



**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
CATHOLIC CHURCH
SOUTHAMPTON**

**MONTHLY BULLETIN
DECEMBER 2023**

The Pope's prayer intention for December

For persons with disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

Parish Notices

HALL KITCHEN REFURBISHMENT

Our hall kitchen is to be refurbished starting at the beginning of January. It will be a completely new one from floor to ceiling! There will soon be some plans and pictures you can view on a noticeboard in the hall to get an idea of what it will look like and the facilities which will be available.

We plan to start emptying the kitchen from Tuesday 12th December onwards.

We will no longer be needing the present fridge freezer, cooker or dishwasher. All are in good working order and are available to anyone who might need them, for a small donation to the parish, or they can be given to anyone in particular hardship and in need of any of these items.

If any items in the kitchen belong to you, please pick them up as soon as possible. Anything not needed will be offered to parishioners, given to charity or thrown away.

We would appreciate a few volunteers who can help to move the fridge freezer, dishwasher and cooker to the garage for storage until new owners are found.

We will also need to box up items for storage, which will be put back in the new kitchen once it is complete.

If you are interested in any of the items or would be willing to offer some help, please contact the parish office
(office@immaculateconception.church or phone 023 80555470)

INTERCESSORY PRAYER



If you have any specific intentions you would like the intercessory prayer group to pray for, please let Fr Anthony know by speaking to him after Mass or by putting a note in the Prayer request box in the porch.



PARISH SUGGESTION BOX

You will find a suggestion box in the church porch in which any good ideas you have for the parish would be welcomed.

After Christmas we also hope to re start the fortnightly discussion groups we began earlier in the year, which enable us to share thoughts about our faith and listen to those of others. There will be a different theme at each session, selected from your suggestions. If you have any particular topics you would like to suggest, please use the suggestion box to make these – paper and pen available on the side of the box.

NIGHT OF LIGHT

Immaculate Conception Church, Southampton

15TH December 2023

8 – 10 pm

A night of invitation for any parishioners and for those passing by to come inside, light a candle and encounter the beauty of Jesus Christ in His Church, where He is placed on the altar for adoration.

To create an atmosphere of prayer, there will be reflective music playing and priests available to offer the sacrament of reconciliation or just to chat.

ALL WELCOME



Downloaded from freepik: www.freepik.com

ADORATION FOR STUDENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Every Wednesday, 6 – 7 pm in the Lady Chapel

ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE

Tuesday 19th December, 7.00 pm

An opportunity to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation
before Christmas



REGULAR REMINDERS:

MINISTERING TO THE SICK, HOUSEBOUND & THOSE IN HOSPITAL

If you are going into hospital, you have a long term illness or are housebound, or you know of someone in the parish who is in this situation, please do contact the parish to let Fr Anthony know, so that we can arrange for someone to visit and/or take Holy Communion to them on a regular basis.

MASS INTENTIONS



If you would like a Mass said for someone who has died, who is alive, for a celebration, an anniversary or any other special intention, pick up a Mass Intention envelope from the porch, complete the details, enclosing any donation you would like to make and hand it in to the office or the presbytery.

INFANT BAPTISM

If you would like your child to be baptised you will need to download and complete a baptism registration form (visit our website at www.immaculateconception.church), go to the 'Documents' tab and click on 'Forms' on the drop down list. This should be returned to the parish office..

CAKE SALES SECOND SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH

AFTER 10.30 AM MASS

Bakers always needed (shop cakes ok too!). Bring your cake donations to the church hall before the 10.30 am Mass on the first Sunday of each month, together with a list of the ingredients (for those with allergies). Raising money for general Parish Funds.



CAFOD NEEDS YOU!

- As a result of retirement, we need ONE OR TWO PARISH VOLUNTEERS to help at times during the year with this work. It is very flexible and not a weekly/monthly commitment.
- In our Diocese, we also need some SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS, to which special training and support is given.

For 50 years our parish has supported CAFOD in our Diocese with Lent and Harvest collections and various campaigns for the Developing Countries in our world. It would be great to be able to continue this work. If you could assist, please give your name to Fr Anthony, Deacon Gerard or the parish office. If you would like to ask further questions, please speak to Steve on 07540229973.

