

2nd February 2020

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD, YEAR A

"....for my eyes have seen the salvation which you have made ready in the sight of the nations; a light of revelation for the gentiles and glory for your people Israel " (Luke: 30-32)

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, 10.30 am after morning Mass

Rosary: Wednesdays, starting 25 mins before Mass

Hall Bookings: portswood@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Sun 02 Feb The Presentation of the Lord

Mon 03 Feb St Blaise
Tue 04 Feb Feria
Wed 05 Feb St Agatha

Thu 06 Feb St Paul Miki & Companions
Fri 07 Feb Feria
Sat 08 Feb Our Lady on Saturday

Sun 09 Feb Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8.30am †Muriel Thipthorpe

10.30am -

----- No Service

10 am -

9am -

11 am Funeral, Trevor Newell

12 noon Funeral, Valerie Youds

11.30 am Funeral, Maureen Weir

10 am †Anna Zepler

8.30 am †Sr Kate Coombs

10.30 am -



Today's readings

1st Reading – Malachi 3:1-4

Psalms – 24: 7-10

2nd Reading – Hebrews 2:14-18

Gospel – Luke 2:22-40

WELCOME to our Masses this weekend. Please join us in the hall after both Masses for tea, coffee and the CAFOD cake sale.

PARISH OPEN MEETING INVITATION

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.

REMINDERS FOR THIS WEEK

• Changes to some weekday Masses/times

This is due to a number of funerals in the church this week – see top of newsletter

• Liturgy Group Meeting

Tuesday 4th February, 7.30 pm, St Michael's Room

• Parish Council meeting

Wednesday 5th February, 7.30 pm St Michael's Room

• First Holy Communion Session

Next Sunday 9th February, 9.15 am in the hall

• Parish Open Meeting

Next Sunday 9th February, 3 – 5 pm in the hall

VOCATIONS

"Are you ready for a living encounter with the Lord in his people?" Are you being called by the Lord to serve Him as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life? Contact Fr John Cook, tel 01329 318869 or e mail vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

The following is a short reflection written by a Salesian, Sr Bridget O'Connell, on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, a celebration which occurs 40 days after the Nativity. The feast is also known as Candlemas Day. Candlemas day occurs on 2nd of February and it marks the half way point between the shortest day and the spring equinox.

No matter what generation we belong to, our calling as followers of Jesus is to a new way of seeing and to be a blessing to one another through our presence.

An old rabbi once asked his students how they could tell when the night had ended and the day had begun.

"Could it be", asked one of the students, "when you can see an animal in the distance and tell whether it's a sheep or a dog"

"No", answered the rabbi.

Another asked, "is it when you can look at a tree in the distance and tell whether its a fig tree or a peach tree?"

"No", answered the rabbi.

"Then when is it?" the students asked.

"It's when you can look on the face of any man or woman and see that it is your sister or brother. Because if you cannot see this, it is still night. "

MONEY LAST WEEK:

Main Collection:

Gift Aid Envelopes inc tax reclaim - £137.50

Loose plate collection - £360.05

Standing orders - £1100.51

Second Collection

Last week: Cathedral, inc tax reclaim - £411.15

This week: Roof Fund

Next week - Racial Justice

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.

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.

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.

NATIONAL REPAIR CAFÉ EVENT

Saturday 15th February from 10.30 - 1pm at St Denys Community Centre, Priory Rd. Bring along your electronic, electric, sewing and jewellery items for repair.... you'll be amazed at how skillful these repairers are!

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.

INVITATION FROM BISHOP PHILIP TO ALL ENGAGED

COUPLES Are you getting married in 2020. Bishop Philip would like to invite you to the Cathedral in Portsmouth to a St Valentine's day Breakfast. It will be on Saturday 15th February at 9.15am in the Cathedral Centre, Bishop Crispian Way, PO1 3HG. After Breakfast there will be a short presentation followed by a short Service of Blessing in which each couple will be blessed individually and Bishop Philip will also bless engagement rings.. If you would like to go along please contact the parish office for a form and further details.



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

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.

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

YEAR OF THE WORD



The Pope has designated this year to encourage the church community to explore and understand the scriptures more deeply. Why not download a bible App on your phone? There are lots of free versions and it's much easier to look up references to anything of interest to you.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS NEXT WEEK:

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, 9.30 am - 3.00 pm