

## ALPHA – PRAYERS, PLEASE!

Over 70 people have signed up for our Alpha Course! Please pray for them as they make this journey over the next 11 weeks. Please pray also for our large team of volunteers supporting and encouraging them. Meal Sponsorship (red envelopes at back of church): please consider helping towards the meal costs. Many thanks to those who have already made contributions.



Recently 100 people, all at different stages of their own personal faith journey, have started doing **Alpha** in Avon Stour Pastoral Area – sharing meals, meeting new people, getting to know each other, learning and talking together about Jesus for the next 10 weeks. About 60 are meeting at St Joseph's church in Christchurch, while 40 others are meeting in people's homes in Southbourne and Ringwood.

In November we will all gather together as one big group for our 'AwayDay', focused on the Holy Spirit. Please pray for all those involved: guests, group leaders/helpers, catering teams, welcomers, organisers and admin support team. Come, Holy Spirit!



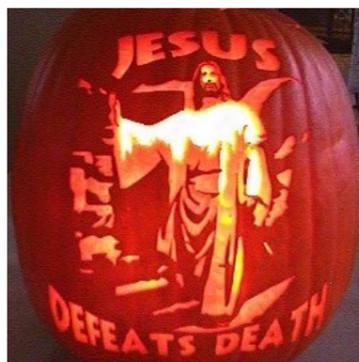
## Meaningful Advent Calendars

Why not give someone who relies on their local Foodbank a treat this Advent. You pay £3.40 and Meaningful Chocolate will cover the additional costs of sending a full priced single Real Advent Calendar to the Trussell food bank hub for national distribution. It's a great way to make sure a family in need receive a Fairtrade Real Advent Calendar this year. Donations need to be made by 20th November. You will not receive the calendar, but it will be donated to the food bank along with other calendars which have been purchased for donation. Due to logistics it is not possible to nominate a food bank or have calendars delivered to a food bank which you run yourself. Meaningful Chocolate will share news of the donations made just before Christmas.



The Real Advent Calendar is a fun way for parents, grandparents and Godparents to share the Christmas story. The 2018 design calendar comes with a free 24-page Christmas story activity book designed to be used every day in Advent. This year, the book is illustrated by award winning artist, Alida Massari. Find out more [here](#).

## NIGHT OF LIGHT - RECLAIMING ALL HALLOWS' EVE



What immediately comes to mind when you think of Hallowe'en? Probably, like most people, it is the images of witches and ghosts and so on, which belong to the dark world of the occult and magic - images of darkness and death.

In fact Hallowe'en ('All Hallows Eve'), the evening of the 31st October, is the vigil (beginning) of the feast of All Saints - the feast in which we celebrate the glory of God in His saints. The victory of light over darkness in the lives of God's holy ones in heaven. Jesus is the 'Light of the World'. The saints lived by that light, and became a beacon in their own generation. We too are called by Jesus to live out this vocation - to be the 'Light of the world' today. Let Christians reclaim Halloween for God so that it is transformed from a night of darkness into a great Christian festival once again. In this way, in years to come, when people are asked what immediately springs to mind when they think of Halloween, they will

think of Jesus Christ and the glory of God in His saints. They will think of a Night of Light.

[The Night of Light](#), is an international initiative to *reclaim Hallowe'en for the church*. It is running in many, many countries in the world from England to India, from Africa to New Zealand and Hungary to the United States, with uncountable numbers of people involved. Celebrations have taken place in small chapels and cathedrals in parish churches and monasteries in Schools, homes and on the streets. The inspiration for it was received by Damian Stayne the founder of the Catholic community, [Cor et Lumen Christi](#). The Night of Light has the [endorsement](#) of the Bishops Conference of England and Wales.

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth (reg. charity no.: 246871)  
Avon Stour Pastoral Area

Co-ordinating Pastor & Dean: Canon Paul Townsend

## The Catholic Church in Fordingbridge and Ringwood

Internet: [www.shandolos.org.uk](http://www.shandolos.org.uk); [www.avonstourpastoralarea.org](http://www.avonstourpastoralarea.org)

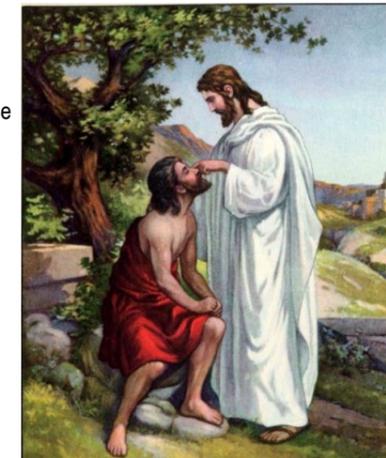
PARISH PRIEST: Canon Paul Townsend Tel: 01425 653131 Email: [ptownsend@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:ptownsend@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

