

12th January 2020

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD, YEAR A

"This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him."
(Matthew 3:17)

Immaculate Conception Church

Within the Pastoral Area of Southampton East
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Parish Priest: Fr Antony Gatt

Hospital Chaplaincy: (023 8120 8517)
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Safeguarding Officer: Pat Saunders (023 80442189)
Parish Secretary: Rachel Brady (023 8055 5470)
Confessions: Saturdays, 10.30 am after morning Mass
Rosary: Wednesdays, starting 25 mins before Mass
Hall Bookings: portswood@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Sun 12 Jan	THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD
Mon 13 Jan	(Beginning of Ordinary Time) St Hilary
Tue 14 Jan	Feria
Wed 15 Jan	Feria
Thu 16 Jan	Feria
Fri 17 Jan	St Anthony of Egypt
Sat 18 Jan	Our Lady of Saturday
Sun 19 Jan	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

8.30am	†Kathy White
10.30am	†Jim O'Malley
-----	No Service
10 am	Service of the Word
-----	No Service
10 am	Service of the Word
-----	No Service
-----	No Service
8.30 am	†Elizabeth Skinner
10.30 am	†Mary O'Malley



Today's readings

1st Reading – Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7
Psalm – 29:1-4, 9-11
2nd Reading – Acts 10:34-38
Gospel – Matthew 3:13-17

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



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS MEETING OF 08/01/20 SUMMARY OF DECISIONS MADE

- At the Parish Open Meeting on Sunday February 9th 3pm to 5pm, Fr Anthony and the PPC Chair Person will give a statement of the current position of the parish and put forward ideas from the Pillars for the next 5 years. It is requested that parishioners add their own ideas or thoughts in writing before-hand or at the meeting. It would be great if people in the parish could attend and share ideas and thoughts about the Parish's future.
- Parish Council Members will be organising a welcome team to be at both Sunday Masses each week to meet and greet all parishioners.
- 1st Sunday of the month Parish Council members will be in the hall after both Sunday Masses so that they are available to deal with any questions or provide information.
- For any further information or questions please speak to Parish Council Members.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Parish Open Meeting, Sunday 9th Feb, 3 – 5 pm in the hall. Please see information above in Parish Council notes.

This Sunday, the baptism of the Lord, is a good opportunity to reflect on baptism, the message it gives us and what it really means for us.

The following webpage gives a fairly easy and interesting 14 minute reflection to listen to, from Bishop Robert Barron (*Founder of Word on Fire Catholic Ministries and Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles*) on the sacrament of Baptism.

<https://www.wordonfire.org/resources/homily/vitae-spiritualis-ianua/26202/>

Here is a short summary of what he says:

Being a Christian is about much more than being a nice person, having a heart of gold or doing the right thing – as important as these are. Anyone could be any of these things. Neither is it about just following Jesus or imitating Him. Christianity adds to these important elements a sharing in the divine life of Christ, a participation in the relationship between the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We are born into a deeply dysfunctional world which conditions all of our thoughts and actions. We did not choose this but were born into it. Like a child being born with a drug addiction, it takes an outside intervention to save him or her because the environment into which he/she is born is all part of the problem.

Baptism is the moment when the Holy Spirit draws us out of this fallen world into the life of the trinity, to accept God's undeserved love given to all. We don't earn it, but through God's unconditional love we are drawn into His life.

In the Gospel of John 15:16, Jesus says "You did not choose me, but I chose you"

Every baptised person should hear that same voice Jesus heard at his baptism, saying the same thing: "You are my beloved son/daughter in whom I am well pleased"

MONEY 22nd DECEMBER:

Main Collection:

Gift Aid Envelopes inc tax reclaim - £0

Loose plate collection – £245.56

Standing orders - £1080.27

Second Collection

Last week: Roof Fund, inc tax reclaim - £303.33

This week: Roof Fund

Next week – Pax Christi

DRONES TALK

Next Sunday 19th January is Peace Sunday and our parish Justice & Peace Group have organised a talk in our church hall which will be given by Professor Christian Enemark on the use of 'Armed Drones and their implications for security and justice worldwide'.

