

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 Fifth Sunday of Lent

Father Paul writes....

Our Gospel this Sunday, describes the fate of the woman caught in the act of committing adultery. The scribes and Pharisees were using the woman to trap Jesus so that he himself could be condemned. If he agreed that she should be stoned, then he was breaking the Roman Law which said that only the Roman Governor could make that decision. If he did not condemn her, then he was breaking the Mosaic Law.

Jesus did neither. Instead, he turned the tables on her accusers by inviting the one of them who was without sin to cast the first stone. In her shame and embarrassment, Jesus did not condemn the woman. He acknowledged her failing but did not question her about the circumstances. Instead, she was forgiven and could resume her life in peace and freedom from anxiety. She had become a new creation.

Lent is a time for renewal and change. It is a time to believe that "nothing can happen which will outweigh the supreme advantage of knowing Jesus Christ." 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.

Happy Easter to you all and thank you for your generosity to me this Easter.

Have a look at our new web pages at www.newforestcatholicparish.org.uk



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	April	6th	11am	✘	<i>Fifth Sunday in Lent</i>	✘	Holy Souls
Wednesday	April	9th	10am	✘	<i>of the 5th Week of Lent</i>	✘	Liturgy of the Word
Friday	April	11th	11am	✘	<i>of the 5th Week of Lent</i>	✘	Fr. Peter Ryan RIP
Sunday	April	13th	11am	✘	<i>Palm Sunday</i>	✘	People of Ringwood Parish
Wednesday	April	16th	10am	✘	<i>of Holy Week</i>	✘	Holy Souls
Sunday	April	20th	11am	✘	<i>Easter Sunday</i>	✘	People of Ringwood Parish
Wednesday	April	23rd	10am	✘	<i>Wednesday Within the Octave of Easter</i>	✘	
Friday	April	25th	10am	✘	<i>Friday Within the Octave of Easter</i>	✘	Holy Souls

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	April	5th	6pm	✘	<i>Fifth Sunday in Lent</i>	✘	
Sunday	April	6th	9am	✘	<i>Fifth Sunday in Lent</i>	✘	People of Fordingbridge Parish
Tuesday	April	8th	10am	✘	<i>of the 5th Week of Lent</i>	✘	Liturgy of the Word
Thursday	April	10th	10am	✘	<i>of the 5th Week of Lent</i>	✘	Marguerite-Marie Diqueumere RIP
Saturday	April	12th	6pm	✘	<i>Palm Sunday</i>	✘	
Sunday	April	13th	9am	✘	<i>Palm Sunday</i>	✘	People of Fordingbridge Parish
Tuesday	April	15th	10am	✘	<i>Tuesday of Holy Week</i>	✘	Liturgy of the Word
Thursday	April	17th	7.30pm	✘	<i>Maundy Thursday</i>	✘	
Friday	April	18th	3pm	✘	<i>Good Friday</i>	✘	
Saturday	April	19th	7.30pm	✘	<i>Holy Saturday/Easter Vigil</i>	✘	
Sunday	April	20th	9am	✘	<i>Easter Sunday</i>	✘	People of Fordingbridge Parish
Tuesday	April	22nd	10am	✘	<i>Tuesday Within the Octave of Easter</i>	✘	Liturgy of the Word
Thursday	April	24th	10am	✘	<i>Thursday Within the Octave of Easter</i>	✘	

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



Gardening Morning – Saturday 5th April – 9.00 until 12 Noon

Feel free to join the team to work on Father Paul's garden this Saturday (it's set to be a fine morning weather-wise). Bring your own tools or share with others. As always, there will be a mid-morning brunch and a chance to catch up with fellow parishioners.



Red Box Holders

Please bring your full Red Boxes to church anytime over the next two weeks and leave them with Father Paul. John Walter is aiming to return empty boxes to you as soon as possible. You will be able to pick up your empty box from the church porches. Next collection of boxes will be in October.

The Bell Boys – restoring the church bell

This event is now sold out. Thanks to everyone who has purchased tickets. The show starts soon after the evening Mass on Saturday 12th April with a light supper and a cello recital like no other from the very gifted Jonny Foyle – **the Cosmic Cellist**. Additional music will come from the 'house band' and invited guest Ruth Kibble. There are plenty of prizes to encourage your participation in the Draw, as well as a chance to 'Guess the Weight of the Bell'. All proceeds will help facilitate the restoration of the bell outside our church.

Walks of Witness for Ringwood and Fordingbridge

On Good Friday Ringwood Churches Together Walk of Witness will start at 11am at the Salvation Army. You will continue to various Churches to do the Stations of the Cross. (Subject to change due to early printing) Check Poulner Baptist Church website for latest details.

Fordingbridge Churches Together Walk of Witness meeting points are at St. Mary's or Our Lady of Sorrows at 10.30. Prayers followed by the putting of the cross by the Town Hall and a short service.



Good Friday Stations of the Cross in Ringwood

Sacred Heart has invited all the congregations within Churches Together Ringwood to come on Good Friday 29 March to the Stations of the Cross at 11.30, particularly for those who cannot manage the 'Walk of Witness'. Please join us on that day.



Easter Offering

The Easter Day Collection supports our parish priest directly, in grateful thanks for his dedication, service and witness throughout the year. If you would like to give a gift to support Father Paul in his mission and ministry this Easter, please give using the DONA machine, by cash or cheque on the donation plate. There is also a give as you live link special for Father Paul on our new website.

Plant Sale after Mass

Saturday & Sunday 26th & 27th April
And
Saturday & Sunday 7th & 8th June

Our Lady of Sorrows Fordingbridge and Sacred Heart Ringwood

Summer annual bedding plants, flowering perennials, shrubs from cuttings and some vegetables
All grown on at home in Dorset

All donations go to CAFOD

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



HAPPY EASTER !

From Father Paul, the members of the Joint Parishes Finance Committee, Fordingbridge PCC and Ringwood PCC

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 April.

Copies of the Churches Together in Fordingbridge Monthly Prayer Link for April are available in the porch.

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	£2210	£ awaiting
Cash/online	£1109	£ awaiting

Fordingbridge and Ringwood Contact Details

Office hours: Both offices will be closed from Mon 7 APR and will open again Tues 22 APR

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