

22nd November 2020

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE, YEAR A

'I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me'
(Matt 25:40)

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 (08044 2189)
Parish Secretary: Rachel Brady (023 8055 5470)

Enquiries re the Sacraments:

please make an appointment by email.
Hall Bookings are not being taken at present .

NO PUBLIC MASSES DURING NOVEMBER

SUNDAY MASS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO WATCH ON-LINE AT 10 AM EACH SUNDAY AS USUAL

**The church will be open to drop in for
private prayer on Sundays between 9 – 11 am.
All Covid-19 guidance remains in place in the church.**

Date	Solemnities & Feast days	Mass details & intentions	 <p>SUNDAY'S READINGS 1st Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-12,15-17 Psalm: 23:1-3a, 5-6 2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 15-26,28 Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46</p>  <p>https://www.dropbox.com/s/jg5t4othisom42/Children%27s%20Liturgy%20Video%2022.11.20.mp4?dl=0</p>
Sat 21 Nov	The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	†Iris Vella RIP	
Sun 22 Nov	OUR LORD JESUS CHIRST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE Sunday Mass available from 10 am on: Youtube, Face-book & the Parish Website *Saturday Mass is recorded for Sunday	NO PUBLIC MASS Church open for Private Prayer 9 – 11 am	
Mon 23 Nov	St Clement	NO SERVICE	
Tues 24 Nov	St Andrew Dung-Lac & Companions	NO SERVICE	
Wed 25 Nov	St Catherine of Alexandria	NO SERVICE	
Thurs 26 Nov	Feria	NO SERVICE	
Fri 27 Nov	Feria	NO SERVICE	
*Sat 28 Nov	Our Lady on Saturday	†Ellen Gobbi RIP	
Sun 29 Nov	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B	NO PUBLIC MASS Church open for Private Prayer 9 – 11 am	

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in this Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love You above all things and I passionately desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul so that I may unite myself wholly to You now and forever. Amen

The Parish Bank Account details are:

Name: PRC DTR Immaculate Conception Church
Sort Code: 30-93-04 Account No: 00887995
For donations please give a reference e.g:
ERF = Emergency Relief Fund,
GEN = General Fund (offertory collection), followed
by your gift aid number if you donate in this way.
Thank you for your support and patience at this time

Contacting the parish

The Parish Office is now Closed during lockdown until 4th December. The parish secretary will still be working between home and the parish, so e mails will continue to be responded to. Please use e mail where possible to contact the parish unless you have an urgent matter and need to speak to Fr Antony. Many thanks.
E mail: portswood@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

My dear Friends

Today we are celebrating the feast of *Christ the King*! We often hear Jesus refer to the 'kingdom' which dwells within us. However, in today's gospel there are few, if any, 'spiritual' nuances. He does not mince his words! He gives it to us right between the eyes! It is His mandate to his followers, subjects of His Kingdom:

*For I was hungry and you gave me food,
I was thirsty and you gave me drink,
a stranger and you welcomed me,
naked and you clothed me,
ill and you cared for me,
in prison and you visited me.*



I think you will agree, there is no ambiguity in these statements! Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, came to break the yoke of oppression and injustice. As his disciples, we are mandated to address the economic, material and social plight endured by our brothers and sisters around the world. Within our Catholic Tradition, the *Corporal Works of Mercy* demonstrate the ways in which we are required to respond to the physical needs of the poor by feeding the hungry; visiting the imprisoned; burying the dead; clothing the naked; caring for the sick; sheltering travellers, and giving drink to the thirsty.

Christ the King is a Saviour who has broken, and through our discipleship, continues to break, the chains of social injustice, physical poverty, destitution, greed and evil. The great Lebanese writer Kahlil Gibran attempted to capture this when he wrote:

Jesus never lived a life of fear, nor did He die suffering or complaining.... He lived as a leader; He was crucified as a crusader; He died with a heroism that frightened His killers and tormentors.

Jesus was not a bird with broken wings; He was a raging tempest who broke all crooked wings. He feared not His persecutors nor His enemies. He suffered not before His killers. Free and brave and daring He was. He defied all despots and oppressors... He muted Evil and He choked Treachery.