CHRISTMAS SHOE BOX SCHEME

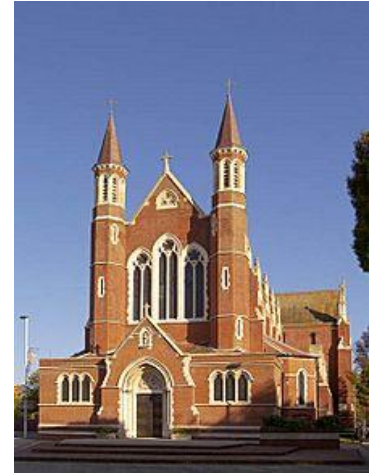


Thank you to Norman and Mary Fairchild who organised the collection of shoe box gifts – over 60 boxes were collected. Here they are in the back of Normans van, ready to be dropped off at the Rotary Club. They are all now on their way to Eastern Europe to be given to children living in severely deprived circumstances.

Diocesan Notices

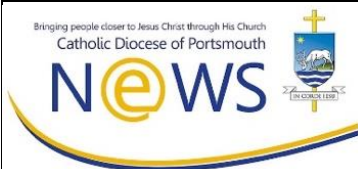
ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL PORTSMOUTH

Due to deterioration in the leadwork of the Cathedral West window (the large one at the front), specialist contractors have had to remove the glass for restoration costing more than £100,000. The following link gives more details about this project, including a **video featuring Fr James McAuley, Dean of the Cathedral, explaining and showing the work taking place.**



<https://www.portsmouthcatholiccathedral.org.uk/westwindow/>

Along with local parishioners, the wider Diocese is encouraged to support and donate any amount, perhaps in memory of a loved one, to help with the cost of the restoration. The names of donors will be recorded in a special commemorative book at the Cathedral. You can donate by texting WINDOW to 70560 to contribute £10 to the appeal or donate online at <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/campaign/st-johns-catholic-cathedral-west-window-restoration-appeal>



PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE NEWS

Activities, events, news and job vacancies from around the Diocese, locally and further afield.

<https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/communications/news/enews/>

To keep up to date with the news of the Diocese and the Bishop please follow us on:

- Facebook: @PortsmouthRC
- LinkedIn: Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth
- Twitter: @PortsmouthRC

The Diocesan website:

- <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk>

If you have news that you would like to share with the rest of the Diocese, please contact: communications@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

JOB VACANCIES WITH THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PORTSMOUTH

Current Vacancies:

- Interim Finance Assistant, Winchester – part time
- IT Technician, based in Portsmouth – full time
- Cleaner, St Patricks, Southampton – part time
- Health & Safety Officer, based in Portsmouth – full time
- Schools Estate Manager, based in Portsmouth – full time
- Various Diocesan school vacancies

For full details of these and other vacancies coming up in the near future, please see the job vacancy section of ENews (in the item above) or go to the following link on the Diocesan website

<https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/about-us/other/jobs/>

From Caritas Portsmouth.....



ARE YOU A CO-OP MEMBER?

If you are, you can help the work of Caritas Portsmouth to support people struggling with social isolation by choosing us as your local Co-op cause through their Local Community Fund. Each time you shop at Co-op, purchase their branded products, and use your membership card we receive a donation at no cost to you. Donations will be used to purchase items needed to run social groups, anything from gardening to book clubs, that will create a safe and welcoming spaces for our neighbours and help us become the Church Beyond Walls. To select us, just visit our [profile page](#) and click on the 'choose this cause' button and please spread the word to family, friends and in parishes. Not a Co-op member yet – not a problem! You can join for £1, just click on [this link](#) to find out more. Thank you for your support.

COP28 is now taking place (30 Nov – 12 Dec). In [Laudate Deum](#), Pope Francis describes how some of the big changes we need to happen to slow the rate of climate change must come from the actions of governments. Let us pray for those leaders, that they can listen to those already affected by climate change and have courage to act. Visit our website <https://caritasportsmouth.org.uk> for links to prayer resources.

Other Notices

**THE CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS TO PRIMARY SCHOOLS,
STARTING IN RECEPTION SEPTEMBER 2024 IS**

15TH JANUARY 2023

Applications for a school place should be made directly online directly through Southampton City Council

AND

If you are applying to one of our Catholic Primary Schools, it is also very important to complete a Supplementary Information Form and submit with supporting documentation as per the school's Admissions Policy 2024-2025. Refer to Admissions info on school websites for these forms, or call the school directly.

BABY & TODDLER GROUP

MEETING AT ST BONIFACE CHURCH HALL, SHIRLEY

9.30 – 11 am, alternate Tuesdays during term time.

£1 per family. Contact: catholicmotherssoton@gmail.com



A Lifeline for Marriage!

Do you feel lost, alone or bored in your marriage?

Has your marriage become stressed, unloving, cold?

Do you argue often?

Do you want to improve your communication?

Have you separated, divorced, or are you thinking about it?

