

# The Catholic Church in Fordingbridge and Ringwood

The Sacred Heart  
& St. Thérèse of Lisieux  
The Close  
Ringwood BH24 1LA

New Forest Pastoral Area  
www.avonstour.co.uk  
Parish Priest:  
Rev Mgr Canon Paul Townsend

Our Lady of Sorrows  
& St. Philip Benizi  
15 Salisbury Road  
Fordingbridge SP6 1EG

## The First Sunday of Advent

Father Paul writes....



This weekend, the new liturgical year begins as we celebrate the First Sunday of Advent. Advent has four weeks, offering us a time and opportunity to prepare for the coming of Christ into our lives and world. The Advent prayer, used by some as a 'mantra' is 'Come Lord Jesus'. Advent offers three key figures and three aspects, which we shall see are linked as the Advent journey unfolds. The figures are the Prophet Isaiah, John the Baptist and Mary the Mother of the Lord and the key aspects are worthy of a few words.

Our Advent reflection will inevitably include reflection on the meaning of Christmas and the mystery of the Incarnation with the birth of Jesus. Following Mary's 'assent', in the person of Jesus of Nazareth, God enters perfectly into creation and becomes one with us in our humanity. Jesus's nativity raises humanity to the divine giving us an eternal share in the life of God. The Lord's birth fulfils John the Baptist's preparation for Jesus's appearance.

The birth of Jesus leads to the second Advent aspect and that is our Baptism into the life of Jesus making us members of his risen body. This gives us a new dignity and means that our manner and style of living must be shaped and guided by the love which God is and which he has for us. In a world which increasingly denies the existence of God, this aspect of Advent provides a challenge to the thinking of many in our time. Like Mary, we are to put into action the Word of God. Like John the Baptist, our lives are to proclaim a way for the coming of the Lord. And like Isaiah, we exist to invite those around us to "walk in the light of the Lord".

The third Advent aspect is the 'Second Coming of Christ', which is a crucial and indispensable part of our belief. Jesus's Second Coming or the 'Day of the Lord' will be that moment when creation and humanity are completely transformed and brought into the everlasting life of God. The Advent journey offers an opportunity for us to review our discipleship and way of live with a view to change and repentance. Those areas, where, by the gift of the Holy Spirit, we are able to identify failing and sin, can be brought to the Sacrament of Confession for healing, forgiveness and new life.

**Therefore, I have set aside two Saturday mornings for Confession:**

1. In Ringwood on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December between 11.00am and 12.00 noon.
2. In Fordingbridge on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December between 11.00am and 12.00 noon.

**The usual times of Confession will still apply. Please contact me if you would like an appointment for the Sacrament of Anointing the Sick or Confession.**

## Public and YouTube Celebrations of Mass

*Both our churches are open daily for prayer*

### Sacred Heart, Ringwood

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFTmHlkg-4M7rTwOB-Wxysw> or search on YouTube for Catholic Parishes of Ringwood and Fordingbridge

(All masses livestreamed at this link unless otherwise noted)

Sunday	December	1st	11am	⊗	<i>First Sunday of Advent</i>	⊗	Delphine Champagne RIP
Wednesday	December	4th	10am	⊗	<i>of the 1st Week of Advent</i>	⊗	Lea Alves de Siqueira
Friday	December	5th	10am	⊗	<i>of the 1st Week of Advent</i>	⊗	People of Ringwood Parish

### Our Lady of Sorrows, Fordingbridge

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFTmHlkg-4M7rTwOB-Wxysw> or search on YouTube for Catholic Parishes of Ringwood and Fordingbridge

Saturday	November	30th	6pm	⊗	<i>First Sunday of Advent</i>	⊗	Private Intention
Sunday	December	1st	9am	⊗	<i>First Sunday of Advent</i>	⊗	People of Fordingbridge Parish
Tuesday	December	3rd	10am	⊗	<i>of the 1st Week of Advent</i>	⊗	Liturgy of the Word
Thursday	December	5th	10am	⊗	<i>of the 1st Week of Advent</i>	⊗	Private intention

**Confessions will be available on Saturdays at 5.30 in Fordingbridge. In Ringwood before and after the Wednesday Mass. If there is no Mass there will be no confession.**



## Christmas Mass Times

### Sacred Heart and St. Therese

Nativity of the Lord, Tuesday 24th of December 5pm Carols starting at 4.30pm.

