

24th November 2019

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

"Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom."

(Luke 23:42)

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: Saturdays, 5.15 pm before evening Mass

Rosary: Wednesdays, starting 25 mins before Mass

Hall Bookings: portswood@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Sat 23 Nov	Sunday Vigil Mass	6 pm	Homeless in Portswood
Sun 24 Nov	Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe	8.30am	Deceased members of the Chandler family
		10.30am	†Daphne McGill
Mon 25 Nov	St Catherine of Alexandria	-----	No Service
Tue 26 Nov	Feria	10 am	†Mother of Daz Hall
Wed 27 Nov	Feria	10 am	†Rosemary Spencer
Thu 28 Nov	Feria	10 am	†Sr Dorothy Baxter, DW
Fri 29 Nov	Feria	10 am	†Galina Sipiloviene
Sat 30 Nov	Sunday Vigil Mass	6pm	†Ellen Gobbi
Sun 01 Dec	First Sunday of Advent	8.30am	†Audrey Campbell
		10.30am	†Mavis Rosario



Today's readings

1st Reading – 2 Samuel 5:1-3

Psalms – 121:1-5

2nd Reading – Colossians 1:12-20

Gospel – Luke 23:35-43

My dear Friends:

Today is the feast of Christ the King. I just had a quick look at all the images of Christ the King on the web. Interestingly, though not surprisingly, he is dressed in royal robes, crowned and seated on a golden throne...*but*...his kingdom is not of this world.

My mind drifts back to Tabenken, Cameroon, to Chief Thomas. Chief Thomas was the 'king' of the Wimbun tribe where I was privileged to live and minister for a number of years. As Chief, he was the custodian, the embodiment, and the collective identity of all the traditions, sacred and temporal values of the tribe. He was the High Priest and intermediary for the members of the tribe with the ancestors and the ancestral world. He was the sacred bridge between the temporal and divine. In the feast of Christ the King, a similar metaphor is mirrored. Christ, our Saviour and Redeemer, has taken into himself our woundedness, our brokenness, the shards of our broken relationships, the *should, but didn't and shouldn't, but did* and embraced us with a loving healing which empowers us, and gives us the strength, to forgive ourselves as well as others.

Like Chief Thomas and the ancestral world, our Communion of Saints, in the words of Ron Rolheiser, enables us "...to believe that we can still tend to unfinished business in our relationships, even after death. Simply put, we can still talk to those who have died and we can, even now, say the words of love, forgiveness, gratitude, and regret that ideally we should have spoken earlier. Indeed, inside the communion of saints the reconciliation that always eluded us while that person was alive can now more easily take place". On this, the feast of Christ the King, may Christ reign within our hearts, and our lives strive to embody His Kingdom ever present within us.

Love, Peace and Blessings, Fr. Antony

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

ROOF TILES! The tiles have now started going up. A total of 6500 tiles are going to be used for the roof. To help contribute towards the funds required for the roof we are asking for parishioners to sponsor a tile. Each tile has been pegged at £5 this will raise £32,500 if we manage to get a commitment/contribution for all the 6500 tiles that are being used. This will help to bring us closer to raising the remaining amount of £116,000 that we still need for the roof.

CAFOD CAKE SALE Next Sunday 1st December, after both Masses. All donations of cakes gratefully received. Please bring them to the kitchen before Mass.

GRAND RAFFLE TICKETS On sale after Mass. We would like to encourage everyone to buy tickets as there will be no Christmas fair this year and this will be our main fundraiser.

RECENTLY DIED Dennis Wilson's sister, Daphne McGill, died on Monday after being admitted to hospital last week with a viral lung infection. Please keep Dennis & his family in your thoughts and prayers.

JUSTICE AND PEACE GROUP meeting on Monday 25th November at 7.30pm in the St Michael's room. Everyone welcome.

MONEY LAST WEEK:

Main Collection:

Giff Aid Envelopes inc tax reclaim - £56.25

Loose plate collection – £212.47

Standing orders - £1080.27

Second Collection:

Roof - Inc tax reclaim: £843.41

Second Collections:

Today – Roof

Next week – Roof

ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE

Thursday 12th December, 7.30 pm in the church.

