

# The Catholic Church in Fordingbridge and Ringwood

The Sacred Heart  
& St. Thérèse of Lisieux  
The Close  
Ringwood BH24 1LA

Avon Stour 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 Baptism of the Lord

Fr. Paul writes.....

**Covid:** I am only too aware that many families have been affected by the Omicron virus during the past few weeks. It seems that it is very easy to catch. I will therefore repeat below the guidelines for church attendance which I gave just before Christmas. I urge everyone to follow the guidelines so that those who attend Mass can come knowing that we are all doing our best to keep everyone safe.

Please wear a mask at all times in church.

Please sanitise your hands on arrival.

Please respect people who are not in your bubble by leaving a vacant seat next to them.

Please leave a space between yourself and the person in front as you approach for Holy Communion.

Please observe social distancing at all times.

Do not come to church if you are feeling unwell and if you can take a lateral flow test before you come, please do so. Do not come if your test is positive.

Remember that there is no obligation to attend Mass in these circumstances, especially if you have concerns about your health.

As the churches are well ventilated, please wear warm clothing.

Adjustments may be made to seating arrangements in church, but I have still to make a final decision.

**Thanks:** I want to express my gratitude for the kindness and generosity of everyone in the two parishes shown to me at Christmas. Thanks for the cards, the kind words in them, the gifts and the Christmas Offering, which forms a major element in my personal income. I am grateful as well for all the support, welcome and kindness that I have received throughout 2021. Happy New Year to everyone.

**St. Luke**, in our Gospel today, takes us to the banks of the River Jordan where Jesus was baptised by John the Baptist. Jesus's infancy and childhood is well over, and he meets John as an adult. He has left the parental home in Nazareth and now his public ministry begins. As he stood with the crowds who came to John for baptism, Jesus identified with everyone there. John's baptism was a Jewish ritual water washing which symbolised the change of repentance and the forgiveness of sins. Jesus did not need repentance or forgiveness, but his baptism reveals his choice to join us in our frailty and to unite us with himself as God. Jesus's baptism in the Jordan marks the beginning of his work which, as John the Baptist makes clear, is different from his. Jesus, we are told, comes to baptise with the Holy Spirit and fire.

That is why the Baptism we have received is not the same as the one that John the Baptist administered. Our Baptism make us members of the Body of Christ, it gives us a share in the gift of the Holy Spirit who brings the 'fire' of divine love gradually to transform us into what God created us to become: fully human and fully alive.

Should we doubt the power and effectiveness of our own Baptism, we can be reassured by the experience of Jesus at the Jordan. After his own Baptism, St. Luke tells us that while Jesus was at prayer, the Holy Spirit descended upon him and a voice from heaven, the voice of God the Father declared to Jesus: "You are my Son, the beloved, my favour rests on you". The favour of God himself rests upon us as the disciples of Jesus and that is our dignity as the baptised.



## Public and YouTube Celebrations of Mass

*Both our churches are now 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	Jan	9th	11am	✘	<i>The Baptism of The Lord</i>	✘	People of Ringwood Parish
Wednesday	Jan	12th	10am	✘	<i>Memorial of St. Aelred</i>	✘	
Friday	Jan	14th	10am	✘	<i>Feria 1st Week in Ordinary Time</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	Jan	8th	6pm	✘	<i>The Baptism of The Lord</i>	✘	People of Fordingbridge Parish
Sunday	Jan	9th	9am	✘	<i>The Baptism of The Lord</i>	✘	Bridgie Ann Kilbane RIP
Tuesday	Jan	11th	10am	✘	<i>Feria 1st Week in Ordinary Time</i>	✘	Haken Family Intention
Thursday	Jan	13th	9.45am	✘	<i>Memorial St. Hilary</i>	✘	

**Confessions:** Please note that the Sacrament of Reconciliation is available in Ringwood at 12 noon each Saturday and at 5.30pm each Saturday in the hall at Fordingbridge, by appointment or on request after Mass.

## The Baptism of the Lord (C)

**First Reading:** Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 Or Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

**Responsorial Psalm:** Psalms 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10

*R/ The Lord will bless his people with peace.*

**Second Reading:** Acts 10:34-38

**Gospel:** Luke 3:15-16, 21-22



Ringwood - Wednesday Jan 26th following 10am Mass  
Fordingbridge – Tuesday Feb 1st following 10am Mass

## Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, 18-25 January 2022

Churches Together Ringwood

Christian Unity Service at Sacred Heart on Jan 25th at 4.30pm



### STAMPS for CAFOD:

As our Christmas cards come plopping through the letterbox, remember to save the stamps. If we collect enough, we can claim money for CAFOD for them, but we need LOTS! They add up, so never think your few won't matter. We collect stamps all year but this season presents us with a real bumper crop and with your help we can make a bit more difference. It is helpful if you can trim them to about half a centimetre around the stamps. Please leave them in the designated collection box. (There is one in each church.) Thank you so much.

