

23<sup>rd</sup> February 2020

**SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A**

“You must therefore set no bounds to your love, just as your heavenly Father sets none to his.”  
(Matthew 5:48)

**Immaculate Conception Church**

Within the Pastoral Area of Southampton East  
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Tel: (023) 8055 5470  
Website: [www.immaculateconception.church](http://www.immaculateconception.church)  
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**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](mailto:portswood@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

<b>Sun 23 Feb</b>	<b>Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	8.30am	†Sr Mary de Sales
		10.30am	Gloria Nabukenya
Mon 24 Feb	Feria	-----	No Service
Tue 25 Feb	Feria	10 am	-
Wed 26 Feb	<b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b>	10 am	-
		7.30 pm	-
Thu 27 Feb	after Ash Wednesday	10 am	-
Fri 28 Feb	after Ash Wednesday	10 am	Holy Souls
Sat 29 Feb	after Ash Wednesday	10 am	-
<b>Sun 01 Mar</b>	<b>First Sunday of Lent</b>	8.30 am	-
		10.30 am	-



**Today's readings**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading – Lev 19:1-2, 17-18  
Psalm – 102:1-4. 8. 10, 12-13 r.8  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading – 1 Corinth 3:16-23  
Gospel – Matthew 5:38-48

**ADORATION IN LENT for a deepening of our relationship with God and a strengthening of our Parish**

We will be holding an hour of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 9-10 am before Mass on weekdays (*Tuesday to Saturday*) during Lent. Eucharistic Adoration always requires at least **two people** to be present. If you can offer an hour, please call the office or e mail [dudley.plunkett@gmail.com](mailto:dudley.plunkett@gmail.com), by 20 February, giving the day(s) you prefer, and a telephone number or email address.

If Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is new to you, you just might find the following of some help: during this hour, the church will be open for anyone to drop by and spend some quiet time in prayer, or reflection. One of the great saints once said that this is a time 'when I look at Him and he looks at me'. It is a time of stillness and oneness with God who loves us. Some people find it helpful to have some spiritual reading to start them off, or perhaps even some spiritual music on headphones to begin with – it's a time for whatever works for you with God.

Some people can experience quite dramatic, spiritual changes in their lives, or in times of crisis. However, many people often experience a great sense of peace, joy and inspiration. Sitting in stillness before the Lord can help give us a greater clarity about our lives. According to the experience of many people, this time with the Lord can become a precious and strengthening time within our week. Give it a try...much to gain and nothing to lose!

My dear friends:

Would you believe that many of the precepts in this gospel inspired and motivated luminaries like Mahatma Ghandi and Martin Luther King Jr. Fr. Dennis Hamm, S.J., contends that Ghandi's *Salt March* against the British Raj's oppressive taxation and Luther King's non violent political savy, had their origins in this gospel. As Hamm's demonstrates, *turning the other cheek; taking/returning a neighbour's cloak; walking the extra mile; perfection/mercy; a human temple...* are quite definitely not passive or weak stances – but quite definitely proactive ones! Check out the homily on Sunday!

Love, Peace and Blessings,  
Fr. Antony

**WELCOME** to our Masses this weekend. Please join us in the hall after 10.30 am Mass for tea and coffee.

**QUIZ NIGHT** Please join us for a fundraising quiz on 29th February at 6.30 pm. Tickets are £5 for adults and £3 for children. Teams of 6. Tickets available after both Masses.

**MAINTENANCE MORNING** Saturday 7 March, 10.30 am till 12 noon. Volunteers needed for checking lights/ locks / drains.....meter readings....restoring the bench in the presbytery....cleaning.... litter picking.... Please let Eleanor know if you can help or just turn up....all help gratefully received. ([Eleanorg@gse2000.co.uk](mailto:Eleanorg@gse2000.co.uk))

## **MONEY LAST WEEK:**

### Main Collection:

Gift Aid Envelopes inc tax reclaim - £131.25

Loose plate collection – £280.26

Standing orders - £1100.51

### Second Collection

Last week: Roof Fund, inc tax reclaim - £348.67

This week: Roof Fund

Next week – Roof Fund

## **LENTEN LUNCHESES**

These will be taking place on Fridays, during Lent, hosted by different groups in the parish. Some of our regulars are, sadly, no longer with us this year or have moved into residential homes, so we hope that this year we see some new faces. We need your support. If you would like to use one of these Fridays to raise funds for your charity please fill in the notice in the church porch. The first lunch will take place on 6 March. Please contact Anne Dempsey for further details on 80552064.

