



# St Francis of Assisi Church

Windsor & Ascot Pastoral area  
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Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth  
Charity number 1199568

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

Fr Phillip writes...

## THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Firstly, may I say a profound "thank you" to Fr Kevin for the many years of dedicated and loving care and ministry he has brought to you all in St Francis of Assisi, Ascot. May he enjoy now his well-earned years of retirement. It is a privilege to follow on from him here and I am looking forward to getting to know you all as your priest and pray that the Lord will help and support us all in our onward journey and mission as faithful Catholics in the coming years.

This Sunday's readings present us with the establishment of the Ten Commandments (Ex 20:1-17), St Paul's reflection on our faith in the Lord Jesus, crucified for us (1 Cor 1:22-25) and Jesus cleansing the temple in the Gospel reading (John 2:13-25).

The giving of the Law was important in helping to form and guide God's people yet, with time, it was taken advantage of for personal gain as we hear in the Gospel. So Jesus overthrows the money-changers' and the pigeon sellers' tables and purifies the temple. This is a prelude to and a reflection of what he came into our world to do: to cleanse us all from the corruption of sin and wickedness by his saving sacrifice on the Cross.

By dying on the Cross for us and rising again on Easter Day he has transformed our lives and our relationship with God. So like St Paul we can see our mission and our calling: "here are we preaching a crucified Christ... a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength."

Let us, as faithful Catholic Christians here at St Francis of Assisi in Ascot, continue to put our trust and faith in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ this Lent and help others also to recognise and come to him.

\*Live stream: <https://www.youtube.com/@rp54996/streams>

## MASS TIMES THIS WEEK

KINDLY NOTE THE WEEKLY MASSES HAD THEIR TIMES CHANGED!

- ✦ Sat, 2nd Mar, at 5.30 pm: VIGIL: 3rd Sunday of Lent
- ✦ Sun, 3rd Mar, at 8.30 am and 10 am: 3rd Sunday of Lent
- ✦ Mon, 4th Mar: **NO MASS AT ST FRANCIS**
- ✦ Tue, 5th Mar, at 6.30 pm: 3rd Week of Lent
- ✦ Wed, 6th Mar, at 10 am: 3rd Week of Lent
- ✦ Thu, 7th Mar at 6.30 pm: 3rd Week of Lent
- ✦ Fri, 8th Mar at 10 am: 3rd Week of Lent
- ✦ Sat, 9th Mar at 10am: 3rd Week of Lent

Confessions after Saturday Mass

FRI DAY, 8TH MARCH - STATIONS OF THE CROSS AFTER 10 AM MASS, FOLLOWED BY LENT LUNCH.



### WE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND:



MARIA WILLIAMS, BRIAN LYNCH, PAT SASSI, SIMON SAINT, ERNESTO AND NAPOLEON MANNOIS, JANE THOMAS, DANIEL OFFER, MARIE HALL, NINA MULLINS, GEORGIA MACKINLEY, EILEEN HOARE, SR. JOSEPHINE COLLIER, PAULINE PAINTER, GERALD GRIFFITHS & MAGORZATA CORDOBA.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO ADD A NAME TO THIS LIST, WITH CONSENT, OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE A NAME REMOVED, KINDLY EMAIL OR PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE. WHATSAPP: 07851 092431



## MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

- ◇ Sat, 2nd Mar at 5.30 pm: Hugh & Eilish Rodgers R.I.P
- ◇ Sun, 3rd Mar at 8.30 am: People of the Parish
- ◇ Sun, 3rd Mar at 10.00 am: Deceased Members of the Berkeley Family
- ◇ Tue, 5th Mar at 6.30 pm: Charles, Sarah & Sven, in thanksgiving for healing
- ◇ Wed. 6th Mar at 10 am: Private Intention
- ◇ Thu, 7th Mar at 6.30 pm: Annie Furlong Intentions
- ◇ Fri, 8th Mar at 10 am: Mary Guinan Intentions
- ◇ Sat, 2nd Mar at 10 am: Eileen Berkeley R.I.P



"Whatever a man has in superabundance is owed, of natural right, to the poor for their sustenance."

St Thomas Aquinas



**Little Franciscan Toddler Group**  
During term time, every Tuesday from 11am to 12.45pm. All welcome!

**Children's Liturgy of the Word**

Every Sunday, during the 10am Mass (during term-time). We accept children from 3y-o to Year 3. Enrolment forms available in the Narthex.

For further queries, email **Sue Roche** on: [sue.roche1@btinternet.com](mailto:sue.roche1@btinternet.com)

**Prayer group: Walking with God**  
Every Wed at 6.15pm at St Francis Church, followed by Mass and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Rosary said every Saturday at 9.30 am, before Mass, at the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima.



**!PRO-LIFE URGENT APPEAL!**  
**Ask your MP to support the abortion time limit reduction amendment**  
*Support an amendment to reduce our abortion time limit from 24 weeks to 22 weeks. Research indicates that a significant number of babies born at 22 or 23 weeks can now survive outside the womb, leaving a contradiction in our abortion law. **Take action:** Collect a postcard today from the back of the church and post it to your MP urgently in support of this amendment!*

**Soup for Lent**  
This Fri, 8th March, there will be Stations of the Cross after the 10am Mass, followed by an opportunity to share a simple Lenten lunch and raise donation for CAFOD.

