

The Catholic Church in Fordingbridge and Ringwood

Avon Stour Pastoral Area

www.avonstour.co.uk

About our Parishes

in the

Diocese of Portsmouth

(Charity No. 246871)



Sacred Heart and St Thérèse of Lisieux

Ringwood

Our Lady of Sorrows and St Philip Benizi

Fordingbridge

An Introduction and Welcome
from the
Catholic Church in Fordingbridge & Ringwood

Sacred Heart and St Thérèse of Lisieux in Ringwood
and
Our Lady of Sorrows and St Philip Benizi in Fordingbridge

Welcome!

Everything we have is God's gift, and this Parish Handbook is evidence of God's abundant generosity in both our parish communities. We give thanks to Him for everything He calls us to do. A big 'thank you' to all who are responsible for making these things happen in Ringwood and Fordingbridge.

If you feel called to be part of anything mentioned, or you see an unmet need you could help with, please feel free to contact us.

May God continue to bless us with his gifts and talents and give us courage and vision to use them wisely.

If you are new to the area, you are very welcome and we look forward to getting to know you better on our journey in Jesus Christ's footsteps

God Bless you.

Canon Paul Townsend

2019



WHO ARE WE?

Our parish activities.



Sacraments

**Moving to a new parish may be a good time to reflect upon where you
and your family are in your faith journey**

Maybe you have not been able to join a preparation programme for receiving the sacraments up until now, or you do not celebrate them as often as you would like to. You may also have some questions about what the sacraments mean and who can receive them.

Baptism

Reconciliation

The Eucharist

Confirmation

Marriage

Holy Orders

Anointing of the Sick



Whatever your situation, please do not be afraid to speak to the parish priest who will be happy to help. That is what he is there for!

Remember we have coffee after Sunday Mass where you could make an informal approach.

For an appointment, you can phone the parish office 01425 653131

For other contact details see back page

Welcomers... the Ministry of Hospitality

The oldest and one of the most important lay ministries in the church

We like to think our churches are a place where people feel comfortable and welcome, of course, but Welcomers have an especially crucial role to play.

Who are they?

Welcomers are a group of people who volunteer their time before Mass to greet all those arriving at Mass. As the first person anyone visiting the church will meet, this is a vital first contact for many and can make the difference to a decision to stay or come again.

Any parishioner can join in this important ministry; all that is required is a friendly manner and a warm, welcoming smile. No special training needed!

What do they do?

They stand at the back of the church, in the porch, and welcome parishioners and visitors as they enter the church, making sure that all realise that they are honoured guests in God's house. Welcomers hand out Mass books, hymn books, newsletters etc.

They can also help pointing things out or making introductions.

More volunteers are always needed to join the welcoming rotas.

(One Mass at Ringwood and two at Fordingbridge)

Ask one of the welcomers if you would like to join up.



Ringwood Church's Local Pastoral Council (LPC)

The function of the LPC is to represent the interests and wishes of the parish community in activities undertaken by the parish, both spiritually and practically. In so doing it represents the primary consultative body for the parish priest. It is a means towards decision making based on consensus, whereby the priest is made aware of the insights, points of view, experiences, knowledge and expertise of others in determining a reasoned response to the pastoral need of the parish community he leads.

It provides a forum for communication and liaison between various interest groups allied to the parish, eg. Churches Together in Ringwood, CAFOD group, children's liturgy, Avon Stour Evangelisation Team.

The LPC which consists of 6-7 members at a time includes the parish priest, a chair person, secretary and one of the members should also be a member of the Finance Committee.

It has been decided that members should serve for a period of 3 years, renewable for one further term of office, with a planned phased replacement of members at the appropriate time. Nominations are then sought from the parish community.

Meetings are held in the house approximately 6 times a year with the date published in the newsletter in advance.

Parishioners can propose an item for LPC agenda by contacting the chair person or secretary, whose contact details are on the board in the porch.



Fordingbridge Church Local Pastoral Council (LPC)

Mission:

"Our aim is to love and serve God and God's people by enabling His gifts to bear good fruit"

The membership of the LPC supports the parish, focussing on the following main areas:

- Liturgy and ministry
- Communications
- Parish social life/ building community
- Charity and care
- Formation and spiritual development

The Council meets 6 times a year and comprises the parish priest and 6-7 members from the parish community.

The minutes can be found on the website together with the dates of future meetings.