The vision, strength and courage we all need to try to transform the migrant tragedies we see unfolding in the English Channel and the Mediterranean; the broken and homeless on our streets; the hungry, cold and thirsty; the lonely and imprisoned (and Covid19 restricted!) are echoed in the words of the Prophet Ezekiel: *I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will remove your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you and cause you to walk in my statutes and to carefully observe my ordinances...you will be my people, and I will be your God.*

Remember me as loving you,

Fr. Antony

SECOND COLLECTIONS

THIS SUNDAY, 22nd November: Clergy Training & Vocations



This collection supports the training of students from our diocese to the Priesthood and Diaconate. You can find out more about those training for the priesthood in this diocese on our Diocesan website at the following link:

<https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/priestly-vocations>

You can also read more in the monthly Vocations newsletters which you will find in this newsletter each month. The last two are here for your interest:

October: [https://shoutout.wix.com/so/e8NJOsk9i?cid=8eeb309f-dcf5-](https://shoutout.wix.com/so/e8NJOsk9i?cid=8eeb309f-dcf5-4938-a4a3-1108ca4991af#/main)

[4938-a4a3-1108ca4991af#/main](https://shoutout.wix.com/so/e8NJOsk9i?cid=8eeb309f-dcf5-4938-a4a3-1108ca4991af#/main)

November: <https://shoutout.wix.com/so/7eNLIWw04?cid=8eeb309f-dcf5-4938-a4a3-1108ca4991af#/main>

If you would like to make a donation, please put your offering in an envelope labelled 'Clergy Training & Vocations' and drop it off next time you come to the church.

NEXT SUNDAY, 29th November – Peter's Pence – the Pope's chosen charities

THANK YOU FROM CAFOD for the £293 collected in the parish for the Harvest Appeal and the other donations that were sent directly via the website and internet accounts. Nationally the Harvest appeal achieved approx £45k with about another £15k via texts, DDRs, direct donations. Nationally over the months of the REBUILD AND HEAL APPEAL re Coronavirus around the world, approx £625k has been raised so much good work is achieved around the 63 countries in which Cafod works.

EMERGENCY FOOD SUPPLIES

We are conscious that this pandemic has caused many people various additional struggles.

The parish is here to support you where possible.

If you, or anyone you know, is in difficulty of buying basic food for themselves - and their family –

WE CAN HELP!

Please contact me, Terry Butler on 02380 464632.

(All calls will be treated in the strictest of confidence).

QUIZ CORNER (Answers at bottom of p 7)

1. Where am I? I am the first Roman Catholic Parish Church in the world dedicated to the title; Basilica of Christ the King,
2. Who am I? I was born in 1795 in North Vietnam to a poor family. I was baptized when I was about 15. I continued my Christian education and became a catechist and in 1832 a priest. Emperor Minh Mang I imprisoned me and was released after my congregation saved money to free me. I then changed my name to Andrew Lac, moved to avoid persecution but was arrested again, freed once more by donors and then arrested a third time. This time I was badly tortured and eventually beheaded.
- 3 What am I? ..I am the oldest surviving catholic church in Wales
4. Who said? 'The hottest places in hell are reserved for those who, in a period of moral crisis, maintain their neutrality'.

PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS AND ADVENT

- From the Parish Council and Liturgy Group

CALLING OUR MUSICIANS, SINGERS, FAMILY CHOIRS AND ORCHESTRAS.....

Many of you will have seen 'compilation' video/zoom performances on the TV. Well, we would like to have our IC version of this for the Christmas Carol service, children's liturgy and other events in Advent. While we cannot practically have the 'choir' face to face, we can prepare services in advance, for on line broadcast, subject to COVID restrictions (rather like we could edit in Dennis for Remembrance Sunday). However WE NEED YOUR HELP.



If you are a musician, singer or can get together as a family choir/orchestra to record some music, or if you are an expert in editing, scripting etc please contact the office before 22nd November. Are any of our musical or broadcasting university students coming home for Christmas and could help us? This is an opportunity for anyone in our community, not just our usual choir members.

Also any families who can help us produce a scene from the nativity which we can 'knit together'. If the post lock down restrictions enable us to record in the church we can try that the week of December 5th-13th. You must be happy that your offering will be broadcast and we shall do our best to avoiding breaching broadcasting laws.

Please help us to make Advent and Christmas cheerful and hopeful through celebrating our talents in this way.

Thank you!

