring the God Who came to us in the form of a little child. Meditate on this Gift. Gaze at a nativity scene prayerfully. Read the Scripture passages about the birth of Christ. Close your eyes and imagine yourself there at His birth.

Reflect, today, upon this twofold exhortation from John and apply it to your Advent preparations. Cleanse your soul in a special way from all sin this Advent. Then prayerfully ponder and meditate upon the reality we are preparing to celebrate. As John says, allow the Christ Child to truly “baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire” through your deepening devotion and prayer this Advent.

A reflection for the Third Sunday of Advent (Year C)

www.mycatholic.life

PARISH NOTICES

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS – 2025

Where has the year gone; it can’t surely be that time again?

Christmas is one of those occasions when we are able to recognise and support Fr. Anthony for all that he does in supporting us and the whole parish. The Christmas Offerings goes directly to him. . Parish priests rely on the Christmas and Easter offerings to support them personally throughout the year, this is an important part of their income. Apart from your donations, they depend on a limited stipend from the Diocese. So please do be generous in return for the dedicated service which Fr Anthony gives to the Church. If you are able to donate something this would be wonderful, if not please offer some prayers which are equally if not more important.

To help with the Christmas Offering we would like to suggest that you can make your donation in one of the following ways:

- An Envelope Marked – Clergy Christmas Offering, which can be included as part of the Sunday and/or Christmas Masses
- Using the Contactless Terminal in the Porch Entrance
- Transfer directly into the Parish Bank Account:

Account Name	CDP Immaculate Conception Church
Sortcode	30-93-04
Account	00887995
Reference	Christmas Offering

On behalf of Fr. Anthony, please be assured of his prayers and thank you for your very generous gift.

COFFEE & TEA AFTER MASS – CHRISTMAS CRAFT



Children are invited to come into the hall after the 10.30 mass to make a star for the Christmas tree while adults can enjoy a cup of coffee and a chat with friends.

Reconciliation Service

Immaculate Conception Church
Tuesday 17th December 7pm

If you can’t make it on Tuesday there is another service on 16th December 7pm at St Edmunds.

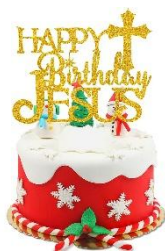
JOIN US IN A SPECIAL BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION FOR JESUS

Tuesday 24th December, 5.30 pm
Immaculate Conception Church

There will be: Mass, singing & dancing
Dresscode: Party Clothes

Please bring a gift: something suitable to give to the poor or homeless, eg toiletries, biscuits chocolates, tinned food.

Children please collect your invitation at the Sunday masses.



BOOKSHOP NEWS

News from the Repository-Bookshop

Please note that the bookshop **IS OPEN AFTER THE 8.30 MASS**, but Karen is asking everyone to wait around a few minutes as she might get delayed to open it up after mass.

There are still plenty of **CTS Sunday Missals** available from the bookshop. These are updated with the new translations for the scripture readings.

We have been able to secure these at a special price at £13.00 (published price is £19.95). Grab your copy at this low price while our stock lasts, as future prices will be determined by what we are charged.

Anyone who has already paid the higher price will get a refund in due course.

There will be a smaller number of the One Year Missals available for £6.50.

BLESSING OF THE BAMBINELLI

A Roman tradition, celebrated by the Pope each year. Children bring the Baby Jesus (Bambinelli, in Italian) from the family nativity scene for a blessing.

Do bring along your nativity crib baby Jesus for a special blessing at any of the Christmas Masses.



CHRISTMAS CARD POSTBOX

Would you like to post a card for a parish friend? You can post it in one of the Christmas Card Postboxes set up in the church porch.

ANNUAL LEAVE

Please note that the last newsletter of this calendar year will be published on the 22nd December and it will be a bulk issue, as no weekly issue will be published until 12th January. Please make sure that any items for the newsletter are sent to Cecilia by Wednesday 18th December. Thank you!

LINK TO ADVENT TOOLKIT

[https://portsmouthdiocese.sharepoint.com/sites/Intranet/SitePages/Team-News-template\(3\).aspx](https://portsmouthdiocese.sharepoint.com/sites/Intranet/SitePages/Team-News-template(3).aspx)

CHILDREN'S FUN & GAMES DAY



Monday, December 30th
11am - 3pm in the Parish hall

Celebrate the end of Year 2024 with your friends in church!

Children aged between ages of 6yrs and 15yrs are welcome. Bring a packed lunch and water or soft drinks.

Parents will need to sign in with contact details.

Speak with Steve or Sue Deadman 07540229973.

The RCIA course will take a break during the next three weeks.

This is a course for anyone who is interested in learning more about the Catholic faith.

