

21th November 2021

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

"Yes, I am a king. I was born for this, I came into the world for this: to bear witness to the truth; and all who are on the side of truth listen to my voice. John 18: 37

Immaculate Conception Church

Within the Pastoral Area of Southampton East
346 Portswood Road, Southampton, SO17 3SB

Tel: (023) 8055 5470

Website: www.immaculateconception.church

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Twitter: @icportswood

Parish Priest: Fr Antony Gatt

Hospital Chaplaincy: (023 8120 8517)

University Chaplain: Sr Emelliana Silva (07426 000213)

Safeguarding Officer: Pat Saunders

Parish Secretary: Rachel Brady (023 8055 5470)

Confessions: Saturdays, 10.30 am (after Mass)

Hall Bookings: contact the parish secretary
(currently available for regular bookings only)

ALL MASSES ADVERTISED BELOW ARE AVAILABLE TO JOIN LIVE, ONLINE AT
www.churchservices.tv/portswoodchur

| Date | Solemnities & Feast days | Mass Times | Mass details & intentions |
|-------------|--|---------------------|---|
| Sun 21 Nov | OUR LORD JESUS CHIRST, KING OF THE UNVIERSE | 8.30 am 10.30 am | † Sir David Amess RIP - |
| Mon 22 Nov | St Cecilia | - | No Mass |
| Tues 23 Nov | St Clement | 10.00 am | †Sir David Amess RIP |
| Wed 24 Nov | St Andrew Dung-lac & Companions | 10.00 pm | FUNERAL - Michael Desmond RIP |
| Thur 25 Nov | St Catherine of Alexandria | 10.00 am | †Cecilia Rendall RIP |
| Fri 26 Nov | Feria | 10.00 am | - |
| Sat 27 Nov | First Mass of Sunday (& Annual Bereavement Mass) | 10.00 am | †Godfrey Houedikin RIP |
| Sun 28 Nov | FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT | 8.30 am 10.30 am | †Mavis Rosario RIP †Clementina Adebayo RIP |



SUNDAY'S READINGS

1st Reading:

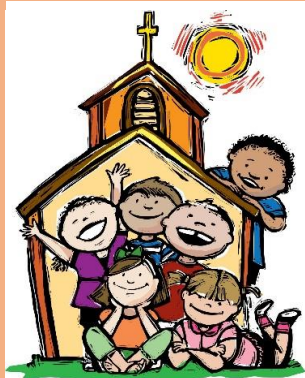
Daniel 7:13-14

Psalm: 92:1-2,5

2nd Reading:

Apocalypse 1:5-8

Gospel: John 18:33-37



CHILDREN'S LITURGY IS RETURNING TO 10.30 AM SUNDAY Mass

The classes will return on **Sunday 28th November**.

This is for children from 4 -7 years old up to first communion.

Under 4s are welcome but must be accompanied by an adult or older sibling.

There will be a short meeting for parents after 10.30 mass THIS weekend. This is to go over a few details regarding keeping everyone safe while we are dealing with covid.

If you would be in interested in joining the team and helping , Sue and David would love to hear from you. Please speak to them or the church office.



TEA AND COFFEE AFTER MASSES.

Please join us in the hall for refreshments **after the 10.30 am Sunday Mass this weekend**



BEREAVEMENT MASS

Saturday 27th November, 10 am

Annual Mass for those who have suffered bereavements, especially over this last year.

PARISH CHARITY CHRISTMAS CARDS NOW ON SALE

Christmas Cards beautifully made by Sue Deadman are now available to buy in the Bookshop before and after weekend Masses. All proceeds to parish charities. Also in the bookshop are Advent calendars, Advent candles and a range of other religious items/gifts.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS NEXT WEEK: Tuesday & Thursday, 9.30 am – 4 pm

A REFLECTION ON THIS SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

May Thy Kingdom Come!

Jesus answered, "My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom did belong to this world, my attendants would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not here." John 18:36

Today, on the final Sunday of our Church year, we celebrate the glorious Solemnity of Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. Next Sunday begins Advent. On this day we profess the profound truth that our Lord is King! He is the King of all things. He is King of the Universe. And He is King of Heaven and all spiritual realities. However, in the Gospel passage quoted above, Jesus responds to Pilate who was questioning Him about whether or not He was the King of the Jews. Jesus is clear that He is a King, but that His Kingdom does not belong to this world. So where is His Kingdom?

We can look at Jesus' statement from two points of view. First of all, if Jesus would have claimed that He were an earthly king, one with civil authority, then Pilate would have judged Him to be guilty of trying to overthrow the Roman authority. This would be unlawful and would be punishable by death. In that case, Jesus could have been found legally guilty of violating civil law.

But Jesus was purely innocent. He was morally perfect in every way, and that included His obedience to all legitimate civil law. But Jesus was a King. He was The King of all Kings! Therefore, so as to exercise His Kingship, He declared that His Kingdom was not of this world. In other words, it was not a Kingdom that was in competition with the Roman authorities or any other civil authority. To that, Pilate did not know how to respond.

Today and always, God desires that His glorious Kingdom reign in every way. God begins by reigning in our souls. He invites us to invite Him to enter in and take control of our lives. He desires to be the ruler of every passion, desire, thought and action that is ours. When this happens, His Kingdom is firmly established within us.

