

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 Third Sunday of Advent

Father Paul writes.....

The Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has offered reflections for the Sundays of Advent. Here is the one for the Third Sunday, which is based on the Sunday readings:

The Gift of Your Presence: Joy

*The Third Sunday of Advent is marked by joy and generosity to others.
How can we reach out to those in need?*

Third Sunday of Advent: 15th December, Year C

Theme: Rejoice in the Lord

Scripture Readings

First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14–18 – “The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness.”

Psalms: Isaiah 12:2–6 – “With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.”

Second Reading: Philippians 4:4–7 – “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.”

Gospel: Luke 3:10–18 – “Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.”

Reflection

Gaudete Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent, is marked by joy. Zephaniah speaks of God's delight in His people, while Paul calls us to rejoice always. True joy comes from a deep trust in God's presence and His promises, even during life's many challenges. The Gospel reminds us that this joy is not selfish—it flows outward through generosity and kindness towards others.

Prayer

Lord of Joy, fill our hearts with Your Spirit this Advent. Help us to rejoice in Your presence and share the joy of Your love with those we meet. May we become signs of Your joy in the world.
Amen.

Action Steps

Key words or phrases – are there any key words or phrases from one or more of the readings that speak to you today? Ask God to lead you to their deeper meaning for you this week. Think of someone who may be struggling to feel joyful this season. Reach out to them with a note, a call, a helping hand or a small gift to brighten their day.

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 15th	11am	✘	<i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>	✘	People of Ringwood Parish
Wednesday	December 18th	10am	✘	<i>Liturgy of the Day (O Adonai)</i>	✘	Chris Grant RIP
Friday	December 20th	10am	✘	<i>Liturgy of the Day (O Key of David)</i>	✘	Holy Souls

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	December 14th	6pm	✘	<i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>	✘	People of Fordingbridge Parish
Sunday	December 15th	9am	✘	<i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>	✘	Deacon Anthony Cairns RIP
Tuesday	December 17th	10am	✘	<i>Liturgy of the Day (O Wisdom)</i>	✘	
Thursday	December 19th	10am	✘	<i>Liturgy of the Day (O Root of Jesse)</i>	✘	

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



Ringwood Parishioners are invited to write a small Christmas card addressed to all of their fellow parishioners to be placed on the Christmas tree at the back of the church. Please give your card to Peter Mollett in the coming weeks and he will hang your card with a festive ribbon.

✘ **Fordingbridge Parishioners** please help bring up the nativity after Mass on December 15th. ✘ Christmas flower arranging will need helpers please contact the office ✘ Please consider a small donation to the Christmas flowers on Dona or the collection plate.



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.

Christmas Offering for Fr Paul

This Christmas we give thanks for all the dedication, guidance and care our priest give us throughout our diocese and within our parish. If you would like to give a gift to support our parish priest in his vocation and mission please send a donation via BACS, DONA machine or cash in the collection tray. Wishing you a joyful and peaceful Christmas.



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!)



Stella Maris seeking knitters

As a worldwide Roman Catholic charity and part of the Caritas Social Action Network, Stella Maris cares for the spiritual, practical, and welfare needs of Seafarers and Fishers of all faiths and none. The Southampton office serves hundreds of thousands of seafarers arriving at ports along the south coast of England, throughout the year. Every ship visited receives a bag of gifts, including faith materials, rosaries, chocolate, and knitted hats.

Dedicated knitters across the Portsmouth Diocese offer these much appreciated hats, bringing pleasure to crews who endure tough, isolated lives, separated from family and friends for up to nine months at a time. If you'd like to help, you might like to use the tried and tested 'Stella Maris knitting pattern', easily found by searching online for "Stella Maris Knitting" Or you can use your own favourite patterns. Dark or bright colours are best. There are drop off points in the porch and hall of both churches. Thank you!

Friendship Group Sacred Heart

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



Forty Days and Forty Nights....

your parish magazine

Send contributions and feed back for future editions to: crisbasha@aol.com. The Forty Days deadline for January edition will be the 30th of December.



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/ 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

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

SO	Ringwood	Fordingbridge
Cash/online	£ 2010	£ awaiting
	£ 638	£ awaiting

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

Administrator: Melissa Hildreth
Tel: 01425 653131 Email: shandolos@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Safeguarding Co-ordinator:
Fordingbridge: Helen Thomas email: safeguarding@olofordingbridge.org.uk
Ringwood: please contact Helen Thomas details above

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

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