

15th September 2019

TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C

"there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner repenting than over ninety-nine upright people who have no need of repentance." (Luke 15: 7)

Immaculate Conception Church

Within the Pastoral Area of Southampton East
346 Portswood Road, Southampton, SO17 3SB

Tel: (023) 8055 5470

Website: www.immaculateconception.church

Email: portswood@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Facebook: Immaculate Conception Church, Portswood

Twitter: @ic_portswood

Parish Priest: Fr Antony Gatt

Hospital Chaplaincy: (023 8120 8517)

University Chaplain: Sr Valentina Stilo (07983 883377)

Safeguarding Officer: Pat Saunders (023 80442189)

Parish Secretary: Rachel Brady (023 8055 5470)

Confessions: Saturday at 10.30am after morning Mass

Rosary: Wednesdays, starting 25 mins before Mass

Hall Bookings: portswood@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Sun 15 Sept **Twenty Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Mon 16 Sept Ss Cornelius & Cyprian
Tue 17 Sept St Hildegard of Bingen
Wed 18 Sept Feria
Thu 19 Sept St Januarius
Fri 20 Sept St Andrew Kim Taegon, St Paul
Chong Hasang & Companions
Sat 21 Sept St Matthew

Sun 22 Sept **Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

8.30am	†Nora Savage
10.30am	John Mors
-----	No Service
10 am	Eucharistic Service
-----	No Service
10 am	Eucharistic Service
-----	No Service
-----	No Service
8.30am	†Kenneth Thipthorpe
10.30am	†Denis & Naomi Philpot



Today's readings

1st Reading – Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14

Psalm – 51: 3-4, 12-13, 17, 19

2nd Reading – 1 Timothy 1:12-17

Gospel – Luke 15:1-32

The parables told in this Sunday's longer version of the Gospel demonstrate something of what Jesus wants to teach us about mercy. Mercy seems to be an old-fashioned term, not often heard in the media or our everyday discussions. Frankly I'm not sure if it's even politically correct in our macro-statistical western society. When we turn on the TV or look at social networking, rarely are there stories that encapsulate the meaning of mercy. Instead events of intolerance flourish in which one group insists that they are the ones representing sanity and justice and as such representing us - believers and atheists alike.

For sure, the term mercy has been replaced with words like tolerance or charity, but that's not the mercy shown by Jesus. In the bible, mercy and forgiveness are closely intertwined. Whoever shows mercy, is always forgiving the limitations of others and their surroundings without excluding religious and/or cultural beliefs. In the bible we find there are plenty of other examples of Jesus' mercy towards those who had been marginalised or despised by society. Jesus' merciful heart was never judgemental – His heart was always open to humanity showing love for everyone in need. His actions towards them were not stained with intolerance, misunderstanding and prejudice. Jesus loved them for the human beings that they were as much as He loves us for the human beings we are.

How difficult is it to show mercy or be merciful today? Our very human nature can often stand in the way, but if we could be more conscious of opening our hearts towards one another on a daily basis, showing love rather than judgement, understanding rather than knowledge, then maybe, just maybe we could do our bit as individuals to create a society that is more merciful and where the word mercy can become a part of our everyday vocabulary.

WELCOME to our Masses this Sunday. Please join us in the hall after the 10.30 am Mass for tea, coffee and refreshments.

PARISH SHARED LUNCH & STUDENT WELCOME

Sunday 13th October, 12.30 pm All university students, new and returning, are especially invited to join with parishioners in the hall for our ANNUAL STUDENT WELCOME EVENT. This should be a wonderful social event for all, especially as it is not practical to go ahead with the annual parish barbeque for obvious reasons!! If you are able to come, please sign up on the food contributions list after Mass to say what you can bring, so that we don't end up with 200 sausage rolls and nothing else!!

WEDDING BELLS! Amie Kamanda & Anthony Dede-Benefor will be marrying next Saturday 21st September, 12 noon, at Above Bar Church, Southampton. Amie is the daughter of Mohamed and Mariama Kamanda and the family have been members of the parish for over 20 years. Parishioners are welcome to join the wedding ceremony. Please remember Amie and Anthony in your prayers as they prepare for their wedding day and begin married life together.