Parish meetings and workshops are occasionally arranged to ensure all parishioners have the opportunity to give input and feedback. From this, plans of priorities are created and monitored at meetings to take them forward.

Members are liable to re-election after serving a certain amount of time. The chair is elected, or re-elected, annually

The LPC works closely with the Finance and Property Committee (FPC) holding meetings together as the "Parish Coordination Committee" (PCC).



Missio'

Formerly ***The Association of the Propagation of the Faith (A.F.P.)***

This is the official mission-funding society for the Catholic Church. In England and Wales they work with the Mill Hill Missionary Society to raise funds for priests, lay brothers and associates in 27 countries in every continent.

missio

Today. Tomorrow. Together.

Funds are raised in parishes through the famous Red Boxes which can be found in 200,000 homes nationwide.

Periodically the boxes are collected and proceeds forwarded to Missio. Box holders receive an interesting magazine that shares stories of the work carried out.

If you would like a Red Box please see the Parishes Administrator who will direct you to the Missio rep.

The Apostleship of the Sea (AoS)

What is it?

90% of world trade is transported by ship. However the life of the modern seafarer can be dangerous and lonely. They may spend up to a year at a time away from home, separated from loved ones, often working long hours in harsh cold conditions.



**Apostleship
of the Sea**
Supporting Seafarers Worldwide

AoS provides practical and pastoral care to all seafarers, regardless of nationality, belief or race. Port chaplains welcome seafarers, offer welfare services and advice, practical help, spiritual care and friendship.

What can we do?

Being close to the big port of Southampton, our parishes have a special connection to AoS. Occasionally warm clothes, knitted hats, gloves, prayer books and Catholic magazines are requested and taken over to the AoS office.

Small treats like packets of mints, or cream for cracked hands and chapped lips are also very welcome.

Look out for appeals in the newsletter. For more information, see website: www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk/about-us.

Are you on Facebook?

Parishioners and friends from Ringwood and Fordingbridge churches are invited to come and join our group called '**Loaves & Fishes**'

What is it?

This page has been created to help all the people of both churches who are on Facebook to come closer to each other and interact as a 'virtual' community and to enhance our actual community! There is usually a scripture reading for the day with a reflection. There is also news of events that are happening with the parishioners and in the parishes. Please drop in and out as you wish and share a virtual cup of coffee and tell us what is happening in your life right now.

How do I join?

Just go to <http://tinyurl.com/shandolos> and request to join. We will be delighted hear from you.

Music Ministry

What is it?

A group of musicians and singers which aspires to enhance the worship of the congregation, mainly at week-end Masses and during Easter and Christmas periods

What does it do?

It chooses suitable hymns for Masses and leads the congregations in praise. In Ringwood practices are held ad hoc as needed

In Fordingbridge singers arrive half an hour before Mass to run through the music - and there are occasional other practices in the church as needed.



Who is involved?

Anyone who can sing, or play an instrument, is more than welcome to come along and join the groups.

The Parishes Administrator will direct you to the person to contact.

Special Ministry of the Eucharist

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist

What is it?

In 1973 Pope Paul VI gave permission for Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist to be used in the Universal Church. They are lay people who have undergone special preparation and been commissioned to allow them to assist in the distribution of the Eucharist to members of the congregation.

As well as assisting with the distribution of the Eucharist, in both forms, at Mass, they may assist at a Communion service if no priest is available.



Communion to the Sick and Housebound

A very important and necessary ministry is to take communion to the sick and housebound. Most, but not all, Special Ministers of the Eucharist also do this.

How to become a Special Minister of the Eucharist.

They are practicing members of the parish who are usually approached by the priest, or parishioners themselves can ask to be considered.

Candidates should have a period of preparation before being commissioned and will need to undergo the necessary safeguarding checks (including DBS check) if they are visiting housebound parishioners. They renew their vows each year, usually at the feast of Corpus Christi.

If you feel you are called to serve the parish in this way, please speak to the Parish Priest.

Altar Servers

Who are they?

They are volunteer lay assistants who assist the Priest during Mass on Sunday and during the week, as well as other liturgical celebrations and services.

Anyone, male or female, young or old, who has made their First Holy Communion is eligible.

What do they do?

- Working with the Sacristan, they ensure the altar and sanctuary are properly prepared for the celebration.
- They carry the Cross, candles and thurible.
- They ring the bells at the altar
- They 'fetch and carry' as necessary

White vestments are usually worn when serving on the altar.