Do you want to try again?

The **Retrouvaille** programme may be just what you need!

Programmes take place over a weekend and further details and dates can

be found on the website: : www.retrouvaille.org.uk

phone or text: 07887 296983 or 07973 380443

Email: retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com

COMPLETE CONFIDENTIALITY ASSURED

SUNDAY LUNCH PROJECT - Helpers urgently needed

Helping as part of a team to set up and serve Sunday lunch to the poor, for about 60 people every Sunday from 9am – 1 pm – There are 7 teams working from St Deny's Church and you would be on a rota ONLY ONCE EVERY 7 WEEKS. Full support given.

Speak to Val Laurent or Steve (07540229973)

4 DAY CHRISTMAS RETREAT - 28th Dec. - 1st Jan.

Organised by the Verbum Dei community. Venue: Verbum Dei Retreat Centre on the Isle of Wight. For more information and to register, contact:

verbumdei.iow@gmail.com or www.uk.verbumdei.org

ACROSS TO LOURDES BY JUMBULANCE



A local (South Hampshire) group pilgrimage is being planned, to Lourdes next summer: 13th-22nd June. We will travel in our specially adapted coach which is fully kitted out to meet the needs of all pilgrims, especially those who have additional needs. www.across.org

Costs will be around £1000 per person but we are planning to do some fundraising and bursaries may be available for young people (18-25) and medical/care professionals. To register an interest please Ruth Cunio (Southampton City Centre parish) ruth@across.org.uk

CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY INTERNSHIPS

Castlerigg Manor (The Lancaster Diocese Retreat Centre) is looking for young Catholics aged 18-25 to join their Youth Ministry Internship Programme. The scheme gives participants wide ranging experience, skills, training, and qualifications as well as the opportunity to work with a fantastic team based in the English Lake District. For more information contact director@castleriggmanor.co.uk



Stella Maris Seafarers Christmas Chocolate Appeal 2023

Can you help us give a Christmas chocolates to Seafarers this December? What do you want for Christmas? Whatever it is it's highly likely it will have come to this country by sea. Did you know there will be about 400,000 Seafarers working over Christmas, separated from their families and friends? Theirs is a tough, relentless life, long hours, boring, noisy, temperature extremes, dangerous and exhausting. Stella Maris meets and supports seafarers around the world. We want to show them that they are not forgotten this Christmas, so we're planning to collect hundreds of chocolate Christmas presents for seafarers visiting our Southern Region ports in the days before Christmas. We need to prepare now. Can you help us by donating chocolate gifts? Any chocolate gifts can be left in the labelled box in the porch. Your gift may be the only present a seafarer receives this Christmas.



THE SOUTHAMPTON PHILHARMONIC AND SOUTHAMPTON UNIVERSITY PHILHARMONIC CHOIRS PERFORMING:...

Vaughan Williams' Sea Symphony

O2Guildhall Southampton,
Saturday 9th December at 7.30pm,
in the presence of our Lord Mayor.

The programme also includes Vaughan Williams 'Toward the Unknown Region' and Nielsen's Helios Overture. If interested, tickets available from

boxoffice@southamptonphil.org

FRONTLINE DEBT ADVICE VOLUNTEER

The Swaythling branch are looking for a new volunteer to join their Wednesday team, providing free debt and welfare benefit advice. Full training and ongoing support provided. Empathy, compassion and a listening ear are needed.

If you are interested you can find out more from the following website - <https://frontlinedebtadvice.org.uk>

or by contacting Dominic Williams at

dominic.williams@frontlinedebtadvice.org.uk

BEDS FOR WINTER

Headed by Street Support Southampton and Love Southampton, the Winter Beds Project aims to provide a warm space, a warm meal and a bed for a comfortable night's rest for those sleeping rough in the city during the particularly cold months of the winter. Together with the council and its partners, including public health, and in line with Government's guidelines, a communal space is provided within a church hall.

Volunteers are needed – could you offer some help?

If you would like to find out more:

- speak to Steve Deadman or
- contact Laura Racioppi, Volunteer Co-ordinator laura@citylife.org.uk



Stuck for Christmas gift ideas? Consider something different this year!

World Gifts are a range of virtual charity gifts that will delight the people you give them to and help transform the lives of families experiencing poverty.

From a vegetable garden at £5, to a goat that gives for £28, a terrific toilet for £85 to a home for life at just £192, there is something to suit all budgets!