It also needs to be pointed out that Jesus wants His Kingdom to grow. First, it must grow in the minds and wills of all people. But from there, He wants every person to then work to conform every part of our society to the governance of Him as King. This means that as the hearts of civil leaders are converted, they will be called to enact laws that fully support and build up God's Kingdom on earth. It means that business leaders, as they convert, are called to govern their businesses in accord with the will of God so that their businesses contribute to the establishment of God's Kingdom here and now. It means that as the leaders of our schools, sports programs, social programs and the like all invite Jesus to reign in their hearts as King, The King of the Universe will then guide

them to conform all of their endeavors to His will and to the continued upbuilding of His Kingdom.

The first duty of the Christian, in regard to the governance of every aspect of society, is not to impose God's law from without, as a ruthless authoritarian would. Rather, it is to convert minds and hearts so that God's governance comes forth from within. As God's Kingdom is established in the lives of His people, all objectively grave evils embedded within our earthly laws must be overturned. For example, the legalization of abortion stands out as perhaps the greatest of moral evils, since it involves the taking of a completely innocent life. This and countless other immoral earthly laws must be replaced by the laws of God as hearts and minds are converted to His Truth.

Reflect, today, upon your duty to help bring forth the Kingdom of God here and now. Start by seeing your duty to allow God's Kingdom to grow within you and your family. From there, be open to the many ways that God wants to use you to help others do the same. As you do, do not be afraid to work toward the external establishment of God's Kingdom in all that you do and in all that falls within your responsibility. Jesus is King, and He desires to reign everywhere. Cooperate with Him, and His Kingdom will indeed come.

A reflection for the The Solemnity of Jesus Christ,
King of the University, Year B
My Catholic Life (www.mycatholic.life)

PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE E NEWS

<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue344?e=34c55a6ce>

TUESDAY COFFEE MORNING EVERY WEEK AFTER 10 AM MASS

All welcome. We are conscious that there are many senior members of our community who live alone or have felt isolated over the last 18 months

and in particular we would like to encourage you to pop in for a tea/coffee. A friendly welcome awaits you. If you have any queries, please see either Susie Warwick or Fiona Thompson after Mass at the weekends. Otherwise, just turn up!



CHRISTMAS CAKES



Traditional, rich fruit cakes made.

Large cake - £20

Small cake - £12

If you would like to order one please contact: Lesley Newman on 07504 455925/02380 476989. Please leave message/text if no reply.

SECOND COLLECTIONS:-

TODAY, SUNDAY 21ST NOVEMBER

- Maintaining our extra cleaning through Covid

NEXT SUNDAY 28TH NOVEMBER

- Winter Pastoral Outreach

For all donations given in ANY envelope – purple, yellow, brown or your own, PLEASE MAKE IT CLEAR WHAT YOUR DONATION IS FOR, so that we can ensure it goes to the fund to which it was intended, ie General Fund (Offertory collection) or the name of the second collection you are donating to. **If you are registered with the parish for gift aid, please also ensure your gift aid number is given on the envelope.**

The Parish Bank Account details are:

Name: PRCDTR Immaculate Conception Church, Sort Code: 30-93-04, Account No: 00887995

THE MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE TEAM would like to invite you to their next Breakthrough Workshop, which will be held on **Saturday 27th November** at the Church of the Holy Family, Southampton.



The workshop is for anyone: spouses, clergy, singles, grandparents, friends and/or family interested in supporting married couples at a time where the pressure and stress on family life is enormous. As well as spouses, it would be great to see parish priests, and catechists, due to their regular contact with families. For further details and to register, please contact Aba Shields: marriagefamilylife@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

STELLA MARIS/SEAFARERS

CHRISTMAS TREE APPEAL

2021 Approximately 400,000 seafarers around the world will continue working over Christmas separated from family and friends. Theirs is a tough, relentless life with long hours, mostly noisy, lonely, dangerous and exhausting and often working in extreme temperatures. Whatever we get for Christmas, it is highly likely it came to this country by sea. Please consider showing your support by donating a gift to this year's Christmas Tree Appeal. Details can be found on the noticeboard in the porch or attached to the e mail with this newsletter.



HELP WITH CLEANING AFTER 10.30 AM SUNDAY MASS

We would very much welcome offers of more help to clean up around the church after the 10.30 am Mass on Sundays, so that we can set up a rota requiring a commitment of no more than one Sunday a month per volunteer. This is a fairly quick, easy task and the more helpers we have the easier it is on everyone! If you are willing to help, please let Mary Gobbi or Fr Antony know.

NEW FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME



Our next First Holy Communion programme will be beginning in February. If you would like to register your child to begin this programme please contact the parish office as soon as possible to request a registration form by e mail, or pick one up at the back of the church. Please return all forms, copies of baptism certificates and payment to the parish office before 31st December 2021.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Please see separate leaflet advertising all our Advent and Christmas Services this year, attached with this newsletter e mail or available in the church porch.

ST ANNES CATHOLIC SCHOOL CONSULTATION ADMISSIONS ARRANGEMENTS SEPTEMBER 2023

As required by regulations the governing body of St Anne's Catholic School, Southampton, SO15 2WZ will be conducting a consultation on its proposed admissions arrangements for the school year 2023 – 2024. The consultation period runs for a minimum period of 6 weeks from 17/11/2021 until 29/12/2021.

Please see our website below for further information and to review the proposed admissions arrangements:

https://www.st-annes.uk.com/web/admissions_consultation/254331

Any feedback is welcome and should be emailed to info@st-annes.uk.com with the subject 'Admissions Guidance 2023-24 Consultation'.

St Anne's Admissions Team