

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 Fourth Sunday of the Year
Father Paul writes

Fr. David Adams is the Parish Priest of Lymington, Brockenhurst and Milford. He is also the Dean of Bournemouth and the New Forest and is the Coordinating Pastor of the New Forest Pastoral Area, of which our two parishes are part. During January, Fr. David called a meeting for representatives of the local pastoral councils, or their equivalent, to discuss the issues and challenges which are emerging for us from the Bishop's Plan which is called "You are my witnesses". I am grateful to Larry Bartell, Helen Eales and Helen and John Rawlins for joining me at the meeting. The plan has the basic aim of developing mission and evangelisation which is, and always has been, the essential mission of the Church. The question hovering in the air is this: How do we introduce our society to the message of Jesus?

The Bishop's plan is set to run for ten years. Our Pastoral Area of the New Forest (including the parishes of Ringwood, Fordingbridge, Lymington, Brockenhurst, Milford, New Milton, Hythe and Holbury) will become a single parish with a single parish priest. There will probably be other priests, but these will be assistants and not parish priests as such.

The meeting, which represented all the parishes, aimed at beginning to identify the issues which need to be addressed in the transition to a single parish. There was a sense of urgency because Fr. David must send our aspirations for the New Forest Parish by the end of March. At the meeting we discussed the implications for catechesis, a new and single website, liturgy including Sunday Mass and how Masses will be distributed across the new parish.

I will write more about this in the February edition of Forty Days. Watch that space.....

Please remember in your prayer Felicity Allegri and David Price who are preparing to become Catholics at the Easter Vigil. They will attend the 'Rite of Election' at the beginning of Lent in the Cathedral. They will meet the Bishop who will call them forward for selection as candidates for reception into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church.

Both our churches are open daily for prayer

Public and YouTube Celebrations of Mass

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	January	28th	11am	⊗	<i>Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	⊗	People of Ringwood Parish
Wednesday	January	31st	10am	⊗	<i>St John Bosco, Founder</i>	⊗	Paul Wallace RIP
Friday	February	2nd	10am	⊗	<i>The Presentation of the Lord</i>	⊗	

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	January	27th	6pm	⊗	<i>Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	⊗	People of Fordingbridge Parish
Sunday	January	28th	9am	⊗	<i>Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	⊗	
Tuesday	January	30th	No Mass	⊗	<i>Feria (4th Week in Ordinary Time)</i>	⊗	No Mass
Thursday	February	1st	10am	⊗	<i>Feria (4th Week in Ordinary Time)</i>	⊗	



Ringwood - Wednesday 31st January after 10am Mass
Fordingbridge – Tuesday 6th February after 10am Mass

Un-needed Christmas Gifts Ringwood

We are also collecting these in Ringwood. The gifts that we have already received are on display on the table in the House. Please help yourself and place a donation in the money basket. Money received will be shared between CAFOD and Parish funds

Do You Have Un-needed Christmas Gifts?

Once again we are asking for your un-needed Christmas presents for our Bring and Buy table and bookstand in the Fordingbridge hall. With this simple project, last year we raised £366.86 for Parish funds.
Thank you.

New Forest for Ukraine Need Your Help

The organisers of the group would like to make an appeal to you for donations. You may not be aware that there is a 'Sorting Hub' in Lymington for donations to Ukraine.

Because January is the coldest month in Ukraine there is an urgent appeal at the moment for items to provide warmth-

- Hot water bottles.
- Portable gas cookers you can donate or £25 to buy one
- Tins of soup.
- Knitted items- clothes, blankets, children's toys and wool.
- Even though it's cold, people like to feel clean so bars of soap will be most welcome.

Please go to their website newforestforukraine.co.uk for more information. A list of drop off sites will be posted in the churches and sent out with our newsletter. Thank you for your consideration

Help Your Marriage – Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille is a programme to support couples who have difficulties in their marriage. It brings a positive focus, new hope and helps nourish and grow your marriage. Tens of thousands of couples headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending and using the tools provided. The programme helps spouses uncover or re-awaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought them together. It helps them through difficult times whether they are disillusioned or in deep misery. There is no group therapy or group work. For confidential information about 'Retrouvaille' or to register for the next programme commencing with a Virtual weekend on 8 - 11 February 2024 or a Face to Face weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 14-16 June 2024, call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443 or email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com - or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk



Walk 200K in 40 days to help fight global poverty.

cafod.org.uk/fundraise/big-lent-walk

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 the next edition is the 25th of February.

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: Tues (OLS) 9-12 Friday 10-1(SH)
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@olosfordingbridge.org.uk
 Ringwood: please contact Helen Thomas details above

Friendship Group Sacred Heart

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



A Date for the Diary: Understanding Church Bells

Would you like to learn about church bells? The bells in St. Mary's Church, Fordingbridge are rather special. To start with there are 8 of them and that is pretty unusual. The oldest bell dates from 1655 which is the year that Cromwell dissolved the 1st Protectorate Parliament. There was also a Royalist rebellion which started in Wiltshire but was quickly, and brutally, put down. As if to restore domestic confidence and assert our maritime power Admiral Blake destroyed a pirate fleet in the Bay of Tunis.

The bells are tuned to the key signature of F, just like the scale that you might play on a piano. So the 8 bells are individually tuned to F, E, D, C, B flat, A and G and when they are played they start out upside down.

Would you like to know more? If so we have arranged a session for members of the Catholic church to visit St. Mary's church on the evening of Thursday 7 March 2024. If you join us you will learn about church bells and bell ringing, watch the bells being rung if you can manage the stairs to the ringing chamber, but wherever you are in the church listen to the bell ringers at work.

If you would like to attend please let John Elliott know via jelliott@btinternet.com as soon as possible as places are limited. This is a free event: there is no charge.

Churches Together Ringwood Prayer and Fasting Day Monday 5 February

We are taking time today to fast and pray ... Let's use the time to pray for ourselves, families, churches, community and the wider world and also to listen to what God might be saying to us. Further details attached to the newsletter.

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

	Ringwood	Fordingbridge
SO	£ 2068	£ 2846
Cash/Env	£ 762	£ 550
DONA	£ 186	£ included 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