NEXT FIRST HOLY COMMUNION SESSION

Sunday 22nd September, 4.30 – 5.30 pm in the hall, followed by Mass at 6 pm

MONEY:

Last weekend

Main Collection:

Gift Aid Envelopes inc tax reclaim - £151.25

Loose plate collection – £298.88

Standing orders - £1080.27

Second Collection

Catholic Education - inc tax reclaim £335.08

Second Collections:

Today – Home Missions

Next week – Harvest – food donations please!

IMPORTANT ROOF NEWS

Mass today is the last service in the church. From now until completion of the roof, the church will be closed and all Masses and Services will be in the hall. Any help you are able to offer moving chairs after the 10.30 am Mass today will be much appreciated. Scaffolding will be erected inside the main body of the church over the next two weeks, so all chairs need to be moved today!

EUCCHARISTIC SERVICES THIS WEEK will take place on Tuesday and Thursday in the hall at the usual time.

SUNDAY MASSES NEXT WEEKEND

For next Sunday only there will be three Masses in the hall at the normal times of 8.30 am and 10.30 am plus an extra one at 6 pm.

EXTRA MASS ON SATURDAYS

BEGINNING ON SATURDAY 28th SEPTEMBER there will be an additional vigil Mass at 6 pm in the hall. Masses on Sundays will continue in the hall at the normal times of 8.30 am and 10.30 am only. If you are planning to attend the Saturday evening Mass on a regular basis, please e mail the parish office.

RECENTLY DIED Please remember in your prayers:

†Eleanor Physick, wife of Brian and mother of 7, who died recently. Requiem Mass will take place at St Edmund's Church, Tuesday 1st October at 12 noon.

†Rita Forster, wife of Malcolm Forster who died peacefully on 31st August after a long illness. Her funeral will take place on Friday 20th September, 11 am at St Vincent de Paul, Lordswood. There is a reception to follow, at Chilworth Manor hotel to which all are invited to attend. Rita was a very active and committed member of this parish as well as several others around Southampton over the years and her husband has written a short summary of her life which you can find on the parish noticeboard in the hall.

PETITION – Trevor Delves has started a petition to the Minister of Health asking for fully funded free personal care for all who suffer with dementia and he is asking for your support in terms of signatures. The full information is on the parish noticeboard in the hall. Please have a read and take the signing details if you agree.

FOOD FOR POITIER PROJECT As a result of the Church Roof Works, a large, major collection of food will be made at our Parish Harvest next weekend, 22nd September. We will aim to provide the project with plenty for October and November and once the roof is done we will have another large, major collection to replenish their stocks. Thanks to all in the Parish who have helped families in trouble through the Poitier Project. Please bring unperishable food products to Mass on Sunday 22nd September.

BAPTISM PREPARATION The next Baptism Preparation course for our Pastoral area takes place on Sunday 6th and Sunday 13th October, 1.30 – 3.00 pm at Christ the King & St Coleman Church Hall. If you would like your baby baptised, please talk to Fr Antony and contact the parish office for a registration form for this course.

YOUTH ALPHA : Calling all 11 to 15 year olds. Come and Join us on Wednesdays from 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.

DANCE CLASS: The Parish dance class, with Sue, has now re-started BUT WITH A NEW DAY: MONDAYS, in the Parish hall from 5.00 to 7.00pm. We do Ballet, Tap and Modern Dancing, with some Country Dancing. For all school age children (5 to 14 years) and there are refreshments to keep tired legs going!

LOVE SWAYTHLING & BASSETT LADIES GROUP

Meet again on Friday 20th September, 2.00 pm at Immaculate Conception Church hall. All welcome to come and join for tea and chat.

SOUTHAMPTON REPAIR CAFÉ – Bring your items for repair. Free but donations welcomed
21st September, 10.30 – 1 pm at St Deny's Community Centre

UNCLAIMED ITEMS IN THE HALL KITCHEN There are several pots and pans and other kitchen items which have been left in the hall kitchen. If you think you have left anything there, please reclaim it this week otherwise it is most likely to be disposed of whilst we are tidying up in there.

THE CHURCH GROUNDS A big thank you to Norman Fairchild who has worked tirelessly over the past few weeks clearing the church grounds before the scaffolding went up, cutting back all the overgrown bushes, clearing out the garden behind the hall, clearing the pathway around the hall for a safe fire exit route etc.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Tues, Wed & Fri 9.30 am – 3.00 pm