

18th October 2020

TWENTY-NINETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

'I arm you that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun that, apart from me, all is nothing
(Isaiah 45:5-6)

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 TO ATTEND MASS

PLEASE NOTE due to current government guidelines, available capacity in the church is limited to 40 persons / 14 households except Saturday when it is 24.

Therefore, attendance at mass is advised through the BOOKABLE SYSTEM

Details of how to book a place for Holy Mass are on the last page of this newsletter and on the parish website.

Sun 18 Oct	10 am	29th Sunday in Ordinary Time Sunday Mass available from 10 am on: Youtube, Face-book & the Parish Website *Saturday Mass is recorded for Sunday	Kathy White RIP	 <p>SUNDAY'S READINGS 1st Reading: Isaiah 45:1,4-6 Psalm: 95 (96):1,3-5,7-10 2nd Reading: 1 Thess 1:1-5 Gospel: Matthew 22:15-21</p>  <p>https://www.dropbox.com/s/pxsp9f1aklpi73m/Children%27s%20Liturgy%20Video%2018.10.20.mp4?dl=0</p>
	5.30 pm		NO SERVICE	
Mon 19 Oct	—	Ss John de Brebeuf, Isaac Jogues & Companions	NO SERVICE	
Tues 20 Oct	10 am	Feria	Gretta Andrews RIP	
Wed 21 Oct	—	Feria	NO SERVICE	
Thurs 22 Oct	—	St John Paul II	NO SERVICE	
Fri 23 Oct	—	St John of Capestrano	NO SERVICE	
Sat 24 Oct	10 am	St Anthony Claret	Gwen Durkin RIP	
Sun 25 Oct	10 am	30th Sunday Ordinary Time	Catherine White RIP	
	5.30 pm		-	

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 open on Tues, Weds and Thurs, 9.30 am – 4 pm. Please make contact during these hours wherever possible. For non-urgent matters please send an email to

portswood@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Unless it is an emergency, please keep calls/emails to a minimum on Mondays as this is Fr Antony's day off.

My dear Friends

Jesus...came to make the human heart a temple, and the soul an altar, and the mind a priest.
(Kahlil Gibran)

I hope you have had a positive and creative week! If it has been tough and challenging, try to remember that each day can give birth to a new and better beginning!

Today's Gospel is one we have often heard: smooth, fork-tongued, civil and religious politicians trying to verbally entrap Jesus with, and in, his own words. Jesus replies, 'render to Caesar what is Caesar's, and render to God what is God's.

No doubt, there are multiple interpretations and applications of Jesus' words to civil and religious leadership and law. However, I think this gospel has another interesting facet! As a deacon, I remember making out baptism certificates. When I had finished them, I used to place each certificate into the parish seal. This seal was made from two rounded pieces of metal, engraved with the name and image of the church and parish. When I pushed down on the seal's large, brass handle, a crisp embossed image, and name of the church, appeared on the certificate. There was no ink. The seal created the image from what was engraved, etched, into it. I think the same thing could apply to each one of us in our relationship to God and the world!

If we look at the people in today's Gospel, the religious and political figures of Jesus' day, what had been etched, engraved, into their psyches/brains by culture, tradition, political and religious persuasion (often referred to as 'socialisation and conditioning'), they *replicated* or *defended* by 'embossing' every daily scenario with the engraved/etched image in their psyches. To a large extent, we, ourselves, sometimes do the same thing! There are times when people are possessed by a *righteous passion* which blinds them to God's love, his compassion, and his forgiveness. The 'other' does not fit in with the standard, acceptable ethos of the group, so s/he is undermined, marginalised and destroyed. This was the ploy of the 'friendly' talkers in today's Gospel.

The great Lebanese poet, Gibran, expresses this very beautifully in the words, *Jesus... came to make the human heart a temple, and the soul an altar, and the mind a priest*. In other words, in each of our unique love stories with God, Jesus wants to etch, engrave, the qualities of God's love, compassion, peace, justice, and forgiveness, into our hearts, so that every word that leaves our mouths, every action we do, will be embossed with *Father's Seal* of Divine Love and Presence.

Next time we look at the embossed head on a coin, or certificate, perhaps we can also reflect on the embossed words which have just left our lips, or the embossed actions motivated by what is etched on our minds....do they resemble the characters in today's Gospel... have our hearts been transformed into temples, our souls into altars and our minds, into God's priests?

