

31st October 2021

THE SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS

"How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven "

Matthew 5:3

Immaculate Conception Church

Within the Pastoral Area of Southampton East

346 Portswood Road, Southampton, SO17 3SB

Tel: (023) 8055 5470

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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)

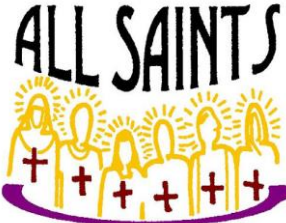
Confessions: Saturdays, 10.30 am (after Mass)

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 |  SUNDAY'S READINGS 1ST Reading: Apocalypse 7:2-4,9-14 Psalm: 23:1-6 2nd Reading: John 3:1-3 Gospel: Matt 5:1-12 |
|---|--|--|--|--|
| Sun 31 Oct | ALL SAINTS | 8.30 am 10.30 am | †Joan O'Shea RIP †Jerry Mubanga Mbasela RIP | |
| Mon 01 Nov | Feria | - | No Mass | |
| Tues 02 Nov | Commemoration of All Souls | 10.00 am | †Joe Gobbi RIP | |
| Wed 03 Nov | St Martin de Porres | 10.00 am | †Lawrence & Luigina Clegg RIP | |
| Thur 04 Nov | St Charles Borromeo | 11.00 am | FUNERAL – Josephine Heuston RIP | |
| Fri 05 Nov | Feria | 10.00 am | - | |
| Sat 06 Nov | 1 ST MASS OF SUNDAY | 10.00 am | Chandler Family past & present | |
| Sun 07 Nov | THIRTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | 8.30 am 10.30 am | - †Anna Zepler RIP | |
| SECOND COLLECTIONS:– <u>TODAY, SUNDAY 31ST OCTOBER</u> – No Second Collection <u>NEXT SUNDAY 7TH NOVEMBER</u> – No Second Collection | | | | |
| The Parish Bank Account details are: 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. e.g: GEN = General Fund (offertory collection), ERF = Emergency Relief Fund | | |



GIFT AID : To ensure that your chosen charity receives your donation it is essential that **ALL** purple Special Collection envelopes are clearly marked with the name of the charity concerned.

TUESDAY COFFEE MORNING – Every Tuesday after 10 am Mass

Last week we started a weekly coffee morning in the hall after the 10 am Mass on Tuesdays to which all are 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 offer this opportunity to you. We hope that as this group evolves, we could possibly offer lunches and opportunities for occasional trips or other activities. If you would like to talk to anyone about this, please see either Susie Warwick or Fiona Thompson after Mass at the weekends. Otherwise, just turn up!



PARISH OFFICE HOURS NEXT WEEK: Monday – Friday 9.am – 1 pm

A REFLECTION ON THIS SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

Honouring All Saints

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven." [Matthew 5: 1-3](#)

Today we celebrate one of the most glorious solemnities within our Church! Every saint, canonized or not, is honored today. Our Gospel passage lays out the path by which these saints entered Heaven. While on earth, these great men and women lived lives that were poor in spirit, filled with a holy mourning, meekness, a hunger and thirst for righteousness, mercy, peace, purity of heart and even persecution. Each one of these Beatitudes concludes by stating the reward that those who lived these qualities obtains: Heaven, comfort, satisfaction, mercy, seeing God, being children of God and rewards beyond what we can imagine in God's Kingdom.

The Beatitudes invite us to the heights of holiness. They are not for the faint of heart or for those living a lukewarm spiritual life. These Beatitudes present us with the pinnacle of holy living and challenge us to the core. But every effort put into living these Beatitudes are worth it here on earth and ultimately in Heaven. Let's look briefly at two of these Beatitudes.

The second Beatitude states that those "who mourn... will be comforted." This is an interesting Beatitude. Why is it holy to mourn? Simply put, this form of holy mourning means that you not only have a holy sorrow for your own sins but that you have this holy sorrow as you see the many evils within our world. This is crucial today. First, it should be quite obvious that we must have holy sorrow for our own sins. Doing so means your conscience is working. And when your conscience is working, you will be compelled, by this holy sorrow, to acknowledge your offenses against God and work diligently to change. But we must also have a holy sorrow as we see the many evils within our world. Too often today there is a tendency to undermine this Beatitude by presenting universal acceptance of all things as a good. We are told we must not judge, and though that is true when it comes to judging another's heart, a worldly presentation of this secular "virtue" attempts to lead us to downplay the objective nature

of sin. Our secular world tempts us to ignore many objective moral truths by which God guides us into all truth. But as Christians, our first approach must be to despise all that our Lord taught was objectively morally evil. And when we do come face-to-face with immoral lifestyles, the appropriate response must be holy sorrow, not acceptance of grave sin. To mourn over another's poor choices is a true act of charity toward them.