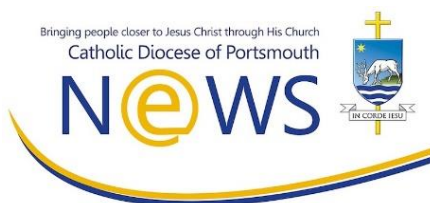
GIFT FROM KATHLEEN MARY WHITE

My sister, Kathy White, was long time active parishioner. Following Vatican 2 : she was the first lay reader, a Eucharistic Minister, member of SVP, catechist. She died just over a year ago aged 99. It has taken a long time for probate to be granted on her Will but this has now been obtained, and she has left £15,000.00 to the parish. This money will be used to make changes in the Hall, so that it becomes a Hub for the community.

Veronica White

NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE

Bishops Weekly Newsletter – E NEWS



Latest round up of news from the Bishop and around the Diocese. Lots of interesting notices, articles, reflections, online events, and videos and other opportunities both locally and further afar. Click on the logo for access.

Day of Prayer & fasting for an end to the Coronavirus Pandemic

Friday 27th November 2020

A full 24 hour timetable of prayer will take place in the Cathedral available by live-stream beginning at 7.30 am. You can join at the following link: <https://www.portsmouthcatholiccathedral.org.uk/live-mass.php>
The Cathedral will also be open to go in for private prayer if you wish to visit for any part of the day. More details and the full timetable will be available to download from the Diocesan website in the next few days.

CATHOLIC BISHOPS' NEWS can be found at: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/news-and-media/>

CATHOLIC NEWSPAPERS FROM AROUND THE UK free online: <http://www.churchpaper.co.uk>

SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL HELP AND SUPPORT

<https://www.southampton.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid19/i-need-help.aspx>

and CITY CORONAVIRUS UPDATE FOR THIS WEEK

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKSOUTHAMPTON/bulletins/2ac511b>

PARISH WEBSITE: Don't forget you can access many resources on the parish website by going to this link.

<https://www.immaculateconception.church/downloads> Go to documents/resources.



The local group of churches around Swaythling and Bassett have organised some activities during Advent and Christmas for which volunteers are needed.

Christmas Lunches

With many people unable to visit family this year we are likely to have more church members celebrating Christmas at home and in a position to connect with those who may be isolated/lonely in our community for the same reason. We need volunteers to deliver flyers around their local area to offer a hot Christmas meal to be delivered on Christmas day to those who are on their own. You can deliver just a handful or more if you are able to. Most people cook more food than is needed and this is an easy way to show love and care to those who may be on their own.

Swaythling 2020 Living Advent Trail

During Advent there will be 24 houses around the Swaythling area which will, each in turn, have a lit Advent/ Christmas display in their front window. A map with numbers 1-24 will be available next week to indicate the location of houses for each day of Advent. The displays will be lit from 5-8pm from the day they go live and each day afterwards until 24th December meaning you can get involved at any time! Each house will have a letter on display in the window – collect all 24 and unscramble them to find a hidden message. Prizes available from the final house!

If you live on any of the Flower roads, Mayfield, Woodcote, Harrison, Harfield, Lanhorn, Copperfield or Portswood High Roads and would like to be one of the 24 houses, please get in touch with the parish office AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Flyer/map available soon to start your daily Advent trail!





DOUBLE THE LOVE CHRISTMAS CAMPAIGN

So much can be asked of us at this time of year. It may be hard to always say yes. Mary said yes to being the Mother of Jesus and as a young, unmarried girl this must have been a terrifying moment for her. Yet her 'yes' brought Jesus into the world and changed lives forever.

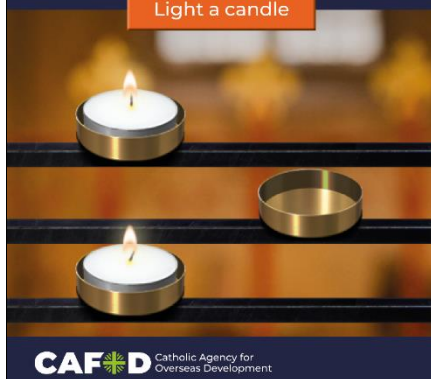
Throughout this year of many challenges, thanks to our generous supporters, Mary's Meals has continued to say yes

to feeding desperately hungry children with a daily meal in a place of education. Now we are delighted to share with you a new opportunity to say yes and provide 43,000 hungry children in Bong County, Liberia, with a life-changing meal at school for a whole year at a cost of just £15.90. From 2nd November until 31st January 2021, donations made to our Double The Love campaign will be matched by the UK government, up to £2 million, so your donation will feed not just one but two children. Please consider setting a place at our [Big Family Christmas dinner table](#) or buying a Christmas gift card on our [website](#). More information on how to support us can be found at www.marysmeals.org.uk/doublethelove. Thank you

Light a candle

Who is in your heart this season of remembrance? Light a candle for a loved one who is deeply missed, or for someone special who is having a tough time. Add a donation to offer comfort and hope to our global family.

