

# The Catholic Church in Fordingbridge and Ringwood

Avon Stour Pastoral Area

[www.avonstour.co.uk](http://www.avonstour.co.uk)



**Our Lady of Sorrows & St. Philip Benizi**  
Fordingbridge SP6 1EG

## **A Warm Welcome**

to the Catholic community of our little church  
built in the 1870s

*Please join us for tea and coffee  
in the hall after Sunday Mass*



**Who We Are**

**What We Do**

**How To Find Out More**

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth (reg. charity no. 246871)

***"Bringing people closer to Jesus Christ through his Church"***

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### Who We Are

This parish operates in partnership with the parish of Our Lady of Sorrows and St Philip Benizi, Fordingbridge.

The two share a priest (co-pastor), a weekly newsletter, and a Parishes Administrator

### Both are part of the **Avon Stour Pastoral Area**

Other churches in our pastoral area

Immaculate Conception & St Joseph, Christchurch

St Thomas More, Iford, Bournemouth

Holy Redeemer, Highcliffe

Our Lady, Queen of Peace & Bl Margaret Pole, Southbourne

The Coordinating Pastor is Fr John Chadwick



### Welcome to the Avon Stour Pastoral Website

comprising the Catholic parishes of Christchurch, Southbourne, Fordingbridge, Ringwood, Iford & Highcliffe in Dorset/Hampshire UK within the Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

### What We Do

In 2012 we were able to build a hall which is used during the week:

- Children's Liturgy during 9am Mass
- Tea and coffee after Mass on Sunday and Thursday mornings

There are many other events that take place in the hall and you may see posters for these in the porch: we like to use it as much as possible.

Hall bookings for parish activities:

[shandolos@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:shandolos@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

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## How To Find Out More

Please - take a Newsletter from the porch where you will find:

- Mass times and venues for the week.
- Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- Priest's and Parish Officers' contact details.
- Other churches in our Pastoral Area.
- Events and activities in our Church and in our community.

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The 23rd Sunday in the Year of St Luke  
Canon Paul writes:



With only three weeks left of the Church's year, the readings at Mass begin to focus our minds and prayer on endings and completion. Because of the resurrection of Jesus, while endings may seem to be final, they mark a new beginning towards fulfillment and the completion of resurrection and new life. Consider how the end of a meeting with a close friend leads forward to the next meeting sometime in the future. Human experience has threads of resurrection weaving through time and love.

Our Old Testament reading is from the Second Book of Maccabees. The Maccabees were a Jewish guerrilla movement that fought against the Seleucid Empire and the influence of Greek culture and authority. The seven brothers we hear about today, probably lived in the 2nd Century before Christ. Non scripture tradition has their names as Helim, Sotir, Simeon, Eleazar, Eusebius, Helim, Helim and Marthabai and their mother was Sotiriana. They were punished because they were Jews and were required to eat pig's flesh which was against the Jewish Law. The dietary laws, the worship and the law of circumcision were central to Jewish identity and the relationship with God, and so they were prepared to become martyrs.

The Maccabean martyrs suffered cruel deaths at the hands of the Greeks. As martyrs they died in the belief and hope that God, who is love, would bring them to resurrection and new life.

In the story of the Maccabean martyrs we see the beginnings of belief in resurrection. That belief was not in vain because Jesus, who died as a martyr himself, was raised from the dead and that is why the ending of death for each of us is a change bringing us to fulfillment and new life. A share, in fact, in the life and joy of God. It shows which is essential: eternal living in the perfect communion of God in the communion of all the saints.

*continued on page 4*

## Useful Websites

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

Avon Stour Pastoral Area: [www.avonstour.co.uk](http://www.avonstour.co.uk)

## Some Other Useful Information

Fordingbridge Local Information Office, Kings Yard, Salisbury Street. 01425 654560

**Marriage and Relationship Counselling:**

Marriage Care - 0800 389 3801 (appointments available in Christchurch)

**Pregnancy and pro-life issues:**

Life Group – 0800 802 5433 (Bournemouth)

**Parish Safeguarding Coordinator:**

Donna Kerrigan 01425 656895 [donna.kerrigan@btinternet.com](mailto:donna.kerrigan@btinternet.com)

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Please, take a good look through the whole 'Welcome Pack' to find out lots more about what goes on in our parish community; and how we can help you and how you can help us.



**And finally.....**

**Do let us know you are here!**

You will find a registration form in the porch (or in this pack) to complete and hand to the parish priest after Mass.

If you prefer, there is an e-form on the website: [www.avonstour.co.uk](http://www.avonstour.co.uk)

Which you can send to the Parish Administrator:

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

***Thank you***



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