

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 Twenty-Ninth Sunday of the Year

Father Paul writes.....

“Anyone who wants to be great among you must be your servant; and anyone who wants to be first among you must be slaves to all. For the Son of Man himself did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many”.

There are many aspects of Christian service and a crucial and timely one is upholding the value and dignity of human life. And that includes all human life, whether that is the strong and healthy or the weak, frail and sick. The debate around the “Assisted Suicide” bill in parliament provides a moment for us to influence our political decision makers in a Christian way. The Bishops urge us to write to our MPs asking them to vote against the bill. Cardinal Vincent Nichols wrote an excellent letter last week. He makes three important points. I include excerpts from it below:

The first point is this: Be careful what you wish for.

No doubt the bill put before Parliament will be carefully framed, providing clear and very limited circumstances in which it would become lawful to assist, directly and deliberately, in the ending of a person’s life. But please remember, the evidence from every single country in which such a law has been passed is clear: that the circumstances in which the taking of a life is permitted are widened and widened, making assisted suicide and medical killing, or euthanasia, more and more available and accepted. In this country, assurances will be given that the proposed safeguards are firm and reliable. Rarely has this been the case. This proposed change in the law may be a source of relief to some. But it will bring great fear and trepidation to many, especially those who have vulnerabilities and those living with disabilities. What is now proposed will not be the end of the story. It is a story better not begun.

The second point is this: a right to die can become a duty to die.

A law which prohibits an action is a clear deterrent. A law which permits an action changes attitudes: that which is permitted is often and easily encouraged. Once assisted suicide is approved by the law, a key protection of human life falls away. Pressure mounts on those who are nearing death, from others or even from themselves, to end their life in order to take away a perceived burden of care from their family, for the avoidance of pain, or for the sake of an inheritance. I know that, for many people, there is profound fear at the prospect of prolonged suffering and loss of dignity. Yet such suffering itself can be eased. Part of this debate, then, must be the need and duty to enhance palliative care and hospice provision, so that there can genuinely be, for all of us, the prospect of living our last days in the company of loved ones and caring medical professionals. This is truly dying with dignity. Indeed, the radical change in the law now being proposed risks bringing about for all medical professionals a slow change from a duty to care to a duty to kill.

The third point is this: being forgetful of God belittles our humanity.

The questions raised by this bill go to the very heart of how we understand ourselves, our lives, our humanity. For people of faith in God - the vast majority of the population of the world - the first truth is that life, ultimately, is a gift of the Creator. Our life flows from God and will find its fulfilment in God. ‘The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.’ (Job 1:21) To ignore or deny this truth is to separate our humanity from its origins and purpose. We are left, floating free, detached, in a sphere that lacks firm anchors or destiny, thinking that we can create these for ourselves according to the mood of the age, or even of the day.

Jesus brings our humanity to its full glory precisely through the gateway of suffering and death. We know, only too well, that suffering can bring people to a most dreadful state of mind, even driving them to take their own lives, in circumstances most often when they lack true freedom of mind and will, and so bear no culpability. But this proposed legislation is quite different. It seeks to give a person of sound will and mind the right to act in a way that is clearly contrary to a fundamental truth: our life is not our own possession, to dispose of as we feel fit. This is not a freedom of choice we can take for ourselves without undermining the foundations of trust and shared dignity on which a stable society rests.

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)

Sunday	October	20th	11am	⊗	29th Sunday in Ordinary Time	⊗	Holy Souls
Wednesday	October	23rd	10am	⊗	Diocesan Day of Prayer & Reparation for Life	⊗	For the Progress of Peoples
Friday	October	25th	10am	⊗	Ss Chad & Cedd	⊗	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

Saturday	October	19th	6pm	⊗	29th Sunday in Ordinary Time	⊗	Patrick Saunders RIP & Des Clifford RIP
Sunday	October	20th	9am	⊗	29th Sunday in Ordinary Time	⊗	Margaret Byrne RIP
Tuesday	October	22nd	10am	⊗	St. John Paul II	⊗	Private Intention RIP
Thursday	October	24th	10am	⊗	St. Anthony Claret	⊗	Sheila Altha RIP

Confessions will be available on Saturdays at 5.30 in Fordingbridge. In Ringwood before and after the Wednesday Mass. If there is no Mass there will be no confession.



Ringwood - Wednesday 30th October after 10am Mass
Fordingbridge – Tuesday 5th November after 10am Mass



‘Go and invite everyone to the banquet!’ cf. Matthew 22:9

20 October – Today is World Mission Sunday

Today, parishes worldwide celebrate World Mission Sunday. By supporting Missio, the Pope’s charity for world mission, we stand united as God’s global family, in prayer, solidarity, and action. We are called to ‘go and invite everyone to the banquet’ for the joy of Christ’s Resurrection is a gift meant to be shared with the entire world. Please pray for missionaries and give what you can to this vital collection, bringing God’s compassion, peace, and justice to those in need. To donate, use the Missio envelope, call 020 7821 9755 (office hours) or visit missio.org.uk to give a gift, set up a Direct Debit, and Gift Aid your donation if possible.

OCTOBER ROSARY for PEACE

20 Minutes before Mass or liturgy every Thursday during October, the month of Mary, please join us for a Rosary for Peace. There is always a friendly gathering after Thursday Masses too with a cup of coffee and a biscuit to which you are welcome.



29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: – Isaiah 53:10-11

Responsorial: Psalm 32(33):4-5,18-20,22

R. May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.

Second Reading: Hebrews 4:14-16

Gospel: John 14:6



Friendship Group Sacred Heart

Meeting regularly on Wednesdays after Mass in the House. We would love to see you there.

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: Fordingbridge Tues & Thurs 9-12 and Ringwood Fri 10-1
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@olofordingbridge.org.uk
Ringwood: please contact Helen Thomas details above

The Maronite Christians in the Holy Land,

Sun 20 Oct 3pm-5pm, St Thomas More RC Iford.

Tickets: £7 per person/£10 per family; booking (required): ticketsource.co.uk

Organised by the Bournemouth Ordinariate Mission in collaboration with the Guildford & District Knights of St Columba and Maronites in the Holy Land, this event offers a rare opportunity to explore the rich history of Maronite Christianity and its ancient liturgies in Aramaic, the language spoken by Christ. Expert speakers, appearing both in person and via live video link from the Holy Land, will provide valuable insights into the Maronites' current status and practices in the region. A special highlight will be a presentation on the Aramaic Centre in the Galilee. Please don't miss this insightful afternoon of history, faith, and cultural exploration!

CAFOD Thank you from CAFOD

Thank you for giving to CAFOD’s Family Fast Day appeal this Harvest season. Your donation in our parish collection or online and your prayers are helping young people like Daniel in the Democratic Republic of the Congo with support like training, so they can carve their way to a better future. We are standing in solidarity with those facing incredible hardships, as part of one global family. Learn more at cafod.org.uk/harvest

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 October.



Joint Parish Walk

The next Joint Parish Walk will be on Saturday 2nd November at 2.30 pm. Park at Castle Hill car park on the road from Woodgreen to Godshell (OS ref 170167). There are road works and you might have to approach from the Godshell end. Modest hills, about 3.5 miles. Good views. Lifts from Ringwood Church 2.00pm.

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

SO	Ringwood	Fordingbridge
Cash/online	£ 2244	£ awaiting
	£ 990	£ 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

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