ADMINISTRATOR : Natalie Littlefair Tel: 07892670133 Email: [shandolos@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:shandolos@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

Safeguarding Co-ordinators: Fordingbridge –Donna Kerrigan 01425 656895 [donna.kerrigan@btinternet.com](mailto:donna.kerrigan@btinternet.com)  
Ringwood - Margaret Pointon 01425 480726 [pointonfamily@btinternet.com](mailto:pointonfamily@btinternet.com)

## Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time 28th October 2018 (Year B, weekday cycle 2, Office week 2)

Canon Paul writes: The traveller from Galilee to Jerusalem will often stop at Jericho. It occupies a position on the western bank of the River Jordan and is the last stopping point before arriving in Jerusalem which is about 15 miles away. It is an oasis city, making it a green patch in the middle of the Judean desert. It has lots of water, fruit and vegetables which makes it an attractive proposition for those who walked from Galilee to Jerusalem, which for our purposes this weekend, includes Jesus and his disciples. It is reputed to be the oldest city in the world.



Today's Gospel narrative from St. Mark, describes how Jesus comes across a blind beggar called Bartimaeus. People like Bartimaeus would be hoping for rich pickings from the pilgrims on the way to Jerusalem who had benefited from the abundance and generosity of Jericho's renowned hospitality. Unusually for the Gospels, St. Mark mentions the name of the beggar and we know him as Bartimaeus. That we know his name is probably an indication that Bartimaeus became a well-known and respected disciple in the early Jerusalem Church after the Lord's resurrection.

Yes, there is another reason for remembering him. So far in the Gospel of Mark, only the devils and the evil spirits recognise who Jesus is. The rich man, about whom we heard a few weeks ago, failed to recognise who Jesus was and what he was offering and went away sad. Even Jesus's disciples, and especially James and John, who featured in last week's Gospel, failed to appreciate who Jesus was and what he was offering. James and John, sadly, were blinded by ambition and the desires for statue and power. This is where Bartimaeus is so important. Bartimaeus asked Jesus if he might see again. He wish was granted and, unlike James and John, the other disciples and the rich man, he was able to see who Jesus truly was and called to him as the Son of David. Bartimaeus believed that Jesus was the Messiah and the anointed one. The one who came to bring the healing and power of God to his people. Jesus tells Bartimaeus that his faith has saved him and he followed Jesus after that as a disciple, which is why we remember him today. Eventually, once they had experienced the events which took place in Jerusalem, James and John and the others came to see who Jesus was. Like Bartimaeus they believed and trusted.

The question for each of us is this: do we really see who Jesus is? Do we appreciate that he is risen and with us during each moment of our lives? Do we trust him and see his hand in all the different experiences of life? The blind man significantly threw off his cloak. The cloak was the means of his livelihood because the beggar would lay the cloak on the ground to collect the money from passers-by. The more we can let go of those things on which we depend; the more we can trust; the more we can lose our lives, the clearer will be our ability to see Jesus present and active in our lives. (PJT)

## Masses and Liturgies for the 28th October to 3rd November 2018



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



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

### The Sacred Heart, Ringwood

|           |         |                                      |
|-----------|---------|--------------------------------------|
| Sun 28th  | 11.00am | Mass                                 |
| Mon 29th  | 9.45am  | Holy Rosary                          |
|           | 10.00am | Liturgy of the Word & Holy Communion |
| Wed 31st  | 10.00am | Mass                                 |
| Thurs 1st | 7.00pm  | All Saints Holy Day Obligation       |
| Fri 2nd   | 10.00am | Mass Holy Souls                      |

### Our Lady of Sorrows, Fordingbridge

|           |         |   |
|-----------|---------|---|
| Sun 28th  | 9.00am  | Mass  |
| Tues 30th | 9.00am  | Mass  |
|           | 5.30pm  | Vigil for Peter & reception of his body at the Church |
| Wed 31st  | 2.00pm  | Funeral Peter Tullett                                 |
| Thurs 1st | 9.30am  | Novena  |
|           | 10.00am | All Saints Holy Day Obligation                        |
| Fri 2nd   | 7.30pm  | Annual Mass for the Dead                              |
| Sat 3rd   | 6.00pm  | Vigil Mass  |