It will take place in the church hall at 3 pm and will be followed by discussion and refreshments. This promises to be a very interesting afternoon and all are welcome and encouraged to attend.

CALLING ALL YOUNG PEOPLE (5 -15 YEARS)

Youth Group and Dance Group in our Parish Hall:

- YOUTH GROUP is starting again on Monday evening 5pm to 7pm each week. Come to share your faith, friendship, fun, music and talents with snacks and drinks. For parish members but also bring friends/neighbours....ALL VERY WELCOME!!
- DANCE AND DRAMA GROUP (4-15 YEARS). Wednesday evenings, 5 – 7 pm ALL WELCOME to learn street/modern, tap and ballet dancing, with some country and other styles too. Fun and sharing as we develop our skills and celebrate with 2 Shows each year.

NEW FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME for all children currently in year 3, starting after Easter this year, preparing them for First Communion in the summer of 2021. Application forms can be picked up from the church porch and returned to the parish office together with a copy of your child's baptism certificate. *It is important that you also ensure you are also registered with the parish. You can easily do this on line at the following link to our parish website:*

<https://www.immaculateconception.church/contact-us>

There will be a PARENTS SESSION on Sunday 8th March in the church after the 10.30 am Mass for parents of all children interested in joining this next programme

ARE YOU AN IT SPECIALIST? Our IT volunteer would appreciate a useful contact in the parish to advise (on a voluntary basis) on various IT issues – currently security and back up storage. Please contact Chris Gough or the parish office if you are able to help in any way.

TREE SPECIALIST Our Maintenance team are also looking for advice about a tree in the church gardens. If you are able to offer such help, please contact the parish office or speak to Adrian Steblecki or Eleanor or Chris Gough.

INVITATION TO CULTURAL MASS FOR NIGERIANS

Sunday 23rd February 2020, 3 pm at St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth, celebrated by Bishop Philip. Members of the Nigerian community and their friends are all invited to attend. The celebration will encourage the sharing of the community's identity, unity, diversity, rich cultural values and heritage and will also serve as an inaugural meeting for Nigerian Catholics throughout the diocese. Traditional/cultural dress highly encouraged for the occasion. Catholic TV of Nigeria will be covering the Mass. For any enquiries, please contact Fr Daniel Agber at nigeriansinportsmouthdiocese@gmail.com or call 07424426845 / 077788666137.

STREET PASTORS

Once again the Street Pastors are expanding their work into other areas of the city with new patrols and looking for more Street Pastors. Street Pastors provide an invaluable source of support to people who are out and about in local communities, especially later in the day and at night time to those who are vulnerable and needy. The next round of training starts on Friday 6th March. Please take a leaflet from the church porch if you are interested.

YEAR OF THE WORD 2020 - READERS' WORKSHOPS

The first of the Readers Workshops takes place on 11th and 25th January 2020, 10 am – 1 pm at St Peter and the Winchester Martyrs church, Jewry Street, Winchester, SO23 8RY. Please consider signing up if you are a reader in the parish. For further details and to register please visit

www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/readers

PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORJE

A wonderful opportunity for fellowship and spiritual recharge. Travelling with Marian Pilgrimages and a guide for the duration of our stay. English mass every day. 30 Sept - 7 October, flying from Gatwick to Dubrovnik plus a 2.5 hour transfer to Medjugorje. Half board accommodation. Flights and transfers will be £595.00 (based on shared room). Single supplement applies. Early bird £30.00 discount for booking before 1 Feb. £100 deposit required on booking. For further details and to reserve a place contact Heather Hauschild hauschild287@btinternet.com. More details on Medjugorje pilgrimages at www.marian-uk.com

SEPARATED/DIVORCED

Relationships that have broken down can lead to unresolved hurts and questions, to feelings of rejection or isolation. A series of evenings for those who are separated, or divorced starts on Tuesday 14th January 2020 in St Edmunds Parish and is open to all: 'Restored lives' is run over 7 weeks and offers the opportunity to explore different issues in a safe and non-judgemental setting with those who have been there too. If you are interested in joining or would like to know more please speak to Fr Vincent or one of the priests at St Edmunds Church.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS NEXT WEEK:

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, 9.30 am – 3.00 pm