

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 Baptism of the Lord

Father Paul writes.....

The Baptism of Jesus, which we celebrate this weekend, marks the end of Christmastide and the beginning of Ordinary time in the Church's calendar. The Lord's Baptism at the hands of John the Baptist, launched Jesus into his mission. Because of our own Baptism, Confirmation and the continual gift of the Eucharist, we share in Jesus's mission to bring life to the full to all people. It is a mission which we share with all those who are baptised in the other Christian traditions.

Not inappropriately therefore, between the 18th and 25th January, we participate in the 'Week of Prayer of Christian Unity. Eight days in which we are invited to pray and work with other Christians in our missionary task.

The Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity has the title 'Do you believe this?' In the next few weeks I offer excerpts for the reflection written by Dr. Nicola Brady who is the General Secretary of Churches Together.

"At the heart of our reflections for this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is the question posed by Jesus to Martha: 'Do you believe this?' (John 11:26). This same question resonated throughout the deliberations of the first Ecumenical Council, meeting in Nicaea in 325, which gathered Christian communities from around the world to strengthen their relationships as the Church of Jesus Christ. Read in isolation the question might appear as a stark challenge, but from the Gospel story it is clear that the words of Jesus are spoken in love and experienced as invitation as well as challenge. Similarly, while the Council of Nicaea was not without its challenges as a wounded and scattered Church sought to discern the truth of the Gospel message, there was an obvious desire to deepen connection and belonging and to live faithfully as disciples of Christ.

Reflecting on these moments we are reminded that the gift of our faith brings both support and challenge. The 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea this year has been embraced with a hopeful enthusiasm in the global Church and in ecumenical bodies, inspiring a wide range of events and dialogues. It is valued as a significant moment of shared history across the different Christian traditions, despite the many ways in which our paths may have diverged in the years since. Some have remained closer to the Church envisaged at Nicaea with the Nicene Creed continuing to be of central importance as a statement of faith, while others have adopted non-creedal models of Church placing greater emphasis on other forms of expression of shared Christian faith. Looking back together from our different perspectives presents an opportunity to deepen understanding and relationships, strengthening our unity in diversity."



Public and YouTube Celebrations of Mass

Both our churches are open daily for prayer

Sacred Heart, Ringwood

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

(All masses livestreamed at this link unless otherwise noted)

Sunday	January	12th 11am	✘ <i>The Baptism of the Lord</i>	✘ People of Ringwood Parish
Wednesday	January	15th 10am	✘ <i>Feria (1st Week in Ordinary Time)</i>	✘
Friday	January	17th 10am	✘ <i>St. Anthony of Egypt</i>	✘

Our Lady of Sorrows, Fordingbridge

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

Saturday	January	11th 6pm	✘ <i>The Baptism of the Lord</i>	✘ Michael Quirk RIP
Sunday	January	12th 9am	✘ <i>The Baptism of the Lord</i>	✘ People of Fordingbridge Parish
Tuesday	January	14th 10am	✘ <i>Feria (1st Week in Ordinary Time)</i>	✘ Liturgy of the Word
Thursday	January	16th 10am	✘ <i>Feria (1st Week in Ordinary Time)</i>	✘ Charlie Berridge 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 29th January after 10am Mass
Fordingbridge - Tuesday 4th February after 10am Mass

✝ Please Pray for Our Dearly Departed ✝

Donald Alfred Wheeler
Funeral Mass at
Sacred Heart on
29th January 2025 at 11 am

Gavin Loudon
Funeral Mass at
Our Lady of Sorrows on
31st January 2025 at 11 am



Loaves and Fishes

Our Facebook group is a great way of keeping in touch with other parishioners. Ask to join here:

<https://www.facebook.com/1397210003927764/>

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2025

Sunday 19th January 2025 - 11am - Joint CTiRD Service at Poulner Baptist Chapel followed by an Italian lunch.

Booking essential for the lunch (limited number available)
Scan QR code below to book.

Mon 20th	-	11.30am	-	Trinity
Tue 21st	-	7.30pm	-	Crowe
Wed 22nd	-	11.30am	-	Parish Church
Thur 23rd	-	7am-7pm	-	Poulner Baptist Chapel Drop-in Day of Prayer
Fri 24th	-	10am	-	Sacred Heart



SCAN ME



A Year of Hope: An Introduction to the Jubilee Year with the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

2025 is a Jubilee year, but what does that mean? Catholic talk show host and author Nana Churcher, and CAFOD's Simon Giarchi will be hosting Fr Jan Nowotnik (Director of Mission for the Bishop's Conference), Christine Allen (CAFOD's Director) and Kayode Akintola (CAFOD's Head of Africa) and more for a lively start to the Jubilee. With a special appearance by Catholic band Ooberfuse. **Saturday 18 Jan, 10:30am-midday, online.** All welcome. Register here for free: cafod.org.uk/jubilee

Peace Sunday 19 January



"The work of Pax Christi is based on the gospel and inspired by faith. Our vision is of a world where people can live in peace, without fear of violence in all its forms. Rooted in Catholic Christianity, we work with all who share our values to abolish war and create communities of peace and justice."

Please find donation envelopes at the back of both churches. They can be returned to donation baskets today or at Mass on the 19th.

Churches Together Unity Service Fordingbridge

This will be held at **10.30am on Sunday 19th January 2025 at St Mary's Church in Fordingbridge.** This falls within the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18-25 January each year) and is a time when we all come together to worship. We hope that you may be able to attend.



WOMEN TOGETHER in RINGWOOD PRESENTS: Breakfast, an Empowering Talk, Worship & a Time to Build Community with Kemi Koleoso.

Date: Saturday, 8th February 2025

Location: Poulner Baptist Chapel, Linford Road, BH24 3HZ

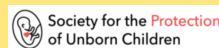
Time: Breakfast starts at 9:00 AM; event concludes around 1:00 PM

Tickets: £10

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 January.



White Flower Appeal 2025

The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) will be holding its annual appeal on Sunday the 19th January.

SPUC exists to radically transform culture so that abortion is not only abolished but becomes truly unthinkable. To accomplish this mission, the Society is positioning initiatives in politics, education, legislation and culture. Through these efforts we will restore a respect for the sanctity of human life to our society. This year's appeal postcards call on the government to adhere to the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of the Child.

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	£ 2235	£ 2826
Cash/online	£ 1058	£ 228

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: 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