**The Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVP) in the Narthex**  
**TABLE TOP SALE:** Wednesday - Sunday in the Narthex. Thank you to all who BROUGHT and BOUGHT this week. Society of St Vincent de Paul, supports very needy families locally. Thank you.



**LET'S GET TO KNOW A LITTLE MORE OF OUR NEW PRIEST IN CHARGE, FR PHILLIP HARRIS**



**Birth date:** January  
**Pet:** Rufus (springer spaniel)  
**Sweet or savoury?** Sweet  
**Tea or coffee?** Coffee  
**Hot or cold?** Hot  
**Favourite food:** All pasta  
**Do you like spicy food?** "ish"

**Favourite dessert:** Tiramisu  
**Best trip of your life so far:** Rome  
**Where would you like to travel next?** Rome  
**Hobbies:** Music (composing, playing, listening to)  
**Any allergies?** No  
**Favourite season:** Spring  
**Your motto in life:** "Jesus, remember me"

**FACE TO FACE SAFEGUARDING TRAINING EVENT**

This is an opportunity to receive updated training in relation to safeguarding matters, with content being tailored to your roles in ministry. The training is open to all those in recruitment for, or currently working in roles with children and/or adults at risk. In accordance with the National Safeguarding Standards, safeguarding training must be completed every 2 years. If this church is not within your parish, but you are able to make your own way, anyone working or volunteering in a relevant role is most welcome. **Date of training: Sat, 16th Mar Place: St Francis Time: TBC More details next week. In the meantime, if you wish to participate, email the Parish Office!**

**ST FRANCIS PRE-SCHOOL ADVERTISES!**

St Francis Pre-School is looking for 3 new volunteer Trustees as part of a restructure with the hope of reopening to children aged 2-5 in September 2024. If you are interested (or would like more information), please contact [stfrancispschair@hotmail.com](mailto:stfrancispschair@hotmail.com)  
Please, help us rebuild this much loved part of the community!



**SYMPOSIUM: WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE HUMAN?**

It takes place at **The Arc** (formerly The Discovery Centre) in **Winchester** (opposite St. Peter's Catholic Church) on **Saturday 16th March 2024 from 10.00am until 4.15pm**. Start of life and end of life questions are always in the news these days, together with issues to do with gender and mental health. All these raise the deeper question about what it means to be a human person.

The aim is to bring the Catholic Tradition and its values into a constructive and fruitful dialogue with people of other viewpoints. **Tickets cost £20**, including sandwich lunch and refreshments, and are available on-line [via Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com).



**NOTICE FOR MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION & READERS**

The diocese is pleased to announce they will be organising two training days in 2024 - one for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and one for readers. These will be held at St Bede's Church and Hall in Basingstoke as follows:

- \* Day for **Ministers** – Saturday 4th May
- \* Day for **Readers** – Saturday 19th October

Both days will run from **9.30 am to 2.30 pm** and will include some light refreshments. Please enrol now if you would like to by emailing [liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)



**THE SECRETS OF A GOOD CONFESSION**

"One of the secrets of a good confession is a thorough examination of conscience. To see in a dark room, we need a light. So before setting off to meet the priest, we need to pause and ask the Holy Spirit to shine the light of Christ in our heart and mind, that we may know our sins and make a good confession. I was always taught to remember a list of things in my mind, but these days it's often easier to make a simple note or list on a piece of paper, as this helps keep things focused without drifting away into unnecessary contexts and explanations etc." Bishop Philip Egan

**IN LENT ... (AND ALWAYS)... TRY THE BISHOP'S SIX HOLY HABITS!**

- 1st - Keep Sunday special by attending Mass
- 2nd - 5 minutes of prayer using the Scriptures
- 3rd - Keep Friday as a day of penance, serve the poor and needy
- 4th - once a fortnight, pay a private visit to short for a short period of prayer
- 5th - Go to confession once a month
- 6th - Join a small group for formation, prayer, fellowship

A decorative border surrounds the text, consisting of various colorful abstract shapes like semi-circles, triangles, and ovals in shades of blue, red, yellow, and grey.

# **New Mass Times**

**Saturday Vigil Mass 5.30 pm**

**Sunday Mass 8.30 am**

**Parish Mass 10.00 am**

**Monday - NO MASS AT ST FRANCIS**

**Tuesday 6.30 pm**

**Wednesday 10 am**

**Thursday 6.30 pm**

**Friday 10 am**

**Saturday 10 am**

**ST FRANCIS**  
**FATIMA DEVOTIONS**  
**KSC HOME PRAYER GROUP**  
**Monday - Friday at 1.30pm**  
**30 Minutes of praying the Rosary**  
**As requested by Our Lady**  
**ZOOM ID & PASSWORD BELOW**  
**MON 4th Mar - FRI 8th March 2024**  
**ZOOM ID : 755 7551 5326**  
**PASSWORD : rosary**



**Sponsored by the KNIGHTS of ST COLUMBA - Province 41 WESTMINSTER**

**London North - Hanwell - Edmonton - Palmers Green - Sudbury - Harrow - St Albans - Northfields - Uxbridge - Willesden Green - Mill Hill  
High Wycombe - Wood Green - Chiswick - Cockfosters - Hemel Hempstead - Letchworth - Enfield - Stevenage - Hoxton Square  
Yeading - Whitton Wembley - Thames Valley**