### Christmas Clean Up



Christmas decorations and the crib will be put away in Fordingbridge after Mass on Sunday January 9th. Please help if you are able.

### Joint Parish Walk

The next Joint Parish walk will be on Saturday 8th January at 2 pm (1.45 Ringwood). We will start at the Chapel at Mockbeggar (Gorley Road), park opposite. About 3 miles, one hill, dog and people friendly. David 480052 or Jan 656726.



### Un-needed Christmas Gifts

Once again this year our two parishes will be working together to collect your un-needed Christmas gifts in order to raise funds for our two parishes. Please leave your clearly marked donations in the porch in Ringwood or in the Hall at Fordingbridge. Thank you everyone!

### 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 this month is extended to the 31st in honour of the season, reverting to 25th January next month. All contributions are welcome, but especially anything to do with New Year, new beginnings - new anything - or anything!

### 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: PRCDTR Ringwood Sacred Heart or PRCDTR Fordingbridge St. Mary and St. Philip**

**Ringwood:** Sort Code: 30 93 04 Account Number: 00886336  
**Fordingbridge:** Sort Code: 30 93 04 Account Number: 00878309

### CAFOD Recycling Ringwood Update

Many thanks to all contributors. We have made a good start but the sack takes a lot of filling. So, please, if you have any old or broken mobile phones, cameras, electronic gaming devices, tablets, Ipods, MP3 players or Sat Navs these will help. There is a collection box in the porch or 01425 480052 for a collection.



### WORLD DAY OF PRAYER – Friday 4 March 2022

In Fordingbridge, the service is being hosted by the Methodist Church. If you would like to be involved in the service, then please let me know. Jan Brian: 656726.

### Opportunities for Formation in Jan-Feb 2022

**For Catechists:** Essential Training for Catechists (5 Mondays, 10th Jan – 7th Feb, 7.30 to 9.00 pm) followed by our new course, Further Training for Catechists (5 Mondays, 21st Feb – 21st March, 7.30 to 9.00 pm)

**For those who care of children with Additional / special needs:** we are offering 3 workshops on Thursdays 13th, 20th and 27th January, 7.00 - 8.30 pm for the parents, catechists and priests of young Catholics with additional needs

**For Adults who wish to know their faith better:** We are offering a 6 weeks course on Tuesdays 15th February - 22nd March, 7.00 - 8.30 pm. This course, **Anchoring your Faith: the Mass**, will help you (re)discover the Mass, exploring its liturgy in the light of our faith.

For registration and more information please go to the website: [www.pffm.org.uk/](http://www.pffm.org.uk/)

### Greeting Cards

Birthday, Get Well, Sympathy, Mass Intention, Thanks etc cards are available. If you cannot see what you want please contact Barbara : [bgetrell@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bgetrell@yahoo.co.uk)

<https://www.avonstour.co.uk/parishes/ringwood/piety-stall/>

**Thank you for your financial support: please, if you can, continue to support your parishes during these difficult times via standing orders. November offerings to Parish bank accounts.**

**Ringwood Fordingbridge**

<b>SO</b>	<b>£ 1943</b>	<b>£ 2866</b>
<b>Cash/Env</b>	<b>£ 864</b>	<b>£ 325</b>

### Fordingbridge and Ringwood Contact Details

**Office hours:** OLS Tue 9am-12pm, SH Fri 10am-1pm  
**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: Donna Kerrigan 01425 656895  
[donna.kerrigan@btinternet.com](mailto:donna.kerrigan@btinternet.com)

### Avon Stour Pastoral Area—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)

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)

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

**“Bringing people closer to Jesus Christ through his Church”**

[www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

## **Deputy Director of Estates Diocese of Portsmouth**

We are looking for a chartered surveyor or equivalent to support the Diocese of Portsmouth as we go through a period of significant change; to oversee the management of all Diocesan Properties, working towards the decarbonisation of our estate and to undertake line management responsibilities for the Estates Team.

The successful candidate will have a proven track record of leading development projects including both refurbishment and new build schemes. They will also have proven team leadership experience, with the capability to lead internal staff members as well as external project teams. They must have excellent communication and leadership skills, along with the ability to operate successfully at a senior level liaising with a variety of stakeholders is essential to succeed in this role.

Experience of working with parishes, schools and residential property is advantageous although not essential. It is expected that candidates will be a Chartered Building Surveyor with 10 years post qualification experience or possess an equivalent professional qualification.

The Diocesan Estates Team is based in Portsmouth, with a hybrid office/home model. It will require occasional evening/weekend working and flexibility will be required. The role involves site visits throughout the Diocese, therefore a clean driving license and access to a vehicle is essential.

Salary: up to £50,000 per annum

For Job Description and details of how to apply please contact:

[Recruitment@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:Recruitment@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

Closing Date for applications: 12 noon on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022