The fourth Beatitude calls us to "hunger and thirst for righteousness." This means that we not only have a holy sorrow over our sins and the objective evils of our world, but that we also allow ourselves to be filled with a hunger and thirst for truth and holy living. This drive must become a burning motivation within us to do all we can to further the Kingdom of God everywhere. This Beatitude enables us to overcome indifference, inspiring us to bring about change in the face of all opposition. And this drive is fueled by charity and every other accompanying virtue.

Reflect, today, upon the beautiful truth that you are called to become a saint. And the surest path to sainthood is the Beatitudes. Read them carefully. Meditate upon them and know that they reveal to you how God is calling you to live. If one of these Beatitudes stands out to you, then spend time focusing upon it. Work to internalize these graces, and God will work wonders in your life, one day making this solemnity within our Church a true celebration of your life well lived.

A reflection for the solemnity of All Saints
My Catholic Life (www.mycatholic.life)



TEA AND COFFEE AFTER WEEKEND MASSES

Please join us in the hall for refreshments after the 10 am Mass this Saturday and Sunday.

MILK BOTTLE TOP RECYCLING STARTS AGAIN

There is now a large red bin the church porch for the milk bottle tops. Please put the tops in a bag. Only tops from plastic milk bottles can be recycled here, colour doesn't matter. **No tops from mild cartons or any other product can be taken.** All money raised will be given to charity.

ROSARY AT THE CEMETERY TODAY

Sunday 31st October, 12.15 pm

Weather permitting. At Stoneham Cemetery. Meet at Fr Lynch's grave.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CHILDREN

The First Holy Communion children have shared some of their prayers written during their sessions. They are displayed in the hall on the noticeboard by the fire exit. If you are in the hall for coffee, take a few moments to have a look at their thoughts. These children will be making their First Reconciliation over the next few weeks. Please remember to keep them in your prayers as they and their families journey through this significant stage of their faith formation.

RECENTLY DIED



Terry O'Farrell

A well known teacher at Springhill school for many years. His Requiem due to take place last week was postponed due to a case of Covid. It will now be held on Tuesday 2nd

November at 12 noon with refreshments in the hall afterwards.

Pamela Maxwell

Funeral to be held at the crematorium on Thursday 4th November at 11.30 am

Anne Dengate

Funeral to be held in the church on Wednesday 17th November

Helen O'Mahoney

Funeral to be held in the church on Thursday 18th November

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.

IRISH SET DANCING

Every Monday evening during term time in the church hall, 8 – 10 pm. If you are interested, please just turn up or contact Eileen McCarthy on 023 80767340.

VIVA VOCE AUTUMN 2021

News from the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth. Please take a copy as you leave the church after Mass. It contains interesting updates on projects and activities taking place around the Diocese.

PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE E NEWS

<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue341?e=34c55ac6ce>

MEDITATION GROUP

6pm Tuesday evenings at St. Michael the Archangel Church, Bugle Street, Southampton. Lasts about 40 minutes. This ecumenical group is linked to the WCCM (World Community for Christian Meditation) in the tradition of Fr John Main. Just turn up or for further information contact 07910345711 or speak to Fiona (02380581109)

STILL NO ACCESS TO KENT ROAD!

To access parking along Belgrave Road or the car park behind the church you will need to turn into Belgrave Road, further up Portswood Road and drive through the Industrial Estate.

HAPPY DIWALI!

Diwali is the five-day Festival of Lights, **celebrated** by millions of Hindus, Sikhs and Jains across the world. Starting this Thursday 4th November a very happy Diwali to all in our local community from the Hindu, Jain and Sikh traditions.



A MESSAGE FROM CAFOD:

Thank you for supporting our Climate Crisis

Appeal for our recent Family Fast Day. Every donation helps us in our work and is gratefully received. cafod.org.uk/climatecrisis

Please pray for the success of the upcoming UN climate talks in Glasgow, COP26, from 31 October to 12 November. There are prayer cards at the back of church; please do take one and pray that that world leaders will put the needs of marginalised communities around the world, those most affected by climate change, right at the heart of these climate talks. For more information see cafod.org.uk/COP26 *May the Holy Spirit inspire all political leaders at COP26 and instill in them the courage and gentleness to implement fairer solutions for the most vulnerable.*