

27th December 2020 - 3rd January 2021

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY & THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD, YEAR B

'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 2:30-32)

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 (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 .

BOOKING ADVISED IF YOU WISH TO ATTEND MASS

E MAIL: icmassbookings@gmail.com

TEL: 08002471372

ALL MASSES AVAILABLE TO WATCH LIVE ON CHURCH SERVICES TV

<https://www.churchservices.tv/portswoodchur>

Date	Solemnities & Feast days	Mass Time	Mass details & intentions
Sun 27 th Dec	THE HOLY FAMILY of JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH	10.00 am	†Alec Palmer RIP
		5.30 pm	Deceased members of Gobbi & O'Brien families
Mon 28 Dec	The Holy Innocents	-	NO SERVICE
Tues 29 Dec	St Thomas of Canterbury	10.00 am	Deceased relatives & friend of the White family
Wed 30 Dec	Liturgy of the Day	-	NO SERVICE
Thurs 31 Dec	Liturgy of the Day	10.45 pm	Online only - Live on Church Services TV
Fri 01 Jan	Mary, the Holy Mother of God NEW YEAR'S DAY	11.00 am	Martha Ketta
Sat 02 Jan	Ss Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen	10.00 am	†Patricia Wilson RIP
Sun 03 Jan	SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS	10.00 am	-
		5.30 pm	†John Nurser RIP
Mon 04 Jan	Liturgy of the Day	-	NO SERVICE
Tues 05 Jan	Liturgy of the Day	10.00 am	†Annabel & Roland Surlis RIP
Weds 06 Jan	THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	-	NO SERVICE
Thurs 07 Jan	Liturgy of the Day	-	NO SERVICE
Fri 08 Jan	Liturgy of the Day	-	NO SERVICE
Sat 09 Jan	Liturgy of the Day	10.00 am	†Kevin McGloin RIP
Sun 10 Jan	THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD	10.00 am	†Cecilia Randall RIP
		5.30 pm	-

SUNDAY READINGS



27th December

1st Reading: Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3

Psalms: 105:1-9

2nd Reading: Heb's 11:8,11-12,17-19

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

3rd January

1st Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalms: 72:1-2,7-8,10-13

2nd Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

****CHRISTMAS DAY CHILDREN'S LITURGY VIDEO****

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/8wmklbu31j7jw5z/Children%27s%20Liturgy%20Video%20Christmas%202020.mp4?dl=0>



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

My dear Friends:

A Blessed, Joy, and Peace-Filled Christmas to you all! I think you will agree, our experience of this Christmas of 2020 is indeed a unique one! Indeed, a Christmas filled with challenges, but also filled with amazing opportunities for growth and change!

Today, we light the fifth candle on our Advent Candle, the symbol of Jesus, our Light, and the Light of the World. At the beginning of this Advent, I told you the story of the four Advent candles, *Faith*, *Joy* and *Peace*, whose flames and lights had been extinguished, overcome by circumstances and events. However, if you remember, it was *Hope* which rekindled their flames and restored them as guiding beacons in humankind's journey through life.

Today, we celebrate the feast of Christ's birth! Tonight's reading, from the prophet Isaiah, captures our global journey through, and our response to, this pandemic. What is our response to the trials and tribulations of this pandemic?

*The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom
a light has shone.
You have brought them abundant joy
and great rejoicing,
...For the yoke that burdened them...
you have smashed, as on the day of Midian.
...For a child is born to us, a son is given us;
upon his shoulder dominion rests.
He will be called, Wonderful Counsellor,
Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace...
...The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!*

Jesus is the wreath, and the foundation (*hessed/Gentle Mercy*) in which we are rooted and grounded. We become His 'Advent Candles' of *Hope, Faith, Joy and Peace*. It is His Love burning, and aflame, within US which is the inexhaustible source of light and healing which we carry into the darkness of despair, oppression, woundedness and brokenness. The five flames on this Advent wreath, *Hope, Faith, Joy and Peace*, burn as ONE as we receive that same Jesus in the Eucharist, as we become one with him both in Spiritual Communion, and here in the church. As these five flames of God's Love are *born* within us, then, like Mary, we become a *God-Bearer* (*Theotokos/Θεοτόκος*), to our world. It is then that ever wound we heal; every reconciling bridge we construct; every person we affirm; every darkness we illumine; every fear we dispel; and, every hope we restore, we become the *Tikkun Olam* (תיקון עולם/ 'Repair the World'), Repairer of God's World.