Remember me as loving you,

Fr. Antony

SECOND COLLECTIONS

THIS SUNDAY, 18th October: World Missions

<https://missio.org.uk/what-is-world-mission-sunday/>

Missio is the Pope's chosen charity for mission. Missio works around the world providing mission diocese with the essential support they need to become self sufficient. Your donations go to support churches, hospitals, schools and vocations in countries where the Church is new, young or poor. There will be collection buckets after Mass or you can donate via the website at the following link:

<https://missio.org.uk/donate/>



NEXT SUNDAY, 25th October: Catholic Communications

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/>

This collection supports the work of the Catholic Communications Network (CCN) which is the media office of the Bishop's Conference of England and Wales which we have been advertising in the newsletter each week – see p4). CCN seeks to promote the Gospel through the media on current issues. It provides up to date news releases which you can sign up to receive (here is this week's <https://mailchi.mp/cbcew/230320-1183625?e=d8f421addf>), features and podcasts and information from the Bishops Conference on national matters, the public profile of the Church and its teaching. There will be collection buckets after Mass in which to leave donations.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION DATES OCTOBER 2020

Several of our First Holy Communion children have now made their First Holy Communion and more will be making theirs each weekend this month. Please be reminded. Please pray for them and their families. This will affect some of the normal seating arrangements but we will be in touch to advise you if this impacts upon you.

The next dates when First Holy Communion will take place are:

- Sunday 18th October, 10.00 am - 3 families
- Sunday 25th October, 10.00 am (half term) 4 families
- Sunday 25th October, 5.30 pm – 1 family
- Tuesday 27th October, 10.00 am (half term)- 1/2 families



TUESDAY 27th OCTOBER is the 53rd anniversary of the Abortion Act being passed in England and Wales. Since 1967 over nine million babies have lost their lives to abortion.

Millions of women and men have also had to deal with the suffering which so often follows an abortion. Please join us in praying and fasting for the end of abortion in this country on Tuesday 27th October. For Post Abortion help and to support Pro-Life counselling see; www.goodcounselnetwork.com



BISHOPS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER – E NEWS

Bringing people closer to Jesus Christ through His Church
Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth



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.

USE OF THE HALL FOR EXTRA SEATS AT MASS

The recorded Mass (recorded on Saturday) is now being shown on the screen in the hall, whilst Mass takes place in the church. Following this recorded mass, the Holy Eucharist is distributed by Fr Antony in the hall for those attending this Mass, once the 'live' Sunday 10 am mass has been completed in the Church. Bookings for the regular Sunday 10 am Mass will then include allocations to seating in the hall when seats in the church have all been taken. We are currently waiting to have Church Services TV installed in the church which will enable us to show live Mass in the hall. Until then we are piloting this system using our recorded service.

If you are able to volunteer as a steward in the hall or with the showing of the Youtube recording on the screen, please e mail icmassbookings@gmail.com

CONGRATULATIONS TO

- **Providence Namata** on her appointment at the beginning of this term as Head Girl at St Annes.
- **all our young people who have moved on recently to their next stage of education – University, 6th form or apprenticeships.** We would really like to you let us know where you are and what you are studying towards and any exam results you are proud of. We want to promote the achievements of our young parishioners as you are very important to our parish community.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SR SIOBHAN BOYLE Sr Siobhan celebrated her final profession into the Community of the Daughters of Wisdom, based in Romsey on Thursday 15th October. We pray that she will be filled with the spirit of joy, hope and love as she seeks to witness to the Gospel.

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/2a43187>

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.

QUIZ CORNER (Answers at bottom of p 6)

1. Where am I? I am one of the oldest monasteries in the world. In the Coptic tradition, I was founded in 356 AD about 334 kilometres south east of Cairo
2. Who am I? I am the third Abbess of Romsey Abbey. The Abbey is named after St Mary and myself. According to tradition, one night when I went to read at matins, the light blew out. However, I held up my hand and light streamed from it for me to read by.
3. What am I? I am the combined symbol of X and P being the first two letters of the word Christ in Greek. I am often found on the altar and on vestments.
4. Who said? 'Freedom consists not in doing what we like, but in having the right to do what we ought.'

SPECIAL SERVICES IN NOVEMBER: THE MONTH OF ALL SAINTS AND ALL SOULS



Due to COVID 19 social distancing rules, and not withstanding any changes in those rules, the following adaptations are being made to some of our traditional November events. We hope these changes keep to the spirit of remembrance and celebration of lives lived. As we do not as yet have a live stream facility, we will be using the Saturday recorded mass for Sunday to mark these special occasions. Please can you make every effort to pass on this information to fellow parishioners who may not have the internet. Thank you all for your support and understanding.