**Sacrament of Penance or Confession - Saturday 11-11.30 Fordingbridge, 12-12.30 Ringwood**

**RINGWOOD MUSIC : Ent. –238 Off. –257 Comm – 81 Final - 602 (subject to alteration)**  
**PSALM** What marvels the Lord worked for us, indeed we were glad, indeed we were glad

The Parish office will be open for enquiries at Ringwood on Fridays between 9am and 12pm,  
 Fordingbridge on Thursdays between 9am and 12pm.  
 Please arrange Mass intentions with Natalie through the Parish Office

## Second Collection — 4th November Bamenda Sunday

Application forms are available for **First Holy Communion preparation**. Families who want a child to celebrate First Holy Communion next year should complete the form and return it to Canon Paul

**Next Thursday** is the Solemnity of All Saints. It is a Holyday of Obligation. Mass will be celebrated in Fordingbridge at 10.00 am and in Ringwood at 7.00 pm.

On **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November** which is Holy Souls day there will be a special mass for the dead of both parishes in Fordingbridge at 7.30pm everyone is welcome. The names of those who have died in the last 18 months will be mentioned in the Eucharistic prayer.

We would kindly ask for volunteers to be fire wardens for both churches. This is not an onerous task but just to be available during mass should the fire alarm sound to help direct people to the fire exit and to the fire assembly point. Full training will be provided. Please contact Canon Paul or Natalie in the Parish Office.

**A Week of Accompanied Prayer** is seeking God each day for a week by spending time in prayer and having a sympathetic listener to help you with that prayer. Does this interest you? If so you will find more information on the poster on the noticeboard or Email [heartsonfiresouth@gmail.com](mailto:heartsonfiresouth@gmail.com) or Mobile 07852 335127. The week starts on Sun 4th Nov at 3pm in the Parish Centre Hall of Corpus Christi, Boscombe. St James Square.



Join us on the **First Friday** of each month at:-

Sacred Heart Church  
 41-43 Portland Street  
 Fareham.  
 PO16 0NF

(Easy access via road, train & bus)

7pm-9pm

Food, prayer, reflection and friendship. No such thing as a silly question!

## RINGWOOD NEWS

**Next Sunday**, being the first in the month, there will be a **CAKE SALE** in aid of CAFOD. All contributions will be gratefully received.

**Sunday 2nd December** there will be an **EST** talk during mass at 11am.

## FORDINGBRIDGE NEWS

**Thursday 1st November** we will be having our parking bays marked out. Once we have the timings we will let you know but hopefully it will not cause too much inconvenience.

**TRANSPORT needed:** to take people from Fordingbridge, 1st Thursday in month, to and from the Link Lunch at Hyde Memorial Hall, to get there 12.15pm and collect at 2pm. If you could help occasionally, please speak to, or phone, Pat Bloomfield 837735.

**Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd December** there will be an **EST** talk during mass at 6pm and 9am.

## Liturgical Calendar for the Week

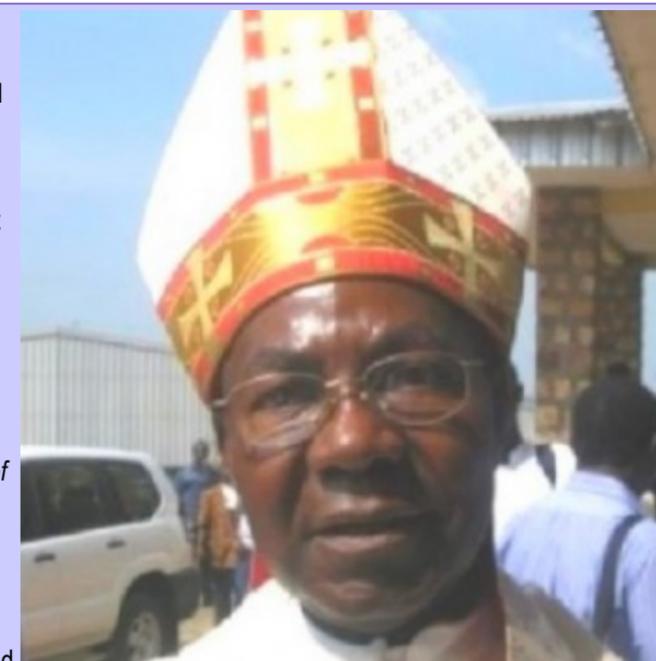
**Monday:** St John Paul II or Feria  
**Tuesday:** St John of Capestrano or Feria  
**Wednesday:** St Anthony Claret or Feria  
**Thursday:** Feria  
**Friday:** Ss Chad & Cedd or Feria  
**Saturday:** Our Lady on Saturday or Feria