So, my dear friends, amid these challenges of COVID19, be filled with the strength, confidence, *Hope, Faith, Joy and Peace* of the God who love us, and walks with us! As I once again wish you a loving, Joy and Peace-Filled Christmas, I leave you with the words of Emmet Fox:

*There is no difficulty that enough love will not conquer;
no disease that enough love will not heal;
no door that enough love will not open;
no gulf that enough love will not bridge;
no wall that enough love will not throw down;
no sin that enough love will not redeem...
It makes no difference how deeply seated may be the trouble;
how hopeless the outlook; how muddled the tangle; how great the mistake.
A sufficient realization of love will dissolve it all.
If only you could love enough you would be
the happiest and most powerful being in the world...*

Remember me as Loving you
Fr. Antony



24 HOUR LIVE CHURCH

You can now watch all our Masses and Services

Live at Church Services TV using the link below. All services will also be recorded and remain online for at least 7 days. Additionally you can visit the church online at any time as the cameras are on 24 hours/day.

<https://www.churchservices.tv/portswoodchur>

SECOND COLLECTIONS

THIS SUNDAY, 27th December – Clergy Assistance (Diocesan sick and retired priests)

NEXT SUNDAY, 3rd January –

CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS DAY COLLECTIONS

The Christmas offerings are traditionally for the parish priest. The priests rely and depend on the Christmas and Easter offerings to support them personally during the year. Apart from this they are only paid a small allowance from the diocese. Please be generous with your offering, as they are, with their time and service to the parish. Thank you. If you are able to make a donation it can be put in a basket as you leave after Mass, or you can donate on line at:

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/southampton-immaculate-conception-clergy-christmas-collection>

BBC BROADCAST OF MIDNIGHT MASS

24th December, BBC1, 11.45 pm Live from Clifton Cathedral, the RC Cathedral of St Peter & St Paul in Bristol. Led by the Bishop of Clifton, the Rt Rev Declan Lang and the cathedral choir.

CORRECTION TO TIME OF BOXING DAY MASS

Please note that Mass on Boxing Day is at 10.30 am (not 10 am as given in the last newsletter)

A SHORT COURSE IN UNDERSTANDING THE MASS

Monday evenings, 7 to 9 pm, 11th Jan to 15th Feb

Offered by the Diocesan Formation for Mission Team to refresh our understanding and deepen our love for the Mass. This course will be especially helpful to catechists, readers and parents of First Holy Communion children, but it is open to everyone. Sign up for the course here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZwof-mrpjltEtDVpuf54s7y-BFuAraTIVe6>

MORE STREET PASTORS NEEDED IN SOUTHAMPTON

For further information please see the video below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mOoQyHjuVDs&t=4s>

QUIZ CORNER (Answers on the other side!)

1. Where am I? The country where Balthazar came from
2. Who am I? According to a 19th Century story, I am the Fourth Wiseman who kept 'missing Jesus' on my travels because I sold my gift (a blue sapphire) to help others.
3. What am I? The oldest depiction of Mary showing her with Jesus on her lap
4. Who said? "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit....Lord, do not hold this sin against them"

DIOCESAN PLANNING



The Bishop is seeking views and opinions of people in the diocese to inform his long term planning. You are encouraged to complete the online survey.

TO MAKE A BOOKING TO COME TO MASS:

- Send an email request to icmassbookings@gmail.com . stating:
 - Your name and address.
 - The total number in your household /bubble coming to Mass (let us know if there are under 10s).
 - The preference for the day of the week, and mass time you wish to attend. (If you can give a second choice that will help if there are too many requests for one Mass time).
 - Whether there is a special circumstance (e.g. wheelchair access, working hours)
- Or telephone 0800 2461372 and leave a message. We provide this option for those who have no access to the internet. If you have internet access, please email us.



THE BIRTH OF Christ

ST ANNES SCHOOL ADMISSIONS ARRANGEMENTS CONSULTATION

St Anne's School is holding a consultation on its admissions arrangements for September 2022. Please see www.st-annes.uk.com and then go to admissions. The consultation will run until 31st January 2021.

FROM JOHN & MARYVONNE TIPPER....

Dear friends, John & I wish you all a truly happy & peaceful Christmas, and a New Year filled with optimism! We are in Marie-Claire's bubble & will spend Christmas day with her, David, Isaac, Harvey & Elliott (we can come home if it all gets too much!) Thinking of you all with great affection.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED 24TH DEC – 6TH JANUARY.

If you have an urgent matter during this time, please contact Fr Antony but otherwise, where possible, it would be very much appreciated if you could e mail the office for a reply or wait to phone when we re-open on 6th January.

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.

PARISH BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS

Name: PRCDTR Immaculate Conception Church
Sort code: 30-93-04
Account no: 00887995

For donations: please give a reference followed by your gift aid number if you donate in this way. Eg: GEN = General Fund (offertory collections)
ERF = Emergency Relief Fund

QUIZ ANSWERS: (1) Arabia (2) Artaban. (3) the Roman Priscilla catacombs -middle of the second century. (4) St Stephen the first Martyr

