

20th October 2019

TWENTY NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C

"Now, will not God see justice done to his elect if they keep calling to him day and night even though he still delays to help them." (Luke 18:7)

Immaculate Conception Church

Within the Pastoral Area of Southampton East
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Parish Secretary: Rachel Brady (023 8055 5470)

Confessions: Saturdays, 5.15 pm before evening Mass

Rosary: Wednesdays, starting 25 mins before Mass

Hall Bookings: portswood@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Sun 20 Oct	Twenty Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time	8.30am	†Gretta Andrews
		10.30am	
Mon 21 Oct	Feria	-----	No Service
Tue 22 Oct	St John Paul II	10 am	†Gwen Durkin
Wed 23 Oct	St John of Capestrano	10 am	-
Thu 24 Oct	St Anthony Claret	10 am	-
Fri 25 Oct	Feria	10 am	-
Sat 26 Oct	Sunday Vigil Mass	6 pm	Jean Langford
Sun 27 Oct	Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time	8.30am	†Catherine White
		10.30am	



Today's readings

1st Reading – Exodus 17:8-13

Psalm – 121:1-8

2nd Reading – 2 Timothy 3:14 - 4:2

Gospel – Luke 18:1-8

WELCOME to our Masses this Sunday. Please join us in the hall after Mass for tea, coffee and refreshments.

ROOF UPDATE The roof is now off! To find out more about its progress, please take a copy of the latest roof update newsletter this week which includes photos of the work so far. A colour copy can be found on the hall noticeboard and you can also look at them on the news stories section of our website.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS TRAINING

TODAY in the hall, 2.30 – 5.00 pm. If you are interested and able to attend but have not yet put your name down, please speak to Fr Antony after Mass.

MASS FOR THE SICK, ANNUNCIATION AND ST PATRICK'S PARISHES - TODAY, 3 pm at St Patrick's church, Woolston, SO19 9BD. The Mass will include the anointing of the sick with holy oils. Please come and join this special celebration. All are welcome.

TAIZE PRAYER SERVICE TODAY, 20th October, 6 till 6.45 pm. At Annunciation Church, Station Rd, Netley Abbey, SO31 5AF. Join us for a quiet time of gentle prayer, candle light and meditative songs of praise from Taize - a time to draw closer to God. A joint initiative with St Edward's Church of England parish. Everyone welcome.

My dear Friends:

Today's gospel is the story of the widow who perseveres in her quest for justice. An understanding of the original Hebrew gives this gospel another spin! Pilch explains that the Hebrew word for widow is silent one, one unable to speak. In the Mediterranean world of antiquity, if a woman's husband died, or did not have a married son to speak on her behalf, she was essentially silenced. We often hear Jesus speak about the widows and orphans who were exploited and oppressed. The judge in this story appears to be a slick guy on the make, ready to exploit any situation to make a quick buck/drachma/shekel at anyone's expense.

However, the widow's relentless, grinding perseverance shames the judge into giving a just response and judgement! When we look around the world today, open mouthed at the plight and suffering, oppression and exploitation of countless victims, it would make one's heart bleed. Multitudes of peoples of diverse ethnicities, cultures and religious traditions flee their homes, their livelihoods and their countries, escaping through mountains, crossing deserts, perilous seas and oceans in search of a life and safety. The great Jewish scholar, Abraham Heschel once stated that the prophet was the person who gave voice to the silent agony of God. Like the widow in today's gospel, we have to try to give voice to that silent agony.

Love, Peace and Blessings,

Fr. Antony

MONEY LAST WEEK:Main Collection:

Gift Aid Envelopes inc tax reclaim - £125.58

Loose plate collection – £273.72

Standing orders - £1080.27

Second Collection:

Roof - Inc tax reclaim: £289.41

Second Collections:

Today – World Missions

Next week – Bamenda

TODAY IS WORLD MISSION SUNDAY Prayers and donations made to Missio each year on World Mission Sunday make a huge contribution to the growth of our Church all over the world and to the well-being of the poorest of our brothers and sisters. If you are a UK tax payer and don't already have a gift aid envelope, please take one of the Missio envelopes available today and put your donation in it together with your completed details. This allows Missio to claim an extra 25% on top of your donation, from your tax payments.