## We acknowledge with thanks, our September Collections:

|                                 | Ringwood        | Fordingbridge   |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Non Gift Aid Cash/Chq           | £895.33         | £1018.31        |
| Gift Aid Envelopes              | £236.20         | £805.90         |
| Non Gift aid Envelopes          | £43.00          | £0.00           |
| Standing Order/ Direct debits   | £992.00         | £838.33         |
| <b>Total monthly collection</b> | <b>£2166.53</b> | <b>£2662.54</b> |
| Special Collections             | £260.85         | £262.23         |

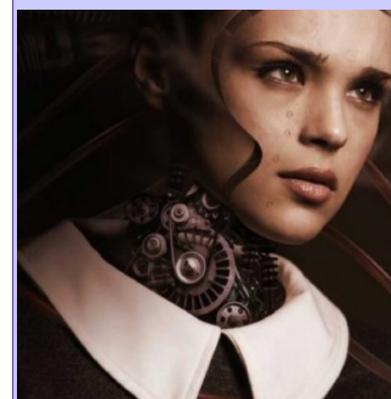
## NEWS FROM BAMENDA –FROM THE BISHOP

I was very saddened to hear that last week a first-year seminarian was shot dead by the military in Bamenda. He had just entered the seminary this September. He was an only child. I immediately emailed Archbishop Cornelius to offer our prayers and the promise of prayers for his family. This shocking development reached the press: you can read about it [here](#). Archbishop Cornelius celebrated the funeral the other day, and wrote to me in his email: *Many thanks for your consoling words and prayers. We had the funeral of Gerard today at the Cathedral. There was a good turn up by the faithful from different parishes. The cathedral was full. It was sad but prayerful. I am writing to the Governor about the incident and the negative attitude of the military towards the Church in this situation. The army has broken into a number of convents and health centres in the pretext of looking for the "amba boys". We find ourselves sandwiched between the military and the amba boys. Continue to pray for us. Glad to know that Frs Emmanuel and Elijah are settling down well.*



Sunday 4th November is Bamenda Sunday in our Diocese and I met with Fr. Mark Hogan and some members of our Bamenda Team last week in order to review the situation and to see what we can do to help. We are discussing a campaign of letter-writing to our MPs to raise the profile of the problems in Cameroon with the international community and to enlist the help of our own government to bring pressure and assistance. I will write more about this soon. Meanwhile, please pray for seminarian Gerard and for his repose, and for his family – and pray for Cameroon for a way out of all these current troubles. Our prayers are key.

## CAN HUMANS LIVE FOR EVER?



The Bible says our "span is seventy years or eighty for those who are strong" (Ps 89: 10). Is there an inbuilt limit on human bodily existence? Yet Adam was said to have lived for 930 years (Gen 5: 5), Abraham 175 years (Gen 25: 7) and Moses 120 years (Deut 34: 7). Could rapid advances in medical science and improvements to living conditions enable human beings in the future to live as long as the patriarchs - even for ever? Scientists today ask whether dying is an inevitable part of life. Is there a way humans will be able biologically to live forever?

This is just one of the workshops in our big diocesan Symposium. The Symposium, called "Science - or - Religion?" takes place on Saturday 3rd November 2018, 10 am – 4 pm in The Discovery Centre in Winchester (opposite St. Peter's church). There are two keynote speakers: Professor Alister McGrath, Professor of Science and Religion at the University of Oxford, and Dr. Andrew Pinsent from the Ian Ramsey Centre for Science and Religion.

They will be tackling the issue of whether recent research on the universe suggests the existence of a Creator. We've also got a great line-up of other speakers who will be running optional workshops depending on your interests.

## Avon Stour Pastoral Area:

### Other Priests in the Pastoral Area with Weekend Mass Times (subject to change)

Fr. Darryl Jordan: 01202 485588 (Iford) St Thomas More Sat eve 6pm, Sun 9.30 am  
 Fr. Kevin Hoiles: 01202 424960 (Southbourne) Our Lady Queen of Peace Sat 11am, Sun 8.00am, Sun eve 6pm,  
 Rev. John Chadwick: 01202 483340 (Christchurch) St Joseph's Sat eve 6.30pm, Sun 9.00am