## **LENTEN PROJECT 2020**

For our 2020 parish Lenten project we will shall be handing out empty jam jars today and next Sunday after mass to anyone who would like to take part. During lent we ask that you take the opportunity to fill the jars with your spare change. For example, parents could the children do some tasks around the house for spare change for Lent? We will ask for the jars to be returned at Easter. Please support this fundraising initiative all proceeds will be for the Building Fund.

**LENT STATIONS OF THE CROSS** Stations of the Cross will be taking place at 3.30 pm in the church, every Sunday afternoon during Lent (except for Palm Sunday), led by a few parishioners. If anyone is interested in coming along or helping with one of these sessions, please sign up to the list on the noticeboard in the porch. All welcome.

## **BAPTISM PREPARATION FOR PARENTS**

**Saturdays at 11.30 am on 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> March in our church hall.** If you would like your baby/child to be baptised during the next few months, please contact the parish office for a baptism registration form and information pack. You will also need to complete the baptism preparation programme which takes place on the above dates. **Please note:** It is essential that you agree a date for your child's baptism with Fr Antony before you arrange a date with your family and friends, especially if they are coming from abroad. We do not want you to be disappointed if it is not practical to take place on a date you have pre-arranged without consultation with the parish.

**WISDOM CENTRE, ROMSEY** is a ministry of the Religious order of the Daughters of Wisdom. The Centre is run as a sanctuary of peace and tranquillity in a hectic stressful world and providing a programme of regular retreat days, meditation evenings, contemplative prayer meetings and more. Some of their leaflets are available in the porch or you can visit their website at [www.wisdomhouseromsey.org.uk](http://www.wisdomhouseromsey.org.uk)

## **ONE WEEKEND THAT COULD CHANGE YOUR LIFE**

Worldwide Marriage Encounter offers marriage enrichment weekends to married couples who want to enrich their relationship. The weekend is a chance to explore your relationship at a deeper, more intimate level. Couples of all ages can gain from the experience. The next weekend is in Swindon from 6th to 8th March. Find out more at [wwme.org.uk](http://wwme.org.uk) or phone Chris and Mary Farrall 02380 275401

## **BMA Consultation on Euthanasia & Assisted Suicide**

Currently the BMA is opposed to both practices. Members are now being asked if they believe the BMA should actively support, oppose or remain neutral on a change in the law to allow these practices. The consultation runs until 27 Feb and it is important that as many doctors as possible respond. Medical neutrality would be a green light for lawmakers to weaken or repeal the laws on assisted suicide and euthanasia. If you are a doctor, please consider responding to this consultation. Some useful considerations are highlighted in this article which can be found online at:

<https://www.carenokilling.org.uk/articles/bma-consults-on-euthanasia-assisted-suicide/>

**JOJOs GYM MEMBERSHIP** For a limited time you can now join JoJo's gym at a special discounted rate of £20/month if you pay by direct debit and this offer has been extended for Immaculate Conception parishioners to 31st March. If you would like to take advantage of this offer, please bring this newsletter with you to the gym with the promotional code DD01. You can check out the website or join on-line at [www.jojoshealthandfitness.com](http://www.jojoshealthandfitness.com). If you have recently joined, you can speak to reception to arrange this reduced rate.

## **40 DAYS FOR LIFE, 26th February - 5th April 2020**

Beginning on Ash Wednesday. Through prayer, fasting, and peaceful vigil outside abortion centres, we seek to offer women alternatives to abortion. Over the past years, the amazing power of prayer has saved the lives of unborn babies and given peace to women and families!

**Launch event: Shrove Tuesday, 25th Feb at St Boniface Hall 7pm** Please join us in the vigil (see poster in the porch for details) and/or fasting & prayer rota for those who cannot be at the vigil! To sign up for the hours you wish to participate at the vigil, you can either text 07500392321 or register at the website [40daysforlife.com/Southampton](http://40daysforlife.com/Southampton) or email [40daysforlifesouthampton@gmail.com](mailto:40daysforlifesouthampton@gmail.com) with your name, email and mobile number.

## **THE JOY OF HOPE**

This CaFE course will run for 4 Wednesdays in Lent at Christ the King and St Colman Church Hall on 11th, 18th and 25th March and 1st April. We will meet at 7.30pm for refreshments to start at 7.45pm. We will finish by 9pm. Come with a friend and learn how we can live joyfully in the hope of eternal life. For more information or if you feel able to help, please contact Deirdre Fairman on 07828810009.

## **PARISH OFFICE HOURS NEXT WEEK:**

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, 9.30 am – 3.00 pm