Catalogues are available in the Church porch or you can browse and buy on line at

www.worldgifts.cafod.org.uk





Lord Mayor's Charity Masked Ball

Friday 23 February 2024, 6:30pm to 1am.
Mike Channon Suite, St Mary's Stadium, Southampton.
Dress code: black tie.

Three-course meal with wine, plus
magic, music, dancing, raffle and auction.

TICKETS £65 PP (£60 PP FOR A TABLE OF 10)
ON EVENTBRITE OR QR CODE

Meet the Lord Mayor and support her charities:



City Farm
Sea Cadets
Saints Foundation



Wear your finest attire and a beautiful mask and join us for a night of glamour, live music and dance, including a three course meal and wine.

All funds raised directly support the work of three local charities supporting the development and needs of people in our city of Southampton.

Tickets £65 each or £60 when booked for a table of 10.
Available on Eventbrite or via the QR code above

A group of Southampton University Engineering Students would like to ask for some input to their research study on the safety of railway level crossings. They would be most grateful for any responses to the survey below.

Voice Your Views On Rail Level Crossings!

Are you an adult over 18 with experience of UK rail level crossings?

We invite you to take part in our innovative research study to develop a safer and more efficient transport network.

Your Insight Matters!

The University of Southampton is conducting research in partnership with Network Rail into the safety perceptions of railway level crossings and their use by the public to inform design recommendations for future crossings. We want to gain insights from members of the public into their views and use of level crossing in the UK to inform our research.

Win Big in the Prize Draw!

At the end of our survey enter our prize draw for a chance at winning: 1 x £50 amazon voucher, 2 x £25 amazon vouchers

How to access the survey:

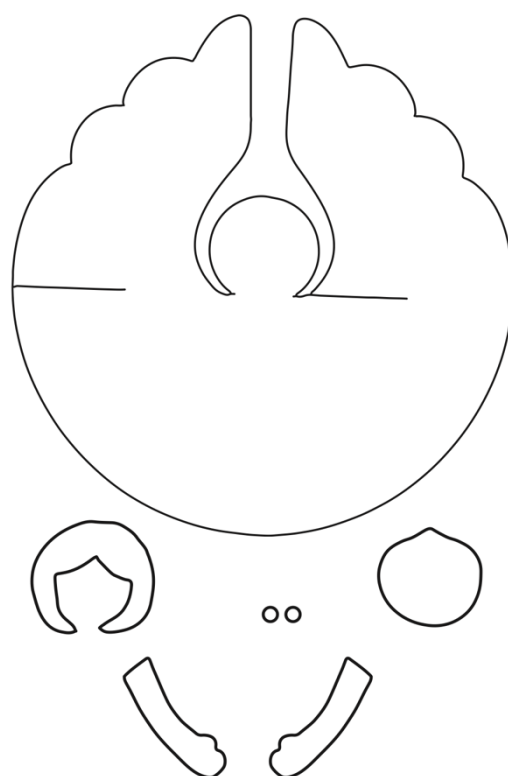
Please open your smart phone and scan the QR code or follow the link: <https://forms.office.com/e/9Up0g5aZtS>



If you have any questions, please email: k.plant@soton.ac.uk
ERGO Ethics ID: 88702