EXTRA ORDINARY MONTH OF MISSION OCTOBER 2019

TODAY, as an act of solidarity with the whole church, you are invited to a special Mission Sunday Mass at St John's Cathedral in Portsmouth at 2 pm, followed by refreshments in the Discovery Centre. Pope Francis has announced an Extraordinary Month of Mission for October 2019 with the aim of re-energising the missionary transformation of the church's life and pastoral activity, and to help communities grow in missionary and evangelizing zeal. The theme of the month is 'Baptised and Sent'. As well as a whole community, we are asked to reflect on this as individuals "as the Father sent me, so I send you, filled with the Holy Spirit, for the reconciliation of the world". This mission is part of the Christian identity.

THANK YOU TO OUR FIJIAN COMMUNITY who once again had their special Mass here in the hall yesterday. It was wonderful to have the Fijian priest present and to experience this culturally rich liturgical celebration within our diverse community.

GRAND RAFFLE TICKETS AVAILABLE SOON Due to the lack of hall availability this year's Christmas fair will not take place. However we shall still have a grand raffle draw and tickets for this will be available over the coming weeks.

ROSARY AT THE CEMETERY AND BLESSING OF GRAVES. Please note the correct details for this: 27th October, 12.15 pm. Meet at the entrance to South Stoneham Cemetery.

BEREAVEMENT Mass Saturday 2nd November, 11 am in the church hall. Please do put this in your diary to come along and remember those close to you who have recently died.

YOUTH ALPHA For anyone of secondary school age to come and Join us. 6.30 to 8.00pm at Christ the King Church Hall to share food, discussion, talk and fun with friends from October 9th to December 11th. This is a great chance for young people in our Pastoral area, pre- and post-confirmation to join together and have fun in faith. If you wish to register or know more speak to Steve or David Deadman or e-mail: youthalphabitterne@outlook.com

ATTENTION UNI STUDENTS! Are you interested in deepening your faith this academic year? Consider joining a FOCUS Bible Study. There are several groups meeting weekly during the academic year. This is a great opportunity to form friendships with other Catholic uni students and deepen your relationship with God. Find a FOCUS missionary at the University's Faith and Reflection Centre or contact Kaitlin Gilday (kaitlin.gilday@focus.org or 078 8400 6059).

ADoRE (Alton Day of Renewal)

Held at Alton School, Anstey Lane, Alton, Hampshire GU34 2NG, 11 am – 4 pm. These are themed monthly retreat days for anyone in the diocese to attend. They always follow the same format which includes Mass and, a shared lunch followed a guest speaker. You can attend for the whole day or either the morning or afternoon. No need to book and completely free. The next one takes place on Saturday 26th October. The guest speaker is Allegra Mutanda. Allegra is a member of the Sion Community for Evangelisation, where she leads the parish ministry team. More info at www.altonrenewal.com including the opportunity to listen to previous guest speaker talks.

FAIR TRADE OPEN DAY - Thursday 14th November, at 3 Willis Road, Swaythling between 9am and 6pm Free Fairtrade drinks and snacks served all day. A range of items from the Fair trade shop on display for you to admire and buy if you like. Christmas cards and calendars and lots of ideas for gifts. More info from Anne 023 80554674

CATHOLIC SINGLES is an organisation which helps single Catholics of all ages (over 18 years) meet other single Catholics, either one to one or through social events. For further information visit www.catholicingles.org.uk or tel. 0161 941 3498

VOCATIONS *Beloved: Remain faithful to what you have learned and believed.* Are you being called to teach the word of God as a priest, deacon, religious sister or brother?. To explore, contact Father John Cooke on Tel 01329 318 869 or email vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

NEXT SATURDAY NIGHT – don't forget to put your clocks back by 1 hour!

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Wed. Thurs & Fri 9.30 am – 3.00 pm