

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 Third Sunday of Lent

Father Paul writes.....

"Come and see the man has told me the story of my life." This is the response of the Woman of Samaria following her meeting with Jesus and as she returns to the city to tell the townspeople of her experience at the well.

It was a life changing experience for the woman. So much of the Gospel narrative speaks of the twists and turns in the woman's life. She came to draw water during the hottest part of the day because she did not want to be seen in public; this was because she had a bad name in the town. She was confused about this Jewish man speaking to her in public. Her relationships with the men in her life seem continually to have failed. And she belonged to the Samaritans, a group of people despised and shunned by the Jews of Jerusalem because of their ethnic difference.

The Woman of Samaria presents as one for whom the varied experiences of life did not fit together or make any sense. The dots remained separate! How many times do we find ourselves in a situation where everything seems confused, and the way ahead seems foggy and indistinct? The Samaritan Woman, in her meeting with Jesus at the well, moved from confusion, a lack of understanding and a failure to recognise who Jesus was to a clarity about him and her whole life. Once she had accepted Jesus as the Christ, all the distorted and seemingly unrelated parts of her life became a seamless continuation in which everything made sense.

Jesus asked the woman for a drink. In fact, he was offering her "Living Water welling up to eternal life". I hope she came eventually to recognise that this 'Living Water' was a gift from God and the presence and action of the Holy Spirit. By listening to Jesus speaking in our hearts and through the events of life and by engaging with him as the woman did, the Holy Spirit will impart to us the gift of understanding, enabling us to make sense of the complexity of our lives. And it is worth noting that the woman's conversation with Jesus included the darker parts of her life, which to Jesus were no problem. This has implications for our prayer.

The **Sacrament of Reconciliation** will be available at the normal times and in Fordingbridge on **Saturday 16th March between 11.00am and 12.00 noon** and in Ringwood on **Saturday 23rd March between 11.00am and 12 noon**. There will be adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on both occasions. Canon Peter Wilkie is also available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation at Allenbrook Care Home at 34, Station Road, Fordingbridge. He is available during daylight hours.

Readings at Mass on the 3rd, 4th and 5th Sunday of Lent: We will use Cycle A readings on these Sundays. That is a special provision for those parishes who have candidates for reception. The Gospels speak of that conversion which is growth into a relationship with Jesus.

I have decided to re-instate the **external bell** at Fordingbridge. I would welcome contributions to the expense and donations can be made on the DONA machine in the porch.



"Lent" by jezobeliones is licensed under CC BY 2.0.

Public and YouTube Celebrations of Mass

Both our churches are open daily for prayer

Sacred Heart, Ringwood

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFTmHlkq-4M7rTwOB-Wxysw> or search on YouTube for Catholic Parishes of Ringwood and Fordingbridge

(All masses livestreamed at this link unless otherwise noted)

Sunday	March	3rd	11am	✘	Third Sunday of Lent	✘	Daphne Bennet
Wednesday	March	6th	10am	✘	of the 3rd Week of Lent	✘	
Friday	March	8th	11am	✘	of the 3rd Week of Lent	✘	Christine Anderson RIP

Our Lady of Sorrows, Fordingbridge

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFTmHlkq-4M7rTwOB-Wxysw> or search on YouTube for Catholic Parishes of Ringwood and Fordingbridge

Saturday	March	2nd	6pm	✘	Third Sunday of Lent	✘	
Sunday	March	3rd	9am	✘	Third Sunday of Lent	✘	
Tuesday	March	5th	10am	✘	of the 3rd Week of Lent	✘	Liturgy of the Word
Thursday	March	7th	10am	✘	of the 3rd Week of Lent	✘	

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

The Easter Triduum: The arrangements for the Easter Triduum this year for the two parishes will be as follows: **All celebrations to be at Fordingbridge.** Holy Thursday – The Mass of the Lord's Supper: **7.00pm**, Good Friday – The Lord's Passion: **at 3.00pm**, The Easter Vigil and First Mass of Easter – **at 7.30pm**. If you would like transport to Fordingbridge from Ringwood, please see elsewhere in the newsletter for further information.

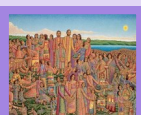


Don't Forget! Stations of the Cross this Friday

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.**



Fordingbridge – Tuesday 5th March after 10am Mass
Ringwood - Wednesday 27th March after 10am Mass



Loaves and Fishes

Our Facebook group is a great way of keeping in touch with other parishioners. Ask to join here: <https://www.facebook.com/1397210003927764/>



Tickets are now on sale for the above event. There is a suggested donation of £8 (all proceeds go direct to Poitiers Care); however, please feel free to donate what you can. You can secure a ticket as follows: after each of the weekend Masses, direct from me on 07771 852670 or via email -

lawrencebartel@yahoo.co.uk In addition to a licenced bar, which is always reasonably priced, there will be snacks on sale either for consumption or to pelt at the band plus a prize draw (offers of prizes welcome!) We look forward to seeing you there. - Larry (Please note: this is a ticketed event to ensure attendance is within the capacity of the hall).

“Parish Couple Enrichment Weekend”

An invitation to a Parish Marriage Encounter (ME) Enrichment Weekend presented by experienced ME Couples and priest: Russ & Deirdre Fairman, Dcn Roger & Jackie Carr Jones with Fr Andy Burns.

Saturday 13th April 9am - 6.30pm / Sunday 14th April 9am - 3.45pm

(Including; refreshments, lunch and a Couples Mass)

Venue: Corpus Christi RC Church (Boscombe)

This is your opportunity to take time out and explore your relationship at a deeper, more intimate level, no matter how long you've been together.

There's no group sharing, this is just about the two of you. Thousands of couples in the UK and millions worldwide, have benefited from a Marriage Encounter Experience, most say it is life changing.

To find out more & book (please go to the ME UK website):

email: enquiries@wwme.org.uk

website: wwme.org.uk

Understanding Church Bells

Would you like to learn about church bells? The bells in St. Mary's Church, Fordingbridge are rather special. 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 jpelliott@btinternet.com as soon as possible as places are limited. This is a free event: there is no charge.

Friendship Group Sacred Heart

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

- Barbara



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 March.

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

FREE FILM NIGHT

FREE SHOWING EACH MONTH
 7:30PM ARRIVAL * SHOW STARTS 8PM

The CHOSEN



Saturday 9 March "I have called you by name"
 Friday 29 March "Shabbat" @11am after Walk of Witness
 Saturday 20 April "Jesus loves the little children"
 Saturday 18 May "The Rock on which it is built"
 Saturday 8 June "The Wedding Gift"
 Saturday 13 July "Inestimable Compassion"
 Saturday 14 September "Invitations"
 Saturday 12 October "I am He"
 Saturday 16 November "Christmas Special"

VENUE:
 FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN HALL
 63 HIGH ST, FORDINGBRIDGE SP6 1AS



The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London Divine Mercy Lenten Retreat 2024

To be held at ST MICHAEL & ST GEORGE, The Cathedral Church of the Bishop of the Forces, Queen's Avenue, Aldershot Hampshire, GU11 2BY on Saturday 9 March 2024 from 11 am to 4 pm led by the Marian Fathers.

The Retreat will include teachings on the Message of Mercy, Stations of the Cross, Holy Mass, Hour of Mercy with Adoration and Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. All Welcome. Please call Millie on 07957594646 for more information

Easter Tridium Rides

If you are planning to attend any or all of the services of Easter (Thursday, Friday or Saturday) in Fordingbridge and are prepared to give a lift to one or more please let David Saunders know (01425 480052). Also, if you would like a lift to Fordingbridge please let David know. Initially, it is expected that lifts will be given from the Church in Ringwood 20 or 25 minutes before Service times. Any particular requirements/details can be discussed in advance.



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	£ 2413	£ 3166
Cash/Env	£ 629	£ 372
DONA/online	£ 295	£ 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