How to get involved?

Make direct contact with the Parish Priest if you would like to offer your services for this ministry.

The Priest, or an experienced server will train you.

Adult servers will need to undergo the necessary safeguarding checks, including a DBS check, before starting their ministry.

Sacristans

Who are they?

Volunteers who, often working in the background, assist the Priest to prepare for the Mass and other various liturgies, and tidy away afterwards.

What do they do?

- The sacristan ensures the altar and supplies are ready for the Priest or other celebrants
- Together with the altar servers they prepare the altar prior to Mass and other liturgies such as Baptisms or Holy Week and Easter services.
- When needed they arrange the restocking of supplies of hosts, communion wine and candles.
- They oversee the polishing of silver and brass used in services
- They ensure the vestments, cloths and linens are ready for the celebrant to use, with the help of those who launder the linens.

If you would like to become involved in

- church linen or
- brass cleaning or
- helping as a sacristan

The Parishes Administrator can give you contact details¹

Safeguarding

What is it?

The primary aim of safeguarding in the parishes is to ensure that our community is a safe place where children, their parents and vulnerable adults have a positive experience of Church in which they feel loved, accepted and safe.

What does it do?

Each parish has a Safeguarding Representative who is responsible for making sure that Diocesan Safeguarding procedures are followed.

They meet with all potential volunteers who would like to carry out ministry on behalf of the parish with children or vulnerable adults. This includes children's liturgists and Eucharistic ministers who visit people at home, as well as those organising events for children or vulnerable people.

They issue the necessary forms, such as a volunteer's form and a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) form as well as obtaining references. Some of the checks are completed by the parish rep. and others go through the Diocesan Safeguarding Team.

The Parish Safeguarding Representative can also be the first point of contact if someone has a safeguarding concern.

Is there any training?

The Parish Safeguarding Representative also ensures that everyone in these sensitive roles attends the appropriate training sessions which are organised throughout the Diocese supported by The Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service.

Who's who?

For the names of the Diocesan Safeguarding administrator and Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator see the Diocesan website:
<http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/safeguarding/>

For Ringwood and Fordingbridge Safeguarding Representatives, see the back of this booklet, or the current Newsletter, or Pastoral Area website.



Children at Church



MATTHEW 19:14

We welcome you and your children to God's house. The presence of children is a gift and it is important that they know that they are at home here. Children are encouraged to sit towards the front where it is easier for little ones to see and hear what is going on and join in hymns, prayers and responses. Bags with age appropriate books are available to borrow during services.

Children's Liturgy

It is the liturgy of the word designed for children of primary school age. (Younger children should be accompanied by a parent or other responsible adult) The aim is to make the children's experience of church meaningful, whilst helping them to grow in faith and develop as full and active members of the parish.

What takes place?

The children are invited to leave Mass and return before the Offertory. They focus on the Gospel of the day at a level the children can understand and enjoy with discussion, prayers, songs and activities. They celebrate at their own pace. Children often leave with a memento to show and reflect on.

Who is involved?

The Children's Liturgy is run by members of the parish who are particularly interested in passing on their faith to our children - often parents. Diocesan training is available if desired but full local support is given with all materials provided. Participants will need to undergo the necessary safeguarding checks (DBS) and training relating to safeguarding.

Anything else?

There are opportunities throughout the year for special children's Masses and celebrations such as Easter, Mothering Sunday, Harvest time and Christmas.

The parishioners also enjoy celebrating 1st Holy Communion with the young people who often go on to become altar servers and so play a bigger part in the worshipping community.

If you would like to become involved, do speak to the Parish Priest.

Retreats and Pilgrimages

Retreats

There are retreat centres in Reading at Douai Abbey; in Romsey at Wisdom House and on the Isle of Wight called Verbum Dei - and several other opportunities are available.

Pilgrimages

A variety of pilgrimages are organised by the Pastoral Area and, more often, by the Diocese. They are available for the young, old, healthy and infirm. Examples include; visits to the Holy Land; a walking pilgrimage during Easter week; trips to Fatima, Lourdes and Medjugorje; visits to Walsingham, and so on.

How to find out more?

Information about upcoming pilgrimages are posted in the newsletter and on line on the Pastoral Area website and Portsmouth eNews.



Marriage preparation

Marriage is a holy sacrament which needs to be approached and prepared for seriously as well as being very special for all those involved.