Nativity of the Lord, Wednesday 25th December 11am

### Our Lady of Sorrows and St. Philip

Nativity of the Lord, Tuesday 24th of December 8pm Carols starting at 7.30pm

Nativity of the Lord, Wednesday 25th December 9am

## First Sunday of Advent

**First Reading:** – Jeremiah 33:14-16

**Responsorial:** Ps 25(24):4-5b. 8-9. 10, 14. R 1b

**R. The you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.**

**Second Reading:** 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2

**Gospel:** Luke 21:25-28, 34-36



**Fordingbridge** – Tuesday 3rd December after 10am Liturgy of the Word  
**Ringwood** - Wednesday 29th January after 10am Mass

**Thank you from St Peter's school** – the Chaplaincy team would like to thank all those parishioners who came to "Remembering Those We Love" recently in the school Chapel. As always it was lovely to have your support

## Christmas cards

Christmas cards are now for sale in Ringwood. Packaging has changed a bit this year - less 'real' boxes but mixes of good quality cards in cardboard 'cut out boxes'. Thank you, Barbara  
There is a selection of Cards in the Hall at Fordingbridge, too. Please have a look.

## Ringwood Foodbank is looking for Volunteers

If you can spare a couple of days a month for 3 hours and can lift bags please get in touch with Claire Skelley—07760390685  
[clarieskelley@ringwood.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:clarieskelley@ringwood.foodbank.org.uk)

## Friendship Group Sacred Heart

Meetings on Wednesdays after 10am Mass. We look forward to seeing you for a coffee and a chat..- Barbara



The CAFOD World Gifts Catalogue is here! To be found in both Ringwood and Fordingbridge Porches. A great idea to give to that someone who has everything, or to add to a gift to remind people you support CAFOD. A gift with meaning. (Lightweight to post too!)

## Forty Days and Forty Nights....

### your parish magazine

Send contributions and feed back for future editions to:  
[crisbasha@aol.com](mailto:crisbasha@aol.com). The Forty Days deadline for the Christmas edition is the 25th of November. December's deadline will be the 30th.



## WOMEN TOGETHER in RINGWOOD PRESENTS: Breakfast, an Empowering Talk, Worship & a Time to Build Community with Kemi Koleoso.

**Date:** Saturday, 8th February 2025

**Location:** Poulner Baptist Chapel, Linford Road, BH24 3HZ

**Time:** Breakfast starts at 9:00 AM; event concludes around 1:00 PM

**Tickets:** £10

**Christmas Concert**  
Mon 16<sup>th</sup> Dec 7.30  
St Mary's Church, Fordingbridge  
**One Voice Choir,  
Wessex Folk  
Orchestra**  
Seasonal songs and tunes to  
make your heart glad.  
Tickets from Greenham  
£10 Adult £5 Child  
Cash Bar Available  
Proceeds for Salisbury Hospice

**Double the Joy**  
Over 6,000 stores will donate to us when you shop, including:  
M&S, Sainsbury's, Argos, Debenhams, moonpig, ebay, Booking.com, 6,000+ more

Shopping online this festive period? Raise free donations for Sacred Heart and Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Churches when you shop 6,000+ stores online using Give as you Live Online! A link can be found on each of the churches webpages at [www.avonstour.co.uk/parishes/](http://www.avonstour.co.uk/parishes/) Thank you!

## Standing Order information:

Please continue to support your parishes through your donations. The best way, is to set up a Standing Order via your bank. The parish bank details are:

**Account Name: CPD Ringwood Sacred Heart or  
CPD Fordingbridge St. Mary and St. Philip**

**Ringwood:** Sort Code: 30 93 04 Account Number: 00886336

**Fordingbridge:** Sort Code: 30 93 04 Account Number: 00878309

## Fordingbridge and Ringwood Contact Details

**Office hours:** Fordingbridge Tues & Thurs 9-12 and Ringwood Fri 10-1

**Parish Priest:** Rev Mgr Canon Paul Townsend

Tel: 01425 653131 Email: [ptownsend@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:ptownsend@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**Administrator:** Melissa Hildreth

Tel: 01425 653131 Email: [shandolos@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:shandolos@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**Safeguarding Co-ordinator:**

Fordingbridge: Helen Thomas email: [safeguarding@olosfordingbridge.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@olosfordingbridge.org.uk)

Ringwood: please contact Helen Thomas details above

**Thank you for your financial support: please, if you can,  
continue to support your parishes via standing orders.  
OCTOBER offerings to Parish bank accounts**

	Ringwood	Fordingbridge
SO	£ 2320	£ 2841
Cash/online	£ 993	£ 507

## For an Urgent Matter —For an urgent call to a priest if Fr. Paul

cannot be contacted, please call a priest on one of the numbers below:

Fr. Darryl Jordan: Iford St Thomas More

Fr. Kevin Hoiles: Southbourne Our Lady Queen of Peace (01202424960)

Fr. Paul Obada: Immaculate Conception & St. Joseph (01202483340)

More details on the website: [www.avonstour.co.uk](http://www.avonstour.co.uk)

**Hospital Chaplain** (B'mouth & C'Church): Fr. Darryl Jordan contact at: 03000194221 (Chaplaincy Office)

(Salisbury Chaplaincy Office) : 01722429271

(Southampton Chaplaincy Office): 02380777222

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth (reg. charity no. 1199568 )

**“Bringing people closer to Jesus Christ through his Church”**

[www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)