

26th January 2020

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

" Come after me and I will make you fishers of people"
(Matthew 4:19)

Immaculate Conception Church

Within the Pastoral Area of Southampton East
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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, 10.30 am after morning Mass
Rosary: Wednesdays, starting 25 mins before Mass
Hall Bookings: portswood@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Sun 26 Jan Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mon 27 Jan	St Blaise
Tue 28 Jan	Feria
Wed 29 Jan	St Agatha
Thu 30 Jan	St Paul Miki & Companions
Fri 31 Jan	Feria
Sat 01 Feb	Our Lady on Saturday
Sun 02 Feb	The Presentation of the Lord

8.30am	†Wilfred Joseph White
10.30am	-
-----	No Service
10 am	†Maureen Clare Meyfarth
10 am	†Veronica Keeney
10 am	-
10 am	†Vincent Fallon
10 am	†Rita Burkman
8.30 am	†Muriel Thipthorpe
10.30 am	-



Today's readings

1st Reading – Isaiah 8:23 – 9:23
Psalm – 27:1,4,13-14
2nd Reading – 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17
Gospel – Matthew 4: 12-23

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

CAFOD CAKE SALE

Next week is our usual first Sunday of the month cake sale in aid of CAFOD, in the hall after both Masses. All donations of cakes are much appreciated. Please bring any contributions to the hall before Mass

PARISH OPEN MEETING

Sunday 9th Feb, 3 – 5 pm in the hall. Please put this in your diary and come along if you can. All welcome. If you have any ideas you would like to put forward to the parish council for consideration at this meeting, please put them in writing via post or e mail, to the parish office.



YOU CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN

We are looking for volunteers to join some of our parish's mission and support groups such as SVP and Justice & Peace, to help those in need in and around our community, by providing various possible areas of practical or personal support, information, advice or signposting. By joining one of our groups you can make a real difference; and in addition, it could help you further develop your own personal growth, gain invaluable new skills, or a genuine sense of achievement while changing vulnerable lives for the better. If you could consider volunteering or have any suggestions regarding local community projects, please come to the Pastoral planning meeting on Saturday 1st Feb at 10:45 in the hall.

My dear Friends

The readings of today bring a smile to my lips! Little has changed since Paul's day! Fr. Kavanaugh, S.J., draws a parallel between Paul's reflections and comments to the Corinthians and the repetitive scenarios within the Faith Communities today: In the Catholic church, it often goes like this: I am for Ratzinger. I am for Rahner. I am the Pope's. I am for protest, I'm for restoration. I'm for reform. I'm for women. I'm for tradition.

Every one of us, from pope to pauper, stands humbly before God.

We're forgetting something: Has Ratzinger or Rahner saved us? Is it the Pope who has been crucified for us? Have we been baptized in the name of tradition or of change?

Fr. Kavanaugh suggests that no matter who we are, each one of needs to stand before God as people who are aware of our woundedness and brokenness, seeking the conversion and salvation of God. It is God's love, and redemptive grace which enables and empowers us to become Christ Bearers within our communities and world. This is part of the Dialogical Virtues, when we can respect, reverence and acknowledge the multiple Models of Church, with all their rich diversity, and remain in respectful dialogue with each one of them...But more on this in the homily!

Love, Peace and Blessings

Fr. Antony

MONEY 05 JANUARY:

Main Collection:

Gift Aid Envelopes inc tax reclaim - £86.25

Loose plate collection – £253.07

Standing orders - £1100.51

Second Collection

Last week: Pax Christi, inc tax reclaim - £465.58

This week: St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth

Next week – Roof Fund

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION SESSION REMINDER

This Sunday 26th January, 9.15 am in the hall

COMMISSIONING OF NEW EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

This weekend at both Masses

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

We are looking for volunteer drivers to offer lifts on a rota basis for those who are unable to get to Mass on their own. If you think you could help, please contact the parish office or speak to Gino after 10.30 am Mass.

INVITATION TO JOIN THE CHOIR

The International Choir meets every Thursday evening at 7.30pm in the church for practices and everyone is welcome - but if you cannot make that, just join us on Sunday at 10 am. Whatever your voice, you will blend with us and we would love to have you.

FAREWELL

The International Choir would like to bid farewell to Glennis, Mark and their children who have been dedicated members of the choir for the past few years. We wish them all the best in their new life in Edinburgh and they will be greatly missed by all.

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.

† RECENTLY DIED Please remember:

Maureen Weir and her family. Maureen was an active member of this parish and she died tragically last week in a car accident. Her funeral will be here on Friday 7th February at 11.30 am.

Deenagh' Bonner, nee Hellier, formerly of this parish, died unexpectedly recently. More details of her funeral to follow.

Trevor Newell died on Tuesday morning. Funeral date to be confirmed.

SUNDAY LUNCH PROJECT, based in St.Denys, would love you to join one of our teams for 4 hours as we do Lunches for the Homeless and poor. Contact Steve 07540229973.

JUSTICE AND PEACE TALK on drones by professor Enemark on Sunday 19th January was a resounding success. The audience of more than 60 attendees learned about the ethics and responsibilities of states using armed drones when trying to resolve conflict. Prof Enemark dealt with a variety of questions with authority, skill and clarity. So well received was the content that enthusiastic discussion extended beyond the scheduled time



Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

You are invited to a **CAFOD update meeting on Saturday 15th February** at St Bede's Church Popley Way Basingstoke RG24 9DX from 10:15am to 12:15pm. At the meeting Lizzie Funnell, Programme Officer for the Middle East will give a talk on CAFOD's work there, and I will give an update on how your generous donations are making a difference to people's lives. Everyone is welcome so please let me know if you are coming by emailing portsmouth@cafod.org.uk or call 01252 329385 . Jo Lewry CPC CAFOD Portsmouth

VERBUM DEI QUIET DAY, 21 March, 10.30 am-4.45 pm – Speak Lord, your servant is listening.

Verbum Dei Retreat Centre: Nunnery Lane, Carisbrooke, Isle of Wight PO30 1YR

Cost is a suggested donation of £10; a simple lunch and tea and coffee is provided. **To book a place or more information contact:** Patricia Yandell (lay missionary with Verbum Dei Family) on 07835948435 or email: patriciam-c@hotmail.co.uk **or** Sister Margarida 07970 083252 email: verbumdei.iow@gmail.com

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.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS NEXT WEEK:
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, 9.30 am – 3.00 pm