A couple need to explore their relationship and learn to deal with future challenges in a safe and confidential environment.

When should it start?

As soon as a couple decide they want to marry in church, they should consider the implications of a Catholic marriage and their future life together. Whether both are practicing Catholics or only one of them is. The first step, after personal prayer about it, should be to contact the parish priest. He will guide you to prepare for that important step.

Marriage preparation days:

Portsmouth and Plymouth Dioceses together support MarriageCare which provides several Marriage Preparation days a year in Christchurch. These days are well received and are a beneficial addition for Sacramental preparation for those getting married.

Marriage Counselling

MarriageCare provide a discreet counselling service for those couples experiencing difficulties or challenges. They are staffed by fully qualified counsellors who give their time voluntarily. It takes place on Tuesday evenings

Appointments: 0800 389 380

Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child (SPUC) and 'LIFE'

What are these organisations about?

SPUC's aims are to affirm, defend and promote the existence and value of human life from the moment of conception until natural death; To defend, assist and welfare of mothers during pregnancy and of their children from the time of conception up to, during and after birth. SPUC website: www.spuc.org.uk

LIFE is a charity supporting anyone who is facing a crisis pregnancy, pregnancy loss or after an abortion. Its mission is to uphold life from conception to natural death, offering counselling and support to uphold the rights and dignity of each person.

LIFE website: <http://lifecharity.org.uk>

Both charities are actively concerned about the potential Assisted Dying legislation.

To make direct contact: LIFE Bournemouth Group free phone number: 0800 802 5433

Piety Stall - Repository Shop

The repository shop is located in the hall at Fordingbridge. Goods are laid out to view and purchase after all Masses. If you don't see what you want, we will always try to help with specific requirements.

Items available include:

- Rosaries, crucifixes, crosses, candles and figures
- Nativity sets and Advent calendars
- Cards and gifts for Baptism, 1st Holy Communion, Confirmation
- A selection of Christian cards for all occasions
- A range of pamphlets, booklets and prayer books, Bibles and children's books.

See Parishes Administrator for Piety Stall contact.



Churches Together in Ringwood & District

Representatives of all the churches in Ringwood District meet regularly and share ways in which they can foster church unity, and work together to bring witness to the people of Ringwood and district.

This is done in a variety of ways:

- We pray together for the community of Ringwood and district
- There are regular joint events e.g. Christmas events, the week of prayer for Christian Unity, Lent courses,, the walk of Christian Witness on Good Friday and joint services on Palm Sunday and Advent Sunday at different churches in the district.
- Churches Together are actively involved in the community, supporting, for example, the Bible Society Ringwood youth events, projects and community functions, Fair Trade, Ringwood Carers' Group, Tools for self reliance, Ringwood, Verwood & Fordingbridge Food Bank, Family Fun Day.
- Members encourage and support one another, and events organised by individual churches are advertised and supported by others.
We hold social events where we seek to get to know one another better so that we can serve Our Lord effectively in the community in which we live.

In these and other ways we continue in our commitment to explore new ways of united fellowship and witness consistent with the disciplines of our denominations.

Contact Parishes Administrator for our representative.



Churches Together in Fordingbridge & District

"In the light and life of Christ who called us all to be one"

Representatives from churches in Fordingbridge and surrounding villages host meetings in turn. They explore ways in which they can share worship and engage and serve local communities.



Examples include:

- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Every day this is hosted by a different church and culminates in a joint act of worship for all.
- Good Friday Silent Walk of Witness leaving from both Fordingbridge Parish Church and from Our Lady of Sorrows, meeting for a service outside the Town Hall.
- Fordingbridge Festival; Churches Together have stalls there
- Monthly prayer link leaflet available produced by each church in turn.
- 'Holiday at Home' Where families can have food and activities when not at school is supported by all.
- Ringwood, Verwood & Fordingbridge Food Bank
- Social and Prayer events are advertised across the churches: e.g. Lenten Lunches, Summer Fetes, Faith courses, etc.
- World Day of prayer hosted in churches in turn.

Fordingbridge aims to be a Fair Trade Town.

Contact Parishes Administrator for our representative.

Fordingbridge Church Hall

Completed in 2011 it has become an important resource for all parishioners.

There are many events that take place there:

Celebrations involving both parishes; Parish meetings; prayer groups; Lenten Lunches; Joint CAFOD Group meetings; collecting and sales of goods for fund-raising; hosting Avon Stour Pastoral Area meetings; Macmillan Coffee mornings; children's liturgy; retreats; hospitality after Mass; Faith courses; receptions following weddings, 1st Holy Communion, baptisms and funerals; groups and social functions for all.