Light a candle



CAFOD FUNDRAISING – LIGHT A CANDLE

If you would like to light a candle for someone but cannot get to church to do this, you might be interested in the following from CAFOD.....

Just like lighting a candle in church, you can light a candle on our online votive stand to pray for someone who is in your heart.

Each candle is accompanied by a small donation towards CAFOD's lifesaving work.

When lighting your candle you can share the name of the person you're praying for and add a little message or prayer to appear with your candle. Your candle will stay on the votive stand so you can come back and visit it at any time.

To light a candle and donate, please click the picture.

With your prayers and donations, families around the world will be given hope for a brighter future.

THANK YOU!

CHRISTMAS GIFTS SUPPORTING CHARITIES:

If you are starting to think about Christmas cards and gifts you may be interested in some of the following:

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED (ACN)

www.acnuk.org/giftsoffait Select gifts for your family & friends to change lives this Christmas, from hot meals to trauma counselling, support for widows and orphans to transport for a priest or sister.

CAFOD

https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/?utm_source=staffemailfooter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=World-Gifts-2020 World Gifts are a range of virtual charity gifts for friends and family, which help transform the lives of families living in poverty

PAX CHRISTI

<https://paxchristi.org.uk/shop/> Christmas cards and small gifts to support the work of Pax Christi

POET'S CORNER

FALSE ALARM

My wife and I had had a row: were at each other's throats:
And as we weren't on speaking terms we wrote each other notes.
Though childish it was hard to find a chance to put things right,
With me at work throughout the day, while she worked half the night.
My clock-alarm had broken down, which left me in a fix:
I wrote my wife a note to say, 'Please wake me up at six.'
I woke next morn at half- past- eight, with horror and with shock,
And on my pillow lay a note, 'wake up: it's six o'clock.'

Dennis B. Wilson



SAFETY GUIDANCE FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS CRIB

The coronavirus pandemic has had a huge impact on the way we conduct our lives, with many new rules and restrictions governing our health and safety. One area of concern is your Christmas Crib. Although there are several weeks to go before Christmas, you will need to start planning now. You will need to begin with a thorough risk assessment to ensure your Crib is COVID-secure. Here is some further guidance:



1. A maximum of 4 shepherds only are permitted in the Crib.
2. Shepherds must wear facemasks (unless exempt) and strictly observe social distancing (2m or 1m+ with mitigations).
3. Jesus, Mary and Joseph form a family bubble and thus may be placed together.
4. The ox and the ass need Declaration of Non-Contamination Certificates, obtainable from the Department of Agriculture.
5. The Three Wise Men, since they come from a non Schengen Area, will be subject to a 14-day quarantine, whether or not they have tested negative for Covid.
6. The straw, moss, palm branches and other decorations must be disinfected, with hands washed for 20 seconds after handling.
7. Angels flying over the Crib are now forbidden, owing to the aerosol effect produced by the batting of wings.
8. Shepherds are permitted provided they are not more than 70 years old or suffering from underlying medical conditions or in another vulnerable category.
9. The inn, along with other businesses in the hospitality sector, is closed until further notice.
10. For 2020 only, a Pontius Pilate should be added to the Crib to explain to authorised participants the protocols for washing and sanitisation of hands.

DO PLEASE SHARE A COPY OF THIS NEWSLETTER with other parishioners who may not have access to the internet. If anyone without internet access would like a copy sent to them each week while we do not have regular access to the church, please let the parish office know.

QUIZ ANSWERS: (1) Our Lord Christ the King Church In Cincinnati, Ohio (2) St Andrew Dung of Vietnam (3) St Peter's Church, Roath in Cardiff opened in 1868. (4) Dante Alighieri