- **Annual Visit for Blessing of the Graves at Stoneham Cemetery**
This year due to Covid and social gathering rules, Fr Antony will make a personal visit to the cemetery to bless Fr Lynch's grave and offer a special blessing for our loved ones who are buried in this cemetery. If you have loved ones or know of fellow parishioners buried at South Stoneham, please send an email/note to the office **by November 1st** with the following information. Father Antony will read out their names as part of this visit.
First Name, Surname and relationship to yourself if appropriate
E.g. Mary and John Smith: parents of Alice and Brian Smith
Catherine and Joseph Brown- parishioners buried at South Stoneham.
- **Annual Mass for the recently Bereaved – Saturday 14th November**
At this Mass we will remember those who have died in the last twelve months at the 1000 recorded mass. Their names will be read out as part of the usual Saturday recorded mass and candles will be lit by Fr Antony in their memory. This year, unfortunately we are unable to make specific invitations because of our limited space in the church. However, as this is a recorded Mass, we hope that bereaved families will be able to watch it on Youtube the following day.
- **Remembrance Weekend 7th/8th November**
On Saturday November 7th, we will record a special mass for Remembrance weekend. If you have any loved ones who should be added to the roll of honour do let us know **before 1st November**. We will ensure that the Sunday 1000 service finishes by 1045 so that parishioners who so desire can return home in time to watch the Cenotaph service on the television. At the evening mass on Sunday 8th November we will read the roll of honour and say the Act of Commitment.

HOME MADE CHRISTMAS CAKES



(Not iced/decorated)

- 5lb Rich fruit cake £20
- Smaller Rich fruit cake £12

If you would like to buy one of Lesley's Christmas cakes, please contact her by e mail at lesleynewman47@gmail.com or tel/text 07504455925 for further details.

ONLINE COURSES FOR ADULTS (Diocesan Formation For Mission Team)

The Sacrament of Reconciliation – Every Monday during November, 7 pm – 9 pm

The Sacrament of the Eucharist – January – dates/times to be confirmed

Open to all adults but will be helpful especially to parents and catechists who will be supporting children to prepare for these sacraments.

BACK 2 BASICS – Sacrament of Reconciliation (confession)



The FFM team have created an online group input that will help all adults wanting to know more about their faith, especially parents whose children are preparing for First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. Our Back 2 Basics offers 6 sessions that aim explore the beautiful meaning of the sacrament of Reconciliation, the sacrament of God’s infinite mercy. We will be looking at this sacrament using artworks, group activities and discussion, and offer an introduction to Catholic morality, looking at topics such as the



dignity of the human person, grace, sin, freedom, conscience, human happiness, and the call to holiness. This online course is open to everyone: all adults, parents, grandparents and catechists. The Back2Basics Reconciliation will be presented **this November, every Monday from 7 pm to 9 pm** We will finish each session with a time of prayer, with the Dominican Sisters of St Joseph.

To Register for this course:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZArcuusrDkuH91xaOhE8B_Kzyj2Q3yGpk7V

PODIATRY SERVICES – *Health Feet, Health body*

Need some help with your feet?

Contact Mabel Namata

BSc (Hons) MCP HCPC

Tel: 07383973694

E mail:

icpodiatryservice@gmail.com



WANTED - LIVE IN OR LIVE OUT CARER to look

after, with help from son, an elderly woman with dementia. Hours and salary to be agreed depending on whether you live in or out. If you think you could help, please ring 07709105141 for further details.

POETS CORNER.....

PIONEERING SPIRIT

Our thanks are due to those who found,
While wielding knife and fork,
That mint improves the taste of lamb,
And apple-sauce of pork:
But even greater thanks are due.
(Though needs be posthumous),
To those who showed us this-or-that
Are deadly poisonous.

Dennis B. Wilson



QUIZ ANSWERS: (1) St Antony’s Church Egypt. Oasis in the Red Sea mountains. (2) St Ethelflaeda (3) Chi-Rho (4) Pope John Paul 2

Arrangements for attending Mass October 2020. Date 21st September

During October the Church will be open for Mass only as follows:

Sundays: 1000 and 1730 (5.30pm)

Tuesdays 1000 (from October 6th)

Saturday 1000 – for those with special circumstances- recorded Sunday mass

Email booking : icmassbookings@gmail.com (preferred)

080024613720 for those with no internet.

