

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

Thought for the 1st Sunday of Lent

Father Paul writes....

Ash Wednesday was last Wednesday and, by now, Lent is well underway. What is Lent all about? For a clear answer we need to consider the completion of Lent and Easter, the end of the journey, which is Pentecost. The day when we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit to all of us together and to each of us. The moment when the infinite love of God is poured out to bring reconciliation, healing and a share in the life of God. Lent is about preparing ourselves to renew our gratitude for such a great gift which comes to us in Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion. At the heart of our celebration of the Resurrection at Easter are those three sacraments of Christian initiation. Baptism is our 'immersion' into the resurrection of Jesus and is at the heart of Lent and Easter.

So, what are we to do, or not do, during Lent? And it is more about doing than not doing. Our Gospel this weekend gives us the first pointer. St. Mark tells us that Jesus was driven by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness, the Judean Wilderness. That wilderness is a desert and there are some amazing pictures of it on the internet. In Jesus's time, it was home to lions, leopards, bears, jackals, foxes, and all kinds of antelope. That was before humans had driven most of these creatures into extinction in Palestine and the Near East. The wilderness was a place of isolation and danger. For Jesus, it was an extended period of 40 days during which he left behind the usual experiences of life. That 'leaving behind' meant that the usual comforts, relationships, and the pattern of life on which we all depend, were not there for Jesus. The silence and danger of the wilderness had the effect of focussing Jesus's attention on the presence and care of God his Father and the fact that his life and work would find its success only in cooperation with the Holy Spirit. The wilderness was a glimpse for us of Jesus being immersed in the life of the Trinity. I wonder if that is what Lent is to be for us...

So what is Lent about? Perhaps it is a time for us to create or accept our own experience of 'wilderness', so that we might see life in a new way. Perhaps this stage on the Lenten journey is a moment to look at the signs of the times: the suffering people of Gaza and Israel, the escalating conflict in the Middle East, the war in Ukraine and the lack of care or respect for our environment. Do all these things point to a new way of seeing life and the world based on sufficiency and simplicity rather than the endless consumption and accumulation of material possessions? Lent is a time to consider our own responsibility for the good of creation and humanity. A time to appreciate more deeply that dependence on God is the way to life and, in the words of Mahatma Gandhi, "To live simply that others may simply live".

New Catholics: Please pray for Felicity Allegri and David Price who were called by the Bishop at the Rite of Election for reception into the Church on Saturday. They will attend the Easter Triduum, which this year will be at Fordingbridge, and be received, Confirmed, and receive Holy Communion for the first time at the Easter Vigil.



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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	February	18th	11am	✘	First Sunday of Lent	✘	Michael Chastanet
Wednesday	February	21st	10am	✘	of the 1st Week of Lent	✘	Holy Souls
Friday	February	23rd	11am	✘	of the 1st Week of Lent	✘	Liturgy of the Word

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	February	17th	6pm	✘	First Sunday of Lent	✘	Margaret Bates RIP
Sunday	February	18th	9am	✘	First Sunday of Lent	✘	Kay Lodge RIP
Tuesday	February	20th	10am	✘	of the 1st Week of Lent	✘	
Thursday	February	22nd	10am	✘	The Chair of St. Peter	✘	

Confession times: Confession will be available at 5.30pm on Saturdays in Fordingbridge. In Ringwood confession is available after Mass or by appointment.



Don't Forget! Stations of the Cross Starting this Friday

On each Friday during Lent, there will be Stations of the Cross at **11.30am** followed by a **Lenten Lunch**. This will happen in both Ringwood and Fordingbridge. *In Ringwood, the Stations will begin immediately after the 11.00am Mass.*

Support an amendment

Support an amendment to reduce our abortion law from 24 weeks to 22 weeks. Babies born prematurely at 22 weeks are thriving and there is a contradiction in our abortion law. Collect a postcard today from the back of the church and post it to your MP in support of this amendment!



Ringwood - Wednesday 28th February after 10am Mass
Fordingbridge - Tuesday 5th March after 10am Mass



Children's Liturgy

The first and third Sunday of the month at Our Lady of Sorrows.

Missio Appeal 24/25 of February

Please welcome Father Brian next weekend when he comes to speak to us on behalf of Missio.



CAFOD Family Fast Day Friday 23rd February

This Lent, your donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day appeal will help hardworking people like James the fisherman in Liberia with resources, tools and training to feed their families for good. Give today using the envelope or online at cafod.org.uk and please join us in praying with James that our sisters and brothers around the world have what they need to feed their families.



There will be homemade marmalade for sale in aid of CAFOD from this weekend in the hall at Fordingbridge..



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

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

Friendship Group Sacred Heart

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

- Barbara



First Sunday in Lent

First Reading: – Genesis 9:8-15

Responsorial: Psalms 24:4-9

R. Your ways, Lord, are faithfulness and love for those who keep your covenant.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:18-22

Gospel: Matthew 4:4

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

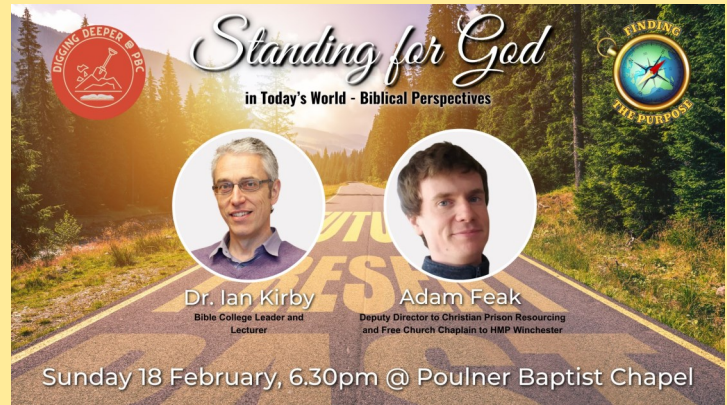
Ringwood: please contact Helen Thomas details above

CAFOD's Online Lent Calendar 2024



Our daily Lent emails of prayer and reflection will offer an opportunity to pause, reflect, pray and take action as we prepare for Easter.

Join us as we journey through the Lent with our global family. Sign up to receive daily email reflections <https://cafod.org.uk/pray/lent-calendar>



Would you like to help with this event? Contact Larry Bartel at: lawrencebartel@yahoo.co.uk

Job Openings with the Diocese

There are some exciting opportunities across the Diocese for a variety of roles. Please help us to fill these vacancies by mentioning to family and friends. Our vacancies may be found at <https://portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/about-us/other/jobs/>



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

	Ringwood	Fordingbridge
SO	£ awaiting	£ 3166
Cash/Env	£	£ 372
DONA	£	£ 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

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth (reg. charity no. 1199568)

“Bringing people closer to Jesus Christ through his Church”

www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk