

# 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](http://www.avonstour.co.uk)  
Parish Priest:  
Rev Mgr Canon Paul Townsend

Our Lady of Sorrows  
& St. Philip Benizi  
15 Salisbury Road  
Fordingbridge SP6 1EG

## Fourth Sunday of Lent Father Paul writes.....



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The Gospel this Sunday is the second of the three great Lenten Gospels from St. John which describes the healing of a man who was born blind. As we listen, two different and opposing human experiences are revealed. Jesus is the light of the world and the invitation that life offers is that we move closer and closer to the light which he is. Our relationship with him will bring us out of the darkness of human experience into the life that God intends for each of us. A life which is about joy in all its fullness. As the story unfolds the man born blind, as well as being cured at the hands of Jesus, changes in his appreciation of the significance of Jesus in his life. He begins knowing that the man who cured him was called Jesus. By the end of the narrative, in verse 41, the blind beggar has come to believe that Jesus is from God and has the power of God, as he says "Lord, I believe" and then worshipped him. The man born blind was able to see because his blindness was healed and was able to see through the eyes of faith that Jesus was the Christ and the Messiah.

If the blind man moved towards Jesus the light and experienced conversion, the Pharisees moved in the opposite direction. As they conversed with the man, they went from the light into deeper darkness so that they could say of Jesus "we know that this man (Jesus) is a sinner". It is worth noting, that they were resistant to any change that they considered Jesus was bringing. In fact, they were so resistant that they denied reality. The reality that only God could heal a person who had been blind from birth. Attentiveness to reality, avoidance of denial and complete trust in the goodness of God revealed in Jesus, is crucial to our growth in humanity and our growth in faith, which is a continual gift from God.

The invitation of today's Gospel about the blind man is to bring the darkness that invades our lives to Christ who is the light. St. Paul puts it well "You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of the light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth."

The **Sacrament of Reconciliation** will be available at the normal times and in Fordingbridge on **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March between 11.00am and 12.00 noon** and in Ringwood on **Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> 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.

*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	March	10th	11am	✘	<i>Fourth Sunday of Lent</i>	✘	People of Ringwood Parish
Wednesday	March	13th	10am	✘	<i>of the 4th Week of Lent</i>	✘	Holy Souls
Friday	March	15th	10:45am	✘	<i>of the 4th Week of Lent</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	March	9th	6pm	✘	<i>Fourth Sunday of Lent</i>	✘	Frances Zollo
Sunday	March	10th	9am	✘	<i>Fourth Sunday of Lent</i>	✘	People of Fordingbridge Parish
Tuesday	March	12th	10am	✘	<i>of the 4th Week of Lent</i>	✘	Liturgy of the Word
Thursday	March	14th	10am	✘	<i>of the 4th Week of Lent</i>	✘	

**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 10.45am Mass.**



### Red Box Holders

Please bring your full Red Boxes to church anytime over the coming month of March and leave them with Father Paul. John Walter is aiming to return the boxes to you by the first week in April. You will be able to pick up your empty box from the church porches.



### Easter Triduum 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.



**Ringwood** - Wednesday 27th March after 10am Mass  
**Fordingbridge** – Tuesday 2nd April after 10am Mass

† Please Pray for Our Dearly Departed †

**Ronald Tavener**

Funeral Mass at  
Sacred Heart on  
27th March 2024 at 10:00am

### St. Mary's Church Bells Date Change

You can now learn more about the bells at St. Mary's Church, Fordingbridge on Thursday 21 March at 7.30pm. The bells in St. Mary's Church, are rather special. Would you like to know more? 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](mailto:jelliott@btinternet.com) as soon as possible as places are limited. This is a free event: there is no charge.

### Second Collection—The Clergy Assistance Fund

This fund contributes to the work of the Department for Clergy Team, responsible for looking after the welfare, ongoing formation and personal support of our clergy, such as the provision of spiritual direction, counselling, appraisal, ongoing formation and practical advice. The team organises retreats, ministerial formation days, courses and sabbaticals. It looks after the junior clergy, the overseas clergy and especially the retired clergy.

### Counters Needed for Fordingbridge

We are in need of new counters at Fordingbridge. You would be needed to count about once a month. If we have enough people then possibly even less. If you are interested please contact Melissa at the office: [Shandolos@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:Shandolos@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

### Forty Days and Forty Nights....

**your parish magazine**

Send contributions and feed back for future editions to: [crisbasha@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto:ptownsend@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**Administrator:** Melissa Hildreth  
Tel: 01425 653131 Email: [shandolos@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:shandolos@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**Safeguarding Co-ordinator:**  
Fordingbridge: Helen Thomas email: [safeguarding@olosfordingbridge.org.uk](mailto: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 "Indescribable 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



**Save the date!**  
Suggested donation - £8

**A Little Trite Music**

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March from 7-30pm**  
Our Lady of Sorrows Church Hall, Fordingbridge, featuring  
**Phatt Larry's Big Roll Band**

An evening of fun music in aid of the Poitiers Project,  
supporting local families in need

**Licensed bar**

Final call for 'A Little Trite Music' tickets. Thanks to everyone who has pitched in so far; it's shaping up to be a good evening. For tickets see poster details.

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

	Ringwood	Fordingbridge
SO	£ 2258	£ awaiting
Cash/Env	£ 621	£ awaiting
DONA/online	£ 144	£ awaiting

### 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](http://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"**

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