

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

12th January 2025

The Baptism of the Lord



“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

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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 12 January	The Baptism of the Lord	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Karenza Michels RIP Godfroy, Julienne, Francois Houedikin and all deceased of Houedikin family RIP
Mon 13 January	BEGINNING OF ORDINARY TIME		NO MASS	
Tue 14 January	Feria	9.00 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic Adoration Mass	Gerard Hardy RIP
Wed 15 January	Feria	10.00 am 6pm	Mass Eucharistic Adoration	Lorance Perera RIP
Thu 16 January	Feria	10.00 am	Mass	Joanne Keall RIP
Fri 17 January	St Anthony of Egypt, Abbot	9.00 am 9.30 am 10.00 am	Eucharistic adoration Rosary Mass	
Sat 18 January	Our Lady on Saturday	9.30am 10.00am	Confession Mass	Teresa Pupka RIP
Sun 19 January	SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.30 am 10.30 am	Mass Mass	Deceased members of Gobbi & O'Brien families RIP

READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY



1st Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11
Psalm: Ps 104(103):1b-2. 3-4. 24-25. 27-28. 29-30. R1
2nd Reading: Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7
Gospel: Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

SECOND COLLECTIONS:

Thank you for the Christmas Clergy donations which always go to the parish priest from Christmas day Masses.
 12th January – No second collection
 19th January – Pax Christi

NEXT WEEK IN THE PARISH

Tues 14th Tea & Coffee after 10 am service – parish hall
RCIA Course – 7.30-9 pm in the parish hall
Wed 15th Adoration for students and anyone else who would like to join us – 6-7 pm in the Lady Chapel
Thur 16th Caritas activity group– 10.30am
 Calligraphy (Blessing words for Lunar New Year)
Sun 19th Refreshments after mass - Extended Tea and Coffee plus bring your own lunch!
Choir Practice - 11.30 am in the church.
 Anyone welcome to join.

“YOU ARE MY BELOVED SON”

It happened in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John. On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.” [Mark 1:9–11](#) (Gospel from Year B)

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord concludes for us the Christmas Season and transitions us into the beginning of Ordinary Time. From a Scriptural point of view, this event in Jesus’ life is also a transitional moment from His hidden life in Nazareth to the beginning of His public ministry. As we commemorate this glorious event, it’s important to ponder a simple question: Why was Jesus baptized? Recall that John’s baptism was one of repentance, an act by which he invited his followers to turn from sin and to turn to God. But Jesus was sinless, so what was the reason for His Baptism?

First of all, we see in the quoted passage above that Jesus’ true identity was made manifest through His humble act of baptism. “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased,” spoke the voice of the Father in Heaven. Furthermore, we are told that the Spirit descended upon Him in the form of a dove. Thus, Jesus’ baptism is in part a public declaration of Who He is. He is the Son of God, a divine Person Who is one with the Father and the Holy Spirit. This public testimony is an “epiphany,” a manifestation of His true identity for all to see as He prepares to begin His public ministry.

Second, by His baptism, Jesus’ incredible humility is made manifest. He is the Second Person of the Most Holy Trinity, but He allows Himself to become identified with sinners. By sharing in an act that was focused upon repentance, Jesus speaks volumes through His action of baptism. He came to unite Himself with us sinners, to enter our sin and to enter into our death. By entering the water, He symbolically enters into death itself, which is the result of our sin, and rises triumphantly, allowing us to also rise with Him to new life. For this reason, Jesus’ baptism was a way of Him “baptizing” the waters, so to speak, so that water itself, from that moment onward, would be endowed with His divine presence and could be communicated to all who are baptized after Him. Therefore, sinful humanity is now able to meet divinity through baptism.

Lastly, when we share in this new baptism, through water that has now been sanctified by our divine Lord, we see in Jesus’ baptism a revelation of who we become in Him. Just as the Father spoke and declared Him as His Son, and just as the Holy Spirit descended upon Him, so also in our baptism we become the adopted children of the Father and are filled with the Holy Spirit. Thus, Jesus’ baptism gives clarity as to whom we become in Christian baptism.

A reflection for the The Baptism of the Lord (Year C)

www.mycatholic.life

PARISH NOTICES

FUNERAL SERVICE OF ANN DUNKLEY (1931-2024)



Ann’s funeral service will be held at Immaculate Conception Church on Friday 31st 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.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

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

14th January at 7.30 in the parish hall. All welcome!



WEEKDAY LECTIONARY

Please note that the Weekday Lectionary begins with Cycle 1 on Monday 13th January.



Vocations Prayer Newsletter January 2024

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

CHRISTMAS CARD POSTBOX

The Christmas Card Postboxes set up in the church porch will close on 12th January. Please check the box for both your first and last name's initials and collect your card. Any cards left will be collected and kept in the parish office.

INCOME FOR DECEMBER 2024

Xmas Flowers	330.43
Candles	30.91
Closer to Christ	5,321.67
Tea/Coffee	49.41
Donation	1,500.00
Xmas fair (last payment)	15.00
DONA	146.59
Envelopes	225.00
On Line Giving	568.96
Loose Plate	1,511.01
St Orders & DDs	3,258.00
Total Income	12,956.98

Special Collections

Bamenda	9.84
Life	278.19
Total	288.03

STELLA MARIS CHRISTMAS DONATIONS



On behalf of Stella Maris Southampton, Gregory Hogan and Charles Stuart wanted to express their great thanks for your wonderful response to their Christmas Appeal. Thanks to your kindness and generosity, they have been able to achieve far more than they ever hoped, in supporting seafarers at Christmas. The generous gifts have enabled them to make a truly special contribution to the lives of a great number of seafarers who were separated from home, friends, and family at this time. The gifts have given a much-needed boost to our seagoing visitors to Southampton and south coast ports.



A YEAR OF HOPE

An Introduction to the Jubilee Year with CAFOD

2025 is a Jubilee year, but what does that mean? Catholic talk show host and author Nana Churcher, and CAFOD's Simon Giarchi will be hosting Fr Jan Nowotnik (Director of Mission for the Bishop's Conference), Christine Allen (CAFOD's Director) and Kayode Akintola (CAFOD's Head of Africa) and more for a lively start to the Jubilee.

With a special appearance by Catholic band Ooberfuse.

Saturday 18 Jan, 10:30am-12pm, online. All welcome.

Register here for free: www.cafod.org.uk/jubilee



PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE E NEWS & JOB VACANCIES

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

<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue473?e=34c55ac6ce>

JUBILEE YEAR PILGRIMAGE TO ROME

St Anthony's RC Church Slough is organising a Holy Year Jubilee 2025 Pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi from 5 - 10 May 2025 to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of their Church.

We will be visiting several pilgrimage sites in Rome including the four Basilicas, Colosseum, Pantheon, Holy Stairs Church and have a Papal Audience. We will travel to Assisi for an overnight stay to visit the relics of Blessed Carlos Acutis who will be canonised by Pope Francis on Divine Mercy Sunday 2025.

For more information please call Millie Fernandez on 07957594646

ALTON DAY OF RENEWAL – 25th JANUARY



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 Daniella Stephens, a young and dynamic Catholic Evangelist and founder of Parrhesia Ministries, who travels the UK and abroad speaking at churches, schools, conferences, retreats, prayer groups, youth groups and more.

Timetable for 25th January (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



Please register in advance at bit.ly/ADOREJAN2025 or scan the QR code above, complete the form and we will send you the Zoom link for the meeting.