To join, just turn up at the next meeting on **7th January at 7.30 in the parish hall.** All welcome!



The Caritas group is also taking a break until January 9th when they will begin preparing for the Chinese New Year.

Programme for next year:

- 9th Jan - Sticky rice cake, radish cake
- 16th Jan - Calligraphy (Blessing words for Lunar New Year)
- 23rd Jan - Lunar New Year Preparations.
- 30th Jan - Lunar New Year Break
- 6th Feb - Lunar New Year Break
- 13th Feb - First Full Moon (Sweet dumplings)
- 20th Feb - Board Game + Mahjong Competition
- 27th Feb - Calligraphy

INCOME FOR NOVEMBER 2024

Candles	34.36
Xmas flowers	10.00
Donations	364.00
Xmas fair	2,243.68
Envelopes	225.00
Online Giving	239.00
Offertory	1,504.14
St Orders & DDs	3,068.00
Total	7,688.18

Special Collections

Bamenda	70.00
Lenten jar	5.52
St Anthony	2.20
Childrens Society	2.20
Total	79.92

CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES

A grateful thanks for all shoeboxes!



60 went from our parish
511 from Catholic schools including Springhill & Holy Family.
20,400 from the district
That's a lot of happy Christmas smiles!
Love from Mary and Norman



Stella Maris Seafarers Christmas Chocolate Appeal 2024

Suggested Chocolate Gifts



This weekend is the last chance!

Please donate chocolate Christmas presents for seafarers visiting our Southern Region ports in the days before Christmas. Stella Maris chaplains and ship visiting volunteers will go into ships to meet and support the crew, helping them feel they are not forgotten and much appreciated.

Donations can be left in the plastic box in the church porch. Your gift may be the only present a seafarer receives this Christmas.

There is also an opportunity to donate knitted hats, just follow this link:

<https://portsmouthdiocese.sharepoint.com/sites/Intranet/SitePages/Calling-all-Knitters!.aspx>

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR REV MONSIGNOR CANON NICHOLAS FRANCE RIP



Monsignor Canon Nicholas France's funeral, a Requiem Mass, will be held at 11am on Monday 30th December 2024 at St Edmund's Catholic Church, Southampton.

ADVENT 2024 FAITH FORMATION – LAST SESSION The Mystery of Mary, on our Lady and the Incarnation.

St Edmund's, The Avenue, Southampton
Wednesday 18th December 7.45pm-8.30pm

Speaker: Ryan Hawkes

This event is free of charge, no registration necessary.

WINTER NIGHT SHELTER

The Southampton Churches
WINTER BEDS 2025
is back and we need volunteers!

The project starts in January to take people off the streets who are sleeping rough. Help them to be safe and warm this winter.

For more information email Laura@citylife.org.uk

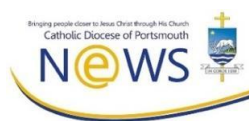
We need volunteers for the Evening Meal shift 6-9 pm; the Night Shift 9pm to 6am; and the Breakfast Shift from 6am to 8am. There will be Group leaders and training and guidance provided.

ON THE ROTA, you can sign up for as little as ONE SHIFT over the whole month.

PLEASE CONTACT : paul woodman on : paulw@citylife.org.uk

PLEASE JOIN OTHER CHRISTIANS ACROSS THE CITY PROVIDING WARMTH AND SUSTENANCE FOR THE HOMELESS.

Notice on our boards or chat to Steve at Mass or on 07540229973..... Please help our Christians in Southampton care for the Homeless and troubled.



PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE E NEWS & JOB VACANCIES

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

<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue470?e=34c55ac6ce>

INVITATION FOR CONSULTATION

St Anne's Catholic School are consulting on their admission arrangements for 2026/27. The consultations will run to 23rd December 2024.

The school welcomes views from any interested parties. In giving views, please state whether you are a parent/carer of a student (and of which school), a local resident, a member of school staff or any other interested party.

More details: <https://st-annes.uk.com/about-us/news/44/consultation-admissions-policy-2026-2027>

CAFOD - INTRODUCING JUBILEE online session – 18th January 2025

All are welcome to join us for A general introduction to the Jubilee Year (<https://cafod.org.uk/news/events/a-year-of-hope-an-introduction-to-the-jubilee-year>)

Special guests include Fr Jan Nowotnik, Director of Mission for the Catholic Bishop's Conference, Christine Allen, CAFOD Director, and Kayode Akintola, CAFOD's Head of Africa Programmes.

Hear what Jubilee years are about, how we're celebrating as a global and national Church and how we can be tangible signs of hope and build a better world together throughout this holy year. Also featuring a special song by Catholic Group Ooberfuse and more. Saturday 18 Jan, 10:30am-midday.