

ANNOUNCEMENTS for the SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION on the SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Good morning and welcome to our guests and visitors. We have many announcements this morning:

1. Today there is a special celebration of the Immaculate Conception at the church of Conceição with Eucharist at 2:30 PM followed by a procession at 3:30 PM and the festival at 5:00 PM.
2. Our young people continue to sell cakes at the end of each Mass to raise money for the youth jubilee that will take place in Rome beginning at the end of July in 2025.
3. Peace candles in support of the Caritas international charity are on sale outside the church. The candle sales support the ten million stars project of Caritas serving people in need around the world every year.
4. The “Helping Hands” Charity Association made a gift of armchairs to the Santa Maria Home. On behalf of the parish, we thank you very much. All help to serve our children and the elderly are welcomed.
5. The St. Vincent de Paul Conference is collecting non-perishable food for the poor during Advent. Bring milk, canned food, oil, olive oil, rice, pasta, cereals, etc. and leave them here in the church.
6. On Friday, December 13th, we will celebrate the feast of Santa Luzia at the Santa Luzia church, with the Eucharist at 4:30 PM followed by a procession.
7. Confessions during Advent at the Church of Santiago will be on Friday the 20th of December from 7:00 to 9:00 PM and Saturday the 21st of December from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon. There will be multiple priests present to take your confession. There will also be confessions on December 16th from 4:00 to 6:00-PM in Santa Luzia, on December 18th from 5:00 to 7:00 PM in Cabanas, and on the 21st from 8:00 to 9:00 PM in Conceição.
8. The English community of the parish will have a meeting on Thursday, December 12th at Mira Restaurante at 7:30 PM. We will discuss future directions for the parish and English community. All are welcome. If you have not previously confirmed your attendance, please let the greeters know today as you depart as we need a final count this morning. Light tapas and beverages will be provided but full meals are at your own expense. An agenda will be posted on our community groups tomorrow.
9. On Friday December 13th, we celebrate the Feast of Santa Luzia at the Santa Luzia church, with a Eucharist at 4:30 PM followed by a procession. There will also be a fado session in the Church of Santa Luzia.

10. Restoration work on the side doors of the church has been completed. Next Saturday, December 14th the new doors for the main entrance will be installed. On Sunday, December 15th, we will have a dedication of the new doors. Our thanks to all who contributed. Future efforts will be discussed at the parish meeting.
11. On Sunday 15th, the Feast of Light will be celebrated with the arrival of the Light of Peace in Santiago parish at 9:00 PM. Earlier that day, at 4:00 PM, there will be a celebration in Portimão to welcome the Light of Peace from Bethlehem in Palestine.
12. We will have English Mass on Christmas Day here at Santiago at 10:30 AM. On Christmas Day and on the preceding Sunday, December 22nd, we will sing carols led by our cantor Isobel Reis. Printed music will be provided.
13. As you will have noted this morning, we are providing, on a trial basis during Advent, the readings and general information on a handout. The Lay Liturgical ministry and Media ministry of the English Community are exploring a regular weekly bulletin as a more permanent solution, but we do not have any decision or timetable currently.