It has a relay TV screen from the church to allow people, who can't be seated when the church is full, to see and hear proceedings. Parents can take children into the hall during Mass if necessary too.

This TV is also available for DVD screening for Faith courses, films or other relevant material.

Other events take place in the hall too and you may see posters for these in the porches at Ringwood and Fordingbridge or information in the newsletter.

We like to use it as much as possible.

It is not, however, currently available for hire to the public, though this is always under review.

For information about the hall and how to book, contact the Parishes Administrator.



Ministers of the Word (Readers)

Who are they?

A group of lay people specifically appointed for the important role of proclaiming the scriptures at Mass.

What do they do?

Ministers of the Word read the scriptures at Mass (with the exception of the Gospel) and lead the Prayers of the Faithful. They may also be asked to read at other services. Instructions/coaching and support is available periodically in the Pastoral Area.

Who is involved?

Anyone who feels called to do this, who has the confidence and ability to read in public.

The Parishes Administrator can tell you who to contact in Ringwood or Fordingbridge.



Novena Prayer Group

What is a Novena?

While the word 'novena' comes from the Latin novem, meaning 'nine', the term has also come to be used generically to refer to any lengthy series of prayers. Traditionally the nine days recall those the Apostles and the Blessed Virgin Mary spent in prayer between Ascension Thursday and Pentecost Sunday.

Who are we?

A prayer group which prays together in thanksgiving and petition. The Novena of Our Lady of Perpetual Help format is used with a hymn, reflection, a psalm and prayers.

When and where do we meet?

There is a group that meets regularly at Fordingbridge on Thursdays before 10am Mass and is attended by parishioners from both parishes. After Mass there is a friendly cup of coffee/tea and a biscuit in the hall.

New participants are always welcomed. Just turn up!

Church Cleaning

Ringwood:

A group of volunteers clean the church weekly on a rota basis. The more people on the rota the lighter the work, of course. They also wash the church linen ready for services.

Fordingbridge:

We have a cleaning team in Fordingbridge who clean the church weekly on a rota basis. Church linen is washed by volunteer parishioners on a rota basis.

If you would like to help with any of these valuable tasks, you would be very welcome.

The Parishes Administrator can give you the contact details.



Flower Arrangers

The church flower arrangers celebrate their faith by arranging the flowers to both celebrate God's beautiful gifts and also for everyone who comes into the two churches to enjoy.

During their turn on the rota, they are responsible for keeping the flowers looking fresh and watered. Arrangers can be fully reimbursed for their expenditure.

No flowers are arranged during Lent (except 4th Sunday; Laetare/Mothering Sunday) or in Advent (except the Advent wreath and 3rd Sunday; Gaudate).

There are separate rotas for Ringwood and Fordingbridge. If you would like to be part of the team of flower arrangers, do contact the person responsible for the rota to find out more.

The Parishes Administrator can give you the contact details.

Volunteers always welcome!



Food Bank (Trussell Trust)

What is it?

An organisation which founded a Food Bank System originally in Salisbury but now it exists throughout the country.

What does it do?

It provides food (tinned or dried) to those in need in the locality. They are usually people who are out of work for a number of reasons and cannot pay their bills.

Clients have to obtain vouchers from the C.A.B., Social Workers, doctors, or ministers of the church. These vouchers are then exchanged for food. Foodstuffs are donated by churches, schools, supermarkets and other organisations. They are taken to a warehouse where they are sorted and stored and then sent as requested to the distribution centre where clients go at specific times to obtain provisions.

Who is involved?

It is run entirely by volunteers in the community, many of them from local churches.

Both parishes support the 'Ringwood, Fordingbridge and Verwood Trussell Trust'.

Parishioners leave items in a designated box in the porch - or in the local supermarkets.

There are leaflets on the church notice boards about how to make contact - either as a helper or as a client who may be in need.

Contact Information:

Food Bank warehouse 01425 600134
email: info@ringwood.foodbank.org.uk



Finance Committees

What are they?

The Parishes' Finance Committees are consultative bodies set up to advise the Parish Priest on sound administration of the temporal goods of the parish and to ensure compliance with the laws concerning charities.

What do they do?

They meet regularly for the following:

The preparation and monitoring of the annual parish budget.