Children's Corner

PAPER LIGHT UP ANGEL

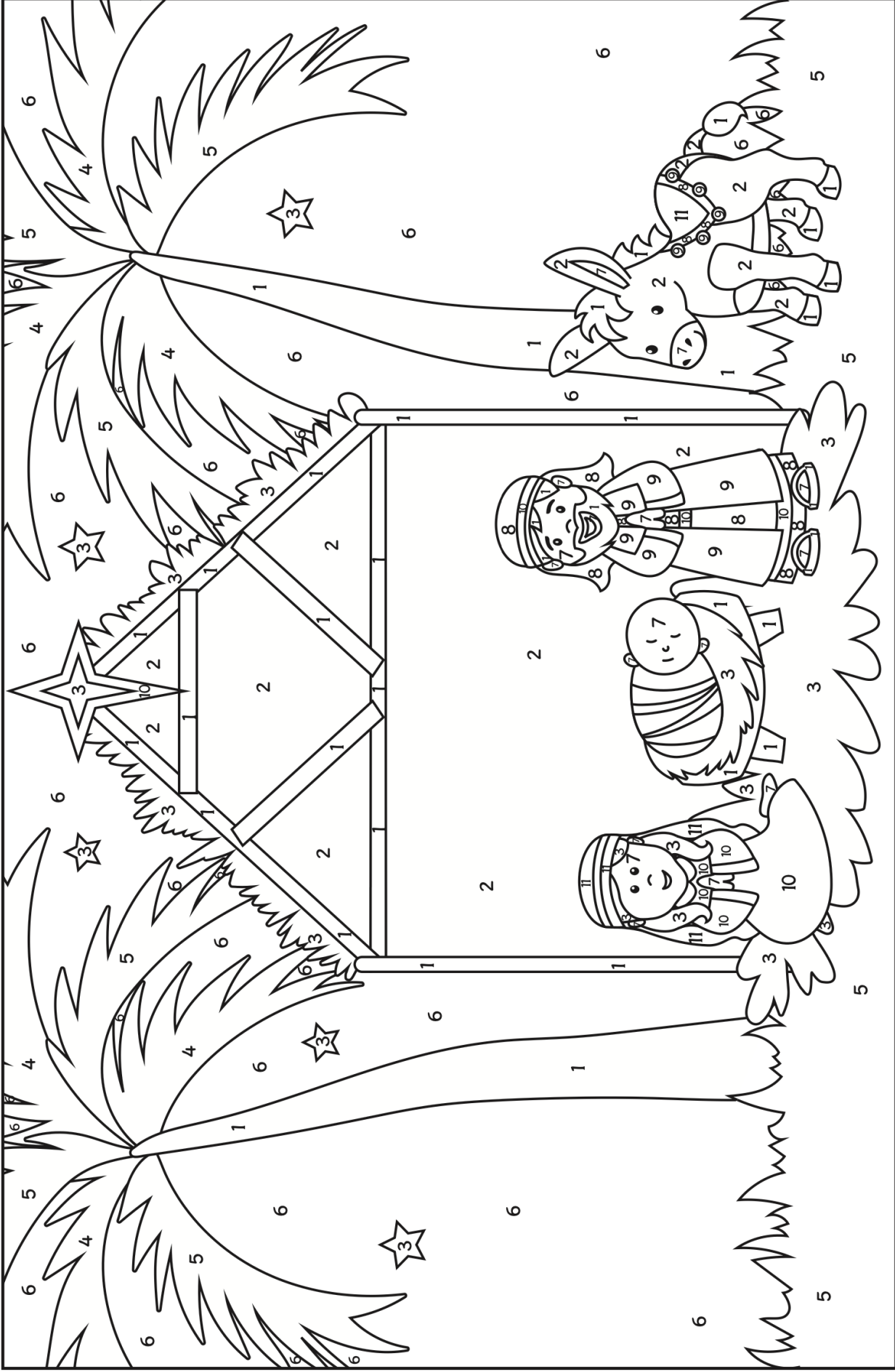


HOW TO MAKE:

1. Print out the template from the following download link and cut it out.
[Template here - Download](#)
Or at: <https://www.bakerross.co.uk/craft-ideas/kids/paper-light-up-angel/>
2. Cut out the parts of the face in coloured card and stick them together.
3. With the angel wrap it into a cone and slit the wings together.
4. Glitter the edges of the dress and the wings with glue and glitter and let dry.
5. Stick on the head and arms.
6. Place a battery tealight under the skirt to light her up.

Top Tip

If the wings feel loose, you can secure them together using a little tape or glue.



- 1 - Dark Brown
- 2 - Light Brown
- 3 - Yellow

- 4 - Light Green
- 5 - Dark Green
- 6 - Navy

- 7 - Peach
- 8 - Orange
- 9 - Red

- 10 - Purple
- 11 - Light Blue



Baker Ross

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PARISH INFORMATION & CONTACT DETAILS:

Parish Priest	Fr Anthony Chiatu
Parish Deacon	Dcn Gerard Dailly
Parish Secretary	Mrs Rachel Brady
Address	346 Portswood Road, Portswood Southampton SO17 3SB
Parish phone no	023 80555470
E mail	office@immaculateconception.church
Website	www.immaculateconception.church
Parish office open hrs	Tuesday – Friday 10.00 am – 3 pm
Safeguarding Rep	Laura Sparmann - contact parish phone no or safeguarding@immaculateconception.church
Hospital Chaplaincy	Tel 023 81208517
Regular Mass times <i>(Check newsletter for occasional variations)</i>	Monday No Mass Tues- Sat 10 am Sunday 8.30 am & 10.30 am
Confession times	Saturdays, 10.30 am, or by appointment
Hall Bookings	Contact the parish office – details below <i>Hall unavailable for bookings until 1st March 2024</i>
Facebook	Immaculate Conception Church, Portswood
Bank details for payments and donations:	A/c Name: CDP Immaculate Conception Southampton Sort Code: 30-93-04 A/c No: 00887995
Registered Charity No	1199568