For a guaranteed seat you will need to book in advance. *However*, you can turn up on Sunday on a ‘first come, first served basis’. You will need to arrive at least 10 minutes before mass starts and be prepared to wait for vacancies /cancellations. Please acknowledge that you may be disappointed. [Please wait by the garden side of the church and maintain 2 metres social distance]. There are very few places available at present as during October our First Holy Communion children will be receiving their first Sacrament of the Body of Christ. Please remember them in your prayers.

To make a booking:

- i) Send an email request to this email address: icmassbookings@gmail.com and state
 - a. Your name and address.
 - b. The total number in your household /bubble coming to Mass (let us know if there are under 10s).
 - c. 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).
 - d. Whether there is a special circumstance (e.g. wheelchair access, working hours)
- ii) Or call this number **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.

For the time being, *you cannot book more than one Mass a week* to allow as many people as possible to attend Mass. When your booking is confirmed, you will receive details of your seat and row number in Church. Numbers 1-10 are on the Sacristy side and 11-20 on the Lady Chapel side. Please try to arrive at the recommended time so we can prevent a queue.

Please do let us know if you need to cancel, or make a change, Any alterations or changes will normally be made on Wednesday of each week for the following week and we will do our best to help you. Just let us know if you have a query.

Access for those with disabilities/ children’s buggies- So that we can plan your seating and comfort, kindly advise us if you require any of the following:

- ramp access for those who cannot manage steps
- wheelchair or extra leg room space
- children’s buggies

NHS Track and Trace.

As you know, we are currently required to take a record of everyone who attends to support the NHS track and trace system. The Government has requested that details are kept of those who have attended the church, for three weeks in case it is needed for track and trace purposes. It also allows us to pre plan the seating in the church which, as with all public buildings, currently has very limited capacity. To save time when you arrive, if you have not already given permission for NHS Test and Trace, please complete the form overleaf and return it to the porch/office. This is also available on the web. We still need some volunteer stewards, readers and those who can manage the slides for some masses,. So do let us know if you are not in a vulnerable category and can help. This involves for stewards:

- Welcoming people into the church and helping people with their hand sanitizing
- Assisting with the communion line and preparing the altar
- Helping people to leave the church
- Cleaning the church after the mass (PPE is provided).

Some guidance notes from the Diocese/Government

Arriving:

- The Church will normally be open 30 minutes before the service commences. If possible, please try to stagger your arrival to avoid queuing outside the church (particularly in wet weather!)
- Please do not congregate outside the church before the service begins and maintain your 2 metres between household 'bubbles'.
- There is a one-way system operating in the church, with the entrance through the main porch and exit through the side fire exits
- The porch is very small, so we can only accommodate 2 people at a time in the porch.
- A steward will then show you straight to your seat – do not sit on seats marked with yellow hazard tape as they are marking out the social distance

During the Service:

- Please keep conversations to a minimum within the church to reduce droplets.
- Throughout the service we will remain seated as this helps to maintain social distance.

Holy Communion:

- We will be receiving Holy Communion on the way out. The stewards will guide you. When it is time for Holy Communion the Presiding Priest will say 'Body of Christ' to us all and we respond together by saying 'Amen'. If you are receiving Holy Communion, please then wait for the stewards to guide you. Any face coverings must be removed to receive Holy Communion. Communion is normally given in the hand. Place the palm of your hand *out flat* -one hand supported by the other towards the Priest.

- Everyone must leave in line, so if you do not wish to take Holy Communion, please come forward and just nod to the Priest and depart through the exits. Alternatively, if you would like a blessing, just cross your hands in front of your chest.

Leaving the church:

- Please leave the church via the exit with the shortest queue
- Collection boxes are available for offerings on the way out. Where possible, please bring gift aid envelopes or an ordinary envelope with your gift aid number on it. Unless otherwise specified, donations are for the general running of the church. Please mark clearly ‘second collections’.
- The Government has asked that worshippers ‘leave promptly’ after the service and maintain social distance of course!

Additional Information:

- Toilets are available if necessary, please draw the attention of the steward and they will guide you.
- Emergency personal water, medicinal and baby feeding is permitted, otherwise there is no eating or drinking in the church.

<p>Guidance on how to wear face-coverings/masks ✓ https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own</p>	
<p>A video from the World Health Organisation https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/when-and-how-to-use-masks</p>	
<p>https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/posters/COVID19-PPE-Safe-Mask-Wear-Poster.pdf</p>	
<p>Guidance on how to sanitise your hands https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZnSjFr6J9HI</p>	
<p>This is also found on the noticeboard as you enter church or on this website</p>	
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