To present the annual parish Accounts.

To keep financial records that detail income and expenditure as outlined by the Diocesan, Canon and Civil (Charity) law.

To make forward provision for future projects.

To ensure all procedures for the proper administration of Gift Aid are carried out.

To examine proposals and decide on funding for church and presbytery development and maintenance.

To address any other project as requested by the Parish Priest and Parish Pastoral committee.



Who are they?

They are volunteer parishioners who have some experience in managing budgets, property management, Health and Safety and/or accountancy.

Can I get involved?

If you feel that you could be a part of this important group, please see the Parish Priest or the Chair of the Committee

The Parishes Administrator can provide contact details.

Poitiers Care

'A parable of love in a fractured world'

What is it?

Founded by a former Parish Priest, Fr Des Connelly SMM this is a registered charity which collects food donations from parishes, schools, etc. It is based in Southampton but will give wherever a need is seen. The food is packed in shopping bags and discreetly delivered to the doors of those needing support. Keeping confidentiality and dignity is vital, following in the way of St John of God (the charity's patron) who supported 'the ashamed poor' in Granada, Spain in 1540.

A Food Bank with a Difference!

Poitiers Care will help any person or family of any creed, colour or background. Clients include women trying to escape prostitution, parents with learning and management difficulties, families with chronic debt, people with health problems and many, many others.

There are no quotas and the service is entirely needs led. Clients are referred by agencies, social workers, charity workers, parish priests, etc. Help is given for as long as required; sometimes it is short term to tide a family over a difficult time; sometimes there are poor souls in such hopeless circumstances that support will go on for the foreseeable future.

If they are hungry we will feed them - simple as that!

Who is involved?

Poitiers Care is entirely staffed by enthusiastic volunteers, some from Ringwood and Fordingbridge - there is not even a paid manager. So you can be sure that every donation will be used for this work. There are thousands of amazing stories where Poitiers Care has turned lives around.

If you feel you would like to be involved, there is always a need for drivers to deliver the bags of food as well as people to fundraise or collect food from donors. Even the smallest amount of help is always extremely welcome.

For more information about how to help, please contact the Poitiers Care representative. The Parishes Administrator has contact details.

The Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD)

Charity no 1160384 and a company limited by guarantee no 9387398

What is it?

CAFOD is the official aid agency for the Catholic Church in England and Wales and is part of the CARITAS International Aid Agency.

Across the world we bring hope and compassion to poor communities standing side by side with them to end poverty and injustice.

We work with people of all faiths and none.

CAFOD works for a safe, sustainable and peaceful world.

CAFOD's official website: <http://www.cafod.org.uk>

Ringwood and Fordingbridge Joint CAFOD Group

We number about 6-8 and have been joyfully working together for several years now with the following aims:

- To promote prayerful awareness of the needs of the developing world
- To respond to emergencies as they arise
- To enable the parishes to partake in CAFOD promotions and campaigns
- To support CAFOD Projects financially by fundraising.

What does the Group do?

We plan functions, some of which, as well as raising much needed funds, also provide an opportunity for parishioners of both churches to meet in a happy, relaxed social context which is appreciated by all.

Always at the forefront of our endeavours is the plight of some of the poorest, most disadvantaged people throughout the world. We hope to transform their lives - both when disaster strikes, and in the long term.

Meetings are 4-5 times a year as needed and the venue alternates between Ringwood and Fordingbridge.

New members are always warmly welcomed!

The Parishes Administrator will provide you with the name of contact.



Collection Counters

Who are they?

Parishioners who, as part of a rota, help the Gift Aid Administrator and the Treasurer to count and record the weekly offertory collection.

What do they do?

Each week collectors take the weekend offertory collection, count it, analyse it into Gift-Aid or Non-Gift-Aid sections, keeping records for the Diocesan Finance Group and, of course, the Inland Revenue.

Who is involved?

Anyone can volunteer who is competent at counting and bagging money. You should also be able to record the results meticulously.

If you would like to help with this valuable task for your church, please see the Parishes Administrator for the person who organises it.



OFFERING COUNTERS

Fair Trade

What is it?

Fair Trade is one way to fight poverty through trade and promoting approaches to trade that help poor people in developing countries to take control of their lives.

It seeks to challenge injustices in trading structures and practices, that so often lead to exploitation and marginalisation of poor people, by building relationships and trading directly with growers and producers.



What do we do?

