

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 33rd Sunday of the Year

Father Paul writes.....

As we approach the end of the Church's year – next Sunday is the last and we come to the end of hearing Matthew's Gospel and today he sums up his message. The parable of the talents provides a useful summary of how to be a faithful Christian and disciple of Jesus. As we enter the parable it is worth remembering that a talent was an enormous amount of money in Jesus's time. The man who took the risk of entrusting his money to his servants was being extremely trusting and generous, as God is with us. In today's terms a talent might be worth £25 - £30,000.

Generosity is our starting point. Not our generosity, but that of God, in entrusting us with the gifts that we have. In this context, the talents stand for the gifts we receive. The man was taking a huge risk with his servants and God does the same with us. Not to be forgotten is the fact that the man tailored the gift of the talents to his servants according to their ability. God treats us the same. The gifts each of us receive from God are wide ranging and varied. Starting with life itself, the list is endless. Each present moment brings new opportunities in the form of joy, sorrow, light and dark, food, drink, love, friendship, and the countless natural gifts of creation.

Like the talents in the Gospel, the gifts, and abilities we are given, are signs in which God expresses his generosity and the love which he is. More than that, they are given freely to be used in gratitude just as we wish and given to be used in such way as to increase their value and effectiveness.

All we need do is use the gifts in love which reflects the generosity in which the gifts are given. This may involve taking risks with what appears to be most precious but if we do this in love, benefits will result for ourselves and those who benefit from our efforts. It is the living power of love which meets our gifts and the way we use them. Love, the power of God the Holy Spirit, embraces our efforts and brings them to a fruition we would not have first thought.

To be avoided is the example of the servant who buried his talent in the ground. He was afraid of risk, afraid of loss and afraid of the giver. We do not need to be afraid of God. The response to the servant's fear comes from Jesus who says in Matthew 16.25, "For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it".

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	November	19th	11am	✘	<i>Thirty-Three Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	✘	Holy Souls
Wednesday	November	22nd	10am	✘	<i>St. Cecilia</i>	✘	People of Ringwood Parish
Friday	November	24th	10am	✘	<i>St. Andrew Dungs-Lac & Companions</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	November	18th	6pm	✘	<i>Thirty-Three Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	✘	
Sunday	November	19th	9am	✘	<i>Thirty-Three Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	✘	People of Fordingbridge Parish
Tuesday	November	21st	No Mass	✘	<i>The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	✘	No Mass
Thursday	November	23rd	10am	✘	<i>St. Clement I</i>	✘	

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

First Communion— Applications for First Communion classes can be found at the back of the church. Classes will be starting soon. For all children aged 7 or over by the 1st of Sept. 2023. Please give to Father Paul or return to the Presbytery.

Key silences during Mass:

- Before the Opening Prayer to prepare ourselves to listen to the Word of God
- Before the readings
- After each reading
- After the homily
- After each bidding prayer to allow us to pray for the intention.
- After Holy Communion.

Scratch Choir

Would anyone like to sing in a 'scratch choir'? Ringwood Churches Together is putting together a choir to perform at the Ringwood Light Up on the 26th of November. The time will be from 2-5 pm. If interested please contact Maggie Spiers - Maggie@spriers.net

Christmas Hampers

Ringwood Churches Together are once again creating Christmas Hampers to distribute through schools. Collection boxes can be found in both Churches along with a list of wished for items.

Poiter is also collecting for their Christmas Hampers and a wish list can be found in the Fordingbridge Hall.



Ringwood - Wednesday 29th November after 10am Mass
Fordingbridge – Tuesday 5th December after 10am Mass



AN EPIPHANY NATIVITY

This is a call for children - aged 5 to 100 - to help us construct our Nativity in celebration of the birth of Christ. This Christmas we will focus on events occurring after Jesus' birth in Bethlehem.

Please let me know of your interest via:

email: stephaniebartel@hotmail.com, text: 07909 971036 or by old fashioned word of mouth at the Parish Open Morning on 18th November.

We will hold our rehearsals over four Saturday mornings from 10am until 11.30am. Performers will need to commit to most, preferably all, of the dates below:

9, 16, 30 December

6 January

Performance on 7th January immediately after the 9.00am Mass.

-Stephanie

CAFOD Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal

Donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at cafod.org.uk/ipc or call 0303 303 3030 to support those affected and get funds to local trusted experts in Gaza and southern Israel who have been working alongside communities helping those most in need. Your donation will help support aid workers providing urgent humanitarian aid including food, water and emergency shelter to those in need. Thank you for your prayers.



Free to a good home!

I have 5 well rooted healthy Rosemary cuttings if anyone would like one - please let me know. -Barbara

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 November edition is the 25th of November.



WINTER WARMER at Fordingbridge Hall after 6pm Mass on 2nd December.

This is your CAFOD Group's 'thank you' for all your support this past year.

All welcome to join us for home made mince pies and punch (non also available) There will be music and lively chatter. It's FREE - Do come!

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: Office Open Tues (OLS) 9-12 Friday 10-1(SH)
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



Greeting Cards

Christmas cards available in Ringwood and Fordingbridge. There are boxes of 18 cards for £4.25 a box which is just over 23p a card and boxes of 12 cards for £3.95 which is 33p a card. As well as, in individual cards and packs of 10 small cards for £1.60 a packet (10p a card). Thanks for your support, Barbara



THINKING AHEAD

There are some CAFOD 'World Gift' catalogues to be found in Ringwood and Fordingbridge porches from this weekend. Something to give someone who has everything, or you think would really appreciate the sentiment. You can spend as little as £4 for a Happy Queen Bee gift to set up a hive to help people become self-sufficient, £10 for a soup kitchen, £30 for a Winter Survival Kit or £150 for a Marvelous Moo Cow. There are so many other ideas as well as practical gifts of chocolate, etc.



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/>

Friendship Group Sacred Heart

We meet on Wednesdays following Mass for a coffee and a chat. Do come and join us - all are very welcome
.- Barbara



Thank you from CAFOD Campaigns

Thank you to everyone who signed 'Salina's letter' this summer. Salina is the small-scale farmer from Bangladesh who is calling on the World Bank to protect the rights of farmers over their own seeds. 70,000 parishioners in England and Wales signed the letter, and a third of all parishes took part. Salina said, "I am very happy to know about 70,000 signatures along with mine." This helped CAFOD to secure initial meetings with World Bank staff, who heard the message that seeds are for all. This is a long struggle but it's a very good start. Thank you for adding your voice.

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

	Ringwood	Fordingbridge
SO	£ 2298	£ 3086
Cash/Env	£ 978	£ 312
DONA/Online	£ 255	£ 84

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