

The Catholic Church in Fordingbridge and Ringwood

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

New Forest Pastoral Area
www.newforestcatholicparish.org.uk

Parish Priest:
Rev Mgr Canon Paul Townsend

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

The Fourth Sunday of Lent

Father Paul writes....

Our Gospel from St. Luke this weekend, is the beautiful narrative of the two sons and the father who displays the immeasurable love of God. The parable is often known as that of the 'Prodigal Son'.

Three figures are offered to us: the father who is unrelenting in his goodness, love and patience; the younger son who squandered his inheritance on a life of debauchery; and the elder son who showed himself to be resistant to the love displayed by his father. It is not unlikely that there are aspects of either son with which we can identify in our personal lives. If it is impossible to see those aspects or any connection between the parable and our own experience, then perhaps it is time to spend some time reflecting on this Gospel narrative. It can be found in Luke chapter 15, and it is worth reading the whole chapter. Read the chapter slowly and then spend time focussing on anything from the parable which resonated or was particularly striking. Then, ask the Holy Spirit for guidance in seeing how the parable of the Prodigal Son is inviting us to change some aspect of our thinking or living.

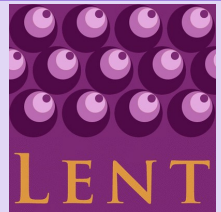
Lent is a time for renewal and change. It is a time to bring our lives, with their failings and sinfulness, to God for healing and forgiveness in the Sacrament of Confession, which is one of the two sacraments of healing, the other being the "Anointing of the Sick". Confession is about bringing our resolve to change and move in a new direction to God so that we might receive the healing of the Holy Spirit and the strength and courage which are his gifts. Anyone who has a serious anxiety about their health should receive the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick. In this sacrament, the healing and reconciling power of the Holy Spirit comes to work in the sick person to bring them strength, health, peace and hope. I have administered this sacrament myself, and have received it, and I never cease to be amazed and astonished at its power to bring peace and healing. Often in the most difficult of circumstances.

And then there is 'Confession' or the Sacrament of Reconciliation as it is often called. As in the Sacrament for the Sick, Confession is all about the healing power of the Holy Spirit assuring us of the forgiveness of God and bringing us peace and hope. As Pope Francis said, Confession is not meant to be a torture chamber. It is meant to be liberating and life giving. People often say that they are anxious about coming to confession because they do not know what to say or do not know the correct words. None of that matters. The priest is there to help us explore those aspects of our lives which are crying out for forgiveness and peace.

In addition to the usual times for confessions, when both sacraments are available, (Just ask for the Sacrament of the Sick) I will be available on the following Saturday mornings for Confessions:

Saturday 5th April at Fordingbridge between 11.00 am and 12 noon

Saturday 12th April at Ringwood between 11.00 am and 12 noon.



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	March	30th	11am	✘	<i>Fourth Sunday of Lent</i>
Wednesday	April	2nd	10am	✘	<i>of the 4th Week in Lent</i>
Friday	April	4th	10.30am	✘	<i>of the 4th Week in Lent</i>

- ✘ People of Ringwood Parish
- ✘ Liturgy of the Word
- ✘ Funeral Mass of Farida Fanovard

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	29th	6pm	✘	<i>Fourth Sunday of Lent</i>
Sunday	March	30th	9am	✘	<i>Fourth Sunday of Lent</i>
Tuesday	April	1st	10am	✘	<i>of the 4th Week in Lent</i>
Thursday	April	3rd	10am	✘	<i>of the 4th Week of Lent</i>

- ✘ Fr Kevin Cummins RIP
- ✘ Marie Sawyer
- ✘ Canon Peter Wilkie RIP
- ✘ People of Fordingbridge Parish

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.

Second Collection this week is for the Clergy Assistance Fund

A New Website for Our Churches!

As of Sunday 30th March, Laetare Sunday, the New Forest Pastoral Area will have a new website! Rejoice!

www.newforestcatholicparish.org.uk



Fordingbridge – Tuesday 1st April after 10am Mass
Ringwood - Wednesday 30th April after 10am Mass



Stations of the Cross this Friday in Ringwood and Fordingbridge



On each Friday during Lent, there will be Stations of the Cross at **11.30am in Ringwood** followed by a **Hunger Lunch**. **The Stations will begin this week after the funeral of Farida Fanovard or 11.30 depending which comes last.**

In Fordingbridge, Stations of the Cross will be at 11.30am followed by Lenten Lunch starting Friday March 14th and will continue every Friday in Lent. Please join us! Donations collected at both Lunches will go to CAFOD.

✠ Please Pray for Our Dearly Departed ✠

*Farida Nicole Fanovard
Funeral Mass this week*



Restoring the Bell

Tickets are on sale for our last shot at restoring the bell to Our Lady of Sorrows - a night of fun live music from 'The Bell Boys' and guests on Saturday 12th April from 7.00pm. Ticket price includes a light supper and as ever there will be a reasonably priced licenced bar. The evening kicks off with a set from Jonny Foyle, the Cosmic Cellist, who has delighted us before with his fabulous repertoire. The band will give us two sets of popular music interspersed with songs from the lovely voice that is Ruth Kibble. You can 'Guess the Weight of the Bell' with the chance of a prize for your calculating skills and we will also have a Prize Draw. If you are feeling exceptionally generous – or if live music isn't quite your cup of tea (!) - you might consider donating a bottle or maybe a box of your favourite chocs for the Draw. We hope to restore the bell to its vantage point this summer. Thank you for your support.

For tickets and further information: lawrencebartel@yahoo.co.uk

THE BELL BOYS
In aid of the Bell Appeal

An evening of live music to raise funds for the restoration of the church bell
The Bell Boys (aka Phat Larry's Band) plus guests

Light Supper
Reasonable bar
Prize Draw
Tickets: £15
Contact: lawrencebartel@yahoo.co.uk

SATURDAY 12TH APRIL FROM 7PM
OUR LADY OF SORROWS RC CHURCH
FORDINGBRIDGE



Fordingbridge Garden Tidy Up

Come join us for the spring gardening day on April 5th from 9-12. Bacon baps to be served with coffee and tea. Please bring your own garden tools and gloves. We look forward to seeing you there!

A project by the Diocese of Portsmouth Liturgical Formation Team

The Liturgy Project
FORMATION DAYS

Talks & Reflections
(Bring own sandwich, tea/coffee provided)

10 am to 2 pm
St Bede's Church, Popley Way, Basingstoke RG24 9DX

3rd May 2025
Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion
Includes a session on taking Holy Communion the "sick and the housebound".

18th October 2025
Day for Readers

Please RSVP to liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk



CAFOD Lent Appeal – Thank you!

Thank you for giving generously to CAFOD's Lent Appeal. In troubling times for our world, your donations this Family Fast Day help people like Lokho in Kenya build a safety net and prepare for whatever comes. In giving to support our sisters and brothers, we are truly pilgrims of hope in the Jubilee year. Find out more at cafod.org.uk/lent

Greeting Cards



Mothering Sunday cards are now available. Easter cards will be available in both churches from March 30th (Mothering Sunday). Many cards have been topped up and new cards added so do keep checking.

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 will be the 25th of April. The April edition has gone out with clickable links. Sometimes this bars it from some email accounts. Please let Melissa know if you didn't receive Forty Days.

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. FEBRUARY offerings to Parish bank accounts

	Ringwood	Fordingbridge
SO	£ 2140	£ 2731
Cash/online	£ 856	£ 425

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@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:

0300 019 4221 (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