Both parishes encourage parishioners to use Fair Trade goods whenever possible.

Examples may be tea; coffee; sugar; chocolate; and foodstuffs as well as clothing; furnishing; Traidcraft gifts and greeting cards.

(Traidcraft is the UK's leading fair trade organisation, established 1979 as a Christian response to poverty)

The Catenian Association

What is it?

The Catenian Association is an international body open to Catholic men over 21 who meet and enjoy each other's company to strengthen family life through friendship and faith. "Catenian" is derived from the Latin word for chain and symbolises the links that are formed within the individual groups or "Circles".

What do they do?

Catenians meet monthly enjoying a social evening, preceded by prayer or a Mass. Social activities are organised to enable members and families to meet and form friendships. The Association fosters caring for fellow members and their families and for their widows. Every year Catenian Circles raise money for a wide variety of local, national and international charities. They actively promote the Christian viewpoint on moral issues in an increasingly secular society. Catenians pray and work actively for vocations and youth formation.

How can I get involved?

The Catenians are much easier to experience than explain. That is why those wishing to find out more before applying for membership are encouraged to talk first with other Catenians (ask your priest who they are).

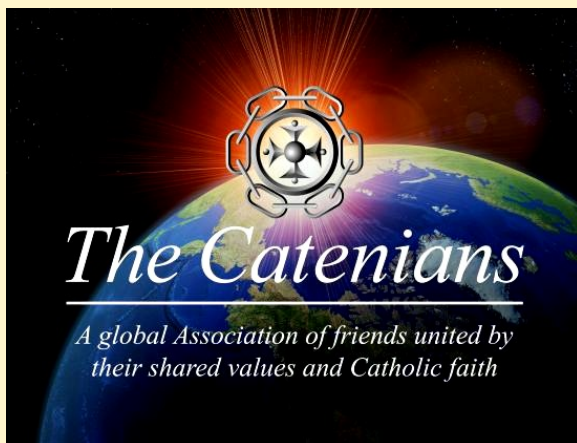
Prospective members are invited (without obligation) to join in one or two social activities and then come along to a couple of meetings as an observer - we are not a secret society!

If you feel you would enjoy the benefits of membership then you would make a formal application. Wives of members are not required to be Catholics; many are not and enjoy Catenian life to the full.

Where is it?

Men from Ringwood and Ford-
ingbridge have a choice of
neighbouring Circles:
New Forest (Meet at Lyndhurst);
Salisbury; Southampton;
Bournemouth; Poole or Bland-
ford.

To find out more see the
Catenian's website:
www.thecatenians.co.uk



Right of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

What is it?

The RCIA is a process designed for adults attracted by Christ and his teachings. It supports them as they seek to respond more deeply and to enter into the Communion of the Church.

For those who join the RCIA process it is a period of reflection, prayer, instruction, discernment and formation.

What is involved?

There is no set timetable and those who join the process are encouraged to go at their own pace, taking as much time as they need. Although the average process generally takes between 8 to 12 months, it can take up to two or more years for some individuals.

Those who enter the process attend Mass on a Sunday, attend RCIA sessions and become increasingly involved in the activities of their local church.

How do I access RCIA?

Ideally the local church should have lay catechists who can support a person through the RCIA process. If you feel you would like to find out more, do please approach the parish priest for more details and information about RCIA sessions currently available in the Avon Stour Pastoral Area.



Short History of Fordingbridge RC Parish and Church

(Information taken from 'An Outline History' edited by Maurice A Reed 1993)

In 1845 John Henry Newman was received into the Roman Catholic Church and there were others who followed. One such person was John Coventry, son of the Lord of the Manors of Nether Burgate, Arncliffe, Sandale and The Hundred of Ford. John was a C of E Vicar in Cornwall at the time so he resigned his position. His father refused to receive him and so John spent 10 years exiled in France. His father died never seeing John again and John inherited the estates.

The first thing he did on his return was to set up a Catholic Mission at Burgate Manor with Masses and a priest, Fr Appolloni. The nearest churches otherwise were Lymington or Salisbury. Fr Appolloni was a member of the Servite Order who had a special devotion to Our Lady of Sorrows. A significant early General of the Order was St. Philip Benizi (1233-85).

John Coventry's son, Alphonsus, became a Servite. The Novitiate for the Servites in England was closed and Novitiates had to go to Italy so John offered land and resources to build a student house and church. He hoped to re-establish a Novitiate in England.

