

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 the Year
Father Paul writes....

It was the second time that Jonah had received a message from the Lord: "Up, go to Nineveh, the great city and preach to them as I told you to". On the first occasion, Jonah refused to obey. He fled in the opposite direction. Nineveh was the capital of Assyria, and, for Jonah and the people of Israel, it was a cruel and powerful enemy. Nineveh and Assyria were steeped in corruption and greed and needed to change. To put it mildly, Jonah was unhappy about going to Nineveh and paid his fare to escape on a ship to a distant land. The ship encountered storms for which Jonah was blamed and he was thrown into the sea. He was swallowed by a whale and after three days was vomited up on a beach.

Now, after his experience in the whale, Jonah responded positively to the second call and went to Nineveh. He preached his message and Nineveh repented and was saved.

The call of our faith and baptism is not so different from that of Jonah. We are not being sent into a wicked, cruel, and powerful city. Our commission is more complicated. We are to be a presence in our world proclaiming, by the power of love and with all other Christians, the need for change. Change is needed because, regrettably and for example, the war in the Middle East is escalating and the world waits for a peaceful outcome. The world waits for justice and peace to reign. It waits for environmental balance and respect. It waits for each human being to be treated with dignity and value. It waits for change, and we are the agents for change because we are temples of the Holy Spirit and ambassadors of peace.

We may feel like Jonah, seeing the task as impossible. Yet it is the Holy Spirit who can build on our efforts of love, faith, and hope, bringing results and changes that go beyond anything we can imagine. Jonah only travelled for one day into the city that took three days to cross; similarly, our small efforts, with trust in God, will continue the Lord's work.



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)

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|-----------|---------|------|------|---|----------------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| Sunday | January | 21st | 11am | ✘ | Third Sunday in Ordinary Time | ✘ | Holy Souls |
| Wednesday | January | 24th | 10am | ✘ | of the 3rd Week in Ordinary Time | ✘ | Holy Souls |
| Friday | January | 26th | 10am | ✘ | of the 3rd Week in Ordinary Time | ✘ | People of Ringwood Parish |

Our Lady of Sorrows, Fordingbridge

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

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| Saturday | January | 20th | 6pm | ✘ | Third Sunday in Ordinary Time | ✘ | |
| Sunday | January | 21st | 9am | ✘ | Third Sunday in Ordinary Time | ✘ | People of Fordingbridge Parish |
| Tuesday | January | 23rd | No Mass | ✘ | Feria (3rd Week in Ordinary Time) | ✘ | No Mass |
| Thursday | January | 25th | 10am | ✘ | The Conversion of St. Paul | ✘ | |

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



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

**Churches Together Fordingbridge
Unity Service
21 January at 10.30
Burgate School Main Hall**

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



Friendship Group Sacred Heart

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

Christian Unity Week

The eight days of prayer include the following local arrangements:

Thursday 18th – 2.00pm Led by Brian Skelley and Christopher Slade at Crowe Hill Methodist Church

Friday 19th – 10.45am Led by Canon Paul Townsend at the Catholic church of the Sacred Heart & Saint Thérèse

Saturday 20th 9.00am-1.00pm – Kate Pattison from 'Gift of Blessing Trust' women's event at Poulner Baptist Chapel. With luxury breakfast and worship band. Book for this on our Churches Together Love Ringwood website. £10 per person. <https://poulnerbaptistchapel.churchsuite.com/events/ywkytkf>

Sunday 21st – WE WORSHIP IN OUR USUAL CHURCHES

Monday 22nd – 11.00am Led by Mike Shrubsole at Trinity United Church

Tuesday 23rd – 7.00am-7.00pm Day of Creative Prayer activities at Poulner Baptist Chapel. To include Zoom prayer sessions at 7.00am and 7.00pm to begin and end the day. All welcome.

Join Zoom Meeting 7.00am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85627335436?pwd=UXJ5dy9ScWVrR3JMbIZaSnNJSTYrQT09>

Meeting ID: 856 2733 5436 Passcode: 584271

Join Zoom Meeting 19:00pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88615337580?pwd=b01BeFdxMllyYWdOaGFRUVFJTUN6UT09>

Meeting ID: 886 1533 7580 Passcode: 525690

Wednesday 24th – 11.30am Led by Jan Pankhurst at St Peter and St Paul Ringwood Parish Church.

Thursday 25th – 3.00pm Led by Emanuele Carpagnano at the Salvation Army



We are all invited to attend any of these times of prayer. Some are brief prayer sessions, probably using the 2024 WOPFCU material; others are longer events with a different theme; but in each we walk, pray and work together for the love of Christ which unites all Christians in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Un-needed Christmas Gifts Fordingbridge

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.



CAFOD meetings

You are warmly invited to come to a CAFOD meeting to find about the difference that your donations make .

On Saturday 27th January the meeting is at Corpus Christi Church hall 60 Sturges Road, Wokingham RG40 2HE from 10:30am to 1:30pm or on Saturday 3rd February at St Philip Howard Church hall, Bishopsfield road Fareham PO14 1ND. A simple lunch will be provided at both meetings so please book your place so that we have an idea of numbers by emailing Jo on jlewry@cafod.org.uk or phone 07710 094447

Second Collection for the Cathedral 21st January

Message from Father James Cathedral Dean...

"I became Dean of our Cathedral Church of St John the Evangelist in September 2022. Since then, the parish has paid for emergency repairs of serious leaks in the Blessed Sacrament and St Patrick chapels, and in the Discovery Centre, which cost £23,060 in total. The cost of these repairs was paid for by parishioners, who responded generously to an appeal for contributions. In January 2023, the 120-year-old West Window began to collapse because of deterioration in the lead work. Its restoration was completed in December 2023 at an estimated final cost of more than £100,000. So far, we have raised almost £38,000 towards the cost of restoration of the West Window. These projects have used up virtually all the Cathedral's available funds.

The heating and electrical systems are in urgent need of upgrading. One of the three boilers, which heat the Cathedral and Cathedral House, has been broken since spring 2022. The money I had allocated to replace it had to be diverted to pay for the repairs to the West Window. The two remaining boilers both failed in late November 2023. After a week of no central heating, the two boilers were repaired, but we have been advised that all three boilers have come to the end of their useful life, having been installed about 25 years ago. We have no money to replace the boilers, never mind upgrade the heating system to a more energy efficient, "greener" system.

In the summer of 2023, the quinquennial architectural survey was completed and the report we received in September outlined work required over the next five years to the roof, windows, heating, and electrical systems at an estimated cost of more than £1 million.

I fully appreciate the financial pressures being felt by you and by your fellow parishioners but would appeal to you to support the Second Collection for the Cathedral on 21st January. Never has this annual collection by parishes for the Mother Church of the Diocese been more critical or needed. Your support is vitally important to us."

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 January.

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/>



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

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 |

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

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