ADVENT THEME/DISCUSSION SERIES

Fr Antony will be running a series of 3 discussion groups around the theme of 'Hope' on Tuesday evenings during Advent starting on 3rd December at 7.40 pm in the hall (the final one will be in the church). More details to come next week.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Next weekend, all advent and Christmas Service dates and times will be available on a leaflet to take away, as well as on the parish website.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY Sunday 15th

December 3-6pm in church hall. Afternoon tea, party games, visit from Santa. Tickets £3 available after Masses.

CHRISTMAS CARDS Recycled Christmas cards are now on sale after the Masses. Proceeds to the roof fund.

CHILDREN'S PAINTING/POSTER COMPETITION

Watch this space for details of our Children's Christmas painting/poster competition for all young budding artists. Materials and full details available after Masses next weekend.

THE CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH will take place again this year at Bassett Green Court. We are desperately in need of drivers to bring our guests to the venue after 11.00am and to pick them up again after 3.00pm. If you can help please contact Anne Dempsey on 80552064. There are also a few places left if you would like to come and spend Christmas with us. See poster on hall noticeboard for details.

YEAR OF THE WORD 2020 - Readers' Workshops

It is hoped that all readers, or 'would be' readers throughout the diocese will register to attend this two part course as part of their ministry. There are three different venues and dates to choose from between now and the end of March, including Winchester and Christchurch for Saturday morning sessions, or a whole day to include both sessions at the Dominican Priory in Lymington. As well as some practical training elements, the course includes some liturgical and biblical formation to support readers. For further details and to register please visit www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/readers

ADVENT DAY OF REFLECTION

Sat 7th December, St Josephs Centre, Ashurst
10 am – 4 pm. The theme of the day will be the Immaculate Conception of Mary, the Mother of the Lord. Mass will be offered and there will be time for personal reflection and input from Father Des. Please bring some lunch. A suggested donation of £25.00 would be very helpful please.

PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN PILGRAME TO LOURDES

15-19 July 2020, led by Bishop Philip Egan, Fr PJ Smith & Youth Pilgrims aged 14-35 from throughout this Diocese. Direct flight from Bournemouth, accommodation at Hotel La Solitude, very close to the Shrine. Cost £695pp or £545 for youth volunteers. For further details or to enquire about volunteering as a youth pilgrim e mail lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or tel 07780221686. Video clip to give you a taster, from last year's pilgrimage at <https://vimeo.com/367708674>. Poster on noticeboard and application forms on the table at the back of the hall.

A NEW BOOK BY PARISHIONER DUDLEY PLUNKETT

The merits and prayers of the English martyrs need to be reclaimed today. This is the underlying message of *The Noble Martyr: a Spiritual Biography of St Philip Howard*, published by Gracewing. There will be order forms in the church porch when it re-opens. Alternatively you can find further details and an order form on the News area of the parish website, or the book can be purchased through Amazon.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT GOING RED ON RED WEDNESDAY 27TH NOVEMBER 2019?

It is one way of showing solidarity for our brothers and sisters who are persecuted for their faith. Consider wearing something 'red' and say a prayer for the persecuted, for freedom of religious faith and expression. If you are in London on Wednesday, look out for 'red churches'. Many churches across the world will be illuminated red, for example in Chile, Sydney, Rome, the Philippines and our own Westminster Cathedral, Lambeth Palace and many more. To paraphrase an old hymn 'Faith of Our Fathers', our brothers and sisters are truly witnessing what it means to be 'still in heart and conscience free'; loving 'both friend and foe' in all their strife, while preaching as 'love knows how by kindly words and virtuous life'. In some cases, this is truly unto death. (Lyrics by Frederick William Faber). On Red Wednesday, let us remember and pray for all those persecuted for their faith, irrespective of denomination.

VOCATIONS

"Jesus, remember me when you come into Your kingdom". Will you make Christ the King and His merciful love remembered as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life? To explore, contact Father John Cooke on Tel 01329 318 869 or email vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

ROTAS FOR DECEMBER

Please check the rota files at the back of the Hall or in St Michael's room if you are on any of the teams for Saturday/Sunday Masses.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Tues, Wed, & Thurs 9.30 am – 3.00 pm