The work was undertaken in the 1870s and was one of the first buildings in England to be built entirely of concrete. Very solid material but history records it was not always appreciated by those who have had to live in it! Sadly, although it nourished a thriving Catholic community, no Novitiate was established. The design of the building was to have two floors with a refectory, study room, dormitories and a small chapel. In the end the floor was removed and the narrow church with the double row of windows is our legacy. It is dedicated to Our Lady of Sorrows and St Philip Benizi which reflects its origins.

The first baptism was of Philip William Gilbert in May 1874.

The first converts were received into the Church in February 1875.

The first burial was of George William White in February 1876 (His gravestone still stands in the centre of the graveyard).

The Registrar authorised the Church to be used for the solemnization of matrimony in October 1892 and in November 1892 George Thomas Joseph Hatchard and Ellen Hollins were the first to be joined in matrimony.

The Servites served the parish until 1909 when it was transferred to the Portsmouth Diocese. In 1937 it was handed over to the Pallottine Fathers who stayed in place until 1983. It is again served by Diocesan priests who now also serve the Ringwood parish. The priest lives in the presbytery attached to the church with the parish office on the ground floor.

In 2011, after many years of plans and design options, a hall was built to the side of the church. This has proved a real benefit to the parish, bringing the community together for prayer and social functions as well as serving as an overflow area for services when required.

A Short History of the birth of the Parish of Ringwood

(Thanks are due to Tony White of the Ringwood and Fordingbridge News for many of these details)

Most would assume that the history of the church would start with its construction. However this is not the case in Ringwood. Church is a community and the Catholics in Ringwood had nowhere of their own to hear Mass together without travelling to Fordingbridge or further.

The community started to use the garage of St Mary's Cottage to gather and celebrate the Mass.

This slightly unorthodox place of worship was called The Chapel of Our Lady and St George and was situated at what is now 149, Hightown Road. Years before the chapel's demolition in 1988, the Catholic community of Ringwood made plans to build the Roman Catholic church and presbytery of the Sacred Heart and St Thérèse of Lisieux in 1937 on a plot on The Close.

These plans were helped financially by a combination of jumble sales, Summer Fetes and the great generosity of Canon J G Greig. Before being ordained a priest in 1935, Canon Greig had had an illustrious cricket career whilst climbing to the rank of Colonel in the Army. He stayed in the parish until 1958 when he retired to Milford-on-Sea.

However, the funds they managed to accumulate did not stretch as far as hoped and the tradesmen constructing the building were not entirely professional. The church ended up with a single skin brick wall and a flat roof, both of which began to leak badly, as was reported in 2006, in the New Forest Deanery article on January 3rd.

Reports in Parish Magazines show that the brickwork remained sodden for half the year, a damp reality that was not remedied until 2012. Then a weather proof outer wall and an altogether more scenic pitched roof and a porch were added to turn it into the lovely building you see today.

In 2005 Canon Alan Griffiths became responsible for both Ringwood and Fordingbridge and moved from the large presbytery to the flat at Fordingbridge. The presbytery is now used as Parish and Diocesan offices and meeting rooms and part has been modified and is used as private accommodation.

78 years of Ringwood Parish Priests:

Canon JG Greig 1937-1958

Father W. Kearney 1958-1961

Father Abraham Jacob 1961-1974

Father Kevin Gallagher 1974-1988

Father Richard Hind 1988-1993

Canon Alan Griffiths 1993-2007

Father Desmond Connelly 2007-2011

Father Anthony Pennicott 2011-2016

Canon Paul Townsend 2017 - present.

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Parish Priest (Ringwood and Fordingbridge)	Canon Paul Townsend Email: ptownsend@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk Phone: 01425 653131
Parishes Administrator (Ringwood and Fordingbridge)	Email: shandolos@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk Phone: 01425 653131 Check newsletter for Parish office opening days and hours
Safeguarding (Ringwood)	Please contact Donna Kerrigan Details below
Safeguarding (Fordingbridge)	Donna Kerrigan Email: donna.kerrigan@btinternet.com Phone: 01425 658695

**Grant, O Lord,
that your love
may so fill our lives that we count
nothing too small to do for you,
nothing too much to give
and
nothing too hard to bear
for Jesus Christ's sake.
Amen**

(St Ignatius Loyola)



Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth (reg. charity no. 246871)

"Bringing people closer to Jesus Christ through his Church"