

## 'BORN FOR THIS'

### A MOVING PORTRAYAL OF THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Through drama and music the people of Avon Stour pastoral area bring the Easter story to life, detailing the final hours of Jesus Christ. Please join us this Lent for a poignant and moving liturgy during Palm Sunday weekend. 3.00pm either Saturday 24th or Sunday 25th March  
St Joseph's Church, 67, Purewell, Christchurch BH23 1EH FREE ADMISSION - ALL ARE WELCOME!



### LENT STUDY COURSE in Fordingbridge and Ringwood

Churches Together in Ringwood and District are organising a Lent Bible study course. Either an afternoon or an evening course, take your pick. The venue and the leaders move round to give some variety. On-line study resources are at: <https://ctbi.org.uk/lent/> (They are almost exactly the same as those in the book.) The course is free. The books cost £2.00 each. Available from session leaders.

Book: '40 Stories of Hope' - testimonies from prisoners and ex-offenders. Together with five weekly study sessions in Mark's gospel.

The stories within the course and book give a unique insight into prison life and point to the hope we can find as followers of Jesus. The group studies provide the whole Church – inside and outside prison – with the opportunity to walk with Jesus through Lent, learning from Mark's Gospel and from the lessons prisoners, ex-prisoners and chaplains have learned. This spiritual journey through Lent will offer much to draw on to refresh and encourage our faith. For further information contact: [Revd Mike Shrubsole](mailto:mshrubsole@gmail.com). Email: [mshrubsole@gmail.com](mailto:mshrubsole@gmail.com)

MONDAY 2.30PM - 4.00pm Fordingbridge		MONDAY 7.30PM Ringwood	
DATE	VENUE	DATE	VENUE
12 <sup>th</sup> March	United Reformed Church	12 <sup>th</sup> March	Poulner Baptist Chapel
19 <sup>th</sup> March	United Reformed Church	19 <sup>th</sup> March	Trinity United Church

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS 2.30PM Ringwood	
DATE	VENUE
14 <sup>th</sup> March	Poulner Baptist Chapel
21 <sup>st</sup> March	Trinity United Church

**HOSPITAL CHAPLAINS:** (If you are in hospital, you will **not** be visited **unless** you **request** a visit from the chaplain or your parish priest!)

**Salisbury:** 01722 336262 (ask for Catholic Chaplain).

**Bournemouth: & Christchurch:**

non-urgent: 01202 704221 (chaplaincy office); Urgent: 01202 303626 & ask for duty RC chaplain. Holy Mass is celebrated each Wednesday at 6.00pm in the Royal Bournemouth Hospital chapel Holy Mass is celebrated and each Thursday at 6.30pm in the Poole Hospital chapel

**Southampton General:** non-urgent: 02381 208517 responds in 24hrs urgent: Tel: 02380 777222 and ask for the Catholic duty Chaplin

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth (reg. charity no.: 246871)  
Avon Stour Pastoral Area

Co-ordinating Pastor & Dean: Canon Paul Townsend

### The Catholic Church in Fordingbridge and Ringwood

Internet: [www.shandolos.org.uk](http://www.shandolos.org.uk); [www.avonstourpastoralarea.org](http://www.avonstourpastoralarea.org)

**PARISH PRIEST:** Canon Paul Townsend Tel: 01425 653131 Email: [ptownsend@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:ptownsend@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**ADMINISTRATOR:** Natalie Littlefair Tel: 07892670133 Email: [shandolos@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:shandolos@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**Safeguarding Co-ordinators:** Fordingbridge –Donna Kerrigan 01425 656895 [donna.kerrigan@btinternet.com](mailto:donna.kerrigan@btinternet.com)

Ringwood - Margaret Pointon 01425 480726 [pointonfamily@btinternet.com](mailto:pointonfamily@btinternet.com)

### The Fourth Sunday of Lent 11th March 2018

(Year B, weekday cycle 1, Office week 4)

Canon Paul writes: Today is 'Laetare' Sunday. The word 'Laetare' is taken from the Entrance Antiphon for today which in Latin is: "Laetare Jerusalem" or "Rejoice Jerusalem".

The theme for this Sunday is rejoicing because, as Jesus says to Nicodemus in the Gospel narrative: "Yes, God so loved the world that he gave his only son". Nicodemus was a Jewish teacher who came to have a conversation with Jesus at night. Often in St. John's Gospel things are different from what they immediately appear. Nicodemus probably came at night because he did not want to lose his reputation by being seen showing an interest in what Jesus was teaching. At another level, coming to Jesus at night connects with an important theme in the Gospel, which is that Jesus is the light of the world and Nicodemus is emerging from the darkness of unbelief to the light of faith.

The conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus takes up pretty well the whole of Chapter 3. Later in the Gospel, Nicodemus has the courage to defend Jesus against the Jewish authorities and he assists Joseph of Arimathea in Jesus's burial, but in this conversation he is only just at the beginning of coming to believe. Somehow he cannot bring himself to see with the eyes of faith. In other words, his appreciation of what Jesus says remains at the earthly and concrete level. At this early stage of his faith journey he is unable to see beyond the earthly to the heavenly realm.

It is of the 'heavenly realm' that Jesus speaks today and Nicodemus would eventually come to glimpse the truth of Jesus's words. Today's Gospel narrative touches the heart of the Christian mystery and the truth of Jesus Christ.

Jesus refers to Moses who led the people of Israel on their forty year wilderness journey to the 'Promised Land'. The people grumbled because of the hardship and, by way of punishment, were bitten by a plague of serpents. Moses was told by the Lord to make a bronze serpent and put it on a pole. Anyone who had been bitten and looked at the serpent lived.

Now Jesus takes the serpent raised up on a pole as an example of himself who was raised up on the Cross. It was in his death on the Cross that Jesus took upon himself the darkness and oppression that destroys humanity and creation. The sin in fact. As we look at the Cross, just as the people looked on the bronze serpent, we see the cause of our downfall and misery becoming the way to joy and the fullness of life. As we see Jesus raised up on the Cross and experiencing death, we see not simply crucifixion but the supreme revelation of God. The earthly experience of death on a Cross provides a window into the life and nature of God revealed in Jesus who pours himself out limitlessly and eternally to God his Father.

Each time we celebrate Mass we relive the death and resurrection of Jesus; we are one with Jesus as he offers himself as an eternal sacrifice to the Father; an eternal sacrifice which we glimpse in time and human history on Calvary. The Mass transports us into the eternal life and love of God; no wonder Nicodemus was challenged in his understanding; no wonder St. Paul can say "We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it". (PJT)

### Masses and Liturgies for the Week 10th March to 17th March 2018



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



Our Lady of Sorrows & St. Philip Benizi  
SP6 1EG

#### The Sacred Heart, Ringwood

Sun 11th 11.00am Mass People of the Parish  
Mon 12th 9.45am Holy Rosary  
10.00am Liturgy of the Word & Holy Communion

Wed 14th 10.00am Mass  
Fri 16th 11.00am Mass, Stations of the Cross followed by a Lenten Lunch in aid of CAFOD  
Sat 17th 3.00pm Penitential Liturgy

#### Our Lady of Sorrows, Fordingbridge

Sat 10th 6.00pm Vigil Mass Mary O'Keefe RIP  
Sun 11th 9.00am Mass Daphne Paterson RIP  
Tues 13th 10.00am Mass Joe Dickinson RIP

**Thurs 15th 9.00am Mass**  
Fri 16th 11.45am Stations of the Cross followed by a Lenten Lunch in aid of CAFOD  
Sat 17th 6.00pm Vigil Mass Holy Souls

**NO Confession this week Penitential Liturgy instead 17th March at 3pm in Ringwood**

**RINGWOOD MUSIC : Ent. –109 Off. –215 Comm - End - 602**  
**PSALM O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not**

**The Parish office will be open for enquiries at Ringwood on Fridays between 9am and 12pm,  
Fordingbridge on Tuesdays between 9am and 12pm.**  
**Please arrange Mass intentions with Natalie through the Parish Office**

**Data Capture** - For the next three weeks we will be asking you to fill in your details on our new data capture forms. This is firstly to update our current database as many personal details are not up to date. Secondly in order to comply with Data Protection we will need every family to sign and date the new forms. Please ensure you read the form thoroughly and fill in as many details as possible. Please also indicate if you are related to another family in the parish. We thank you in advance for taking the time to fill out these forms.

**Dates for your diary...**

- 1. Alpha** - meeting for anyone potentially interested in helping to get another Alpha Course going: Tue 24 th April, 7pm for 7.30-9pm St Joseph's Parish Centre, Christchurch
- 2. Welcome to Worship** – next one will be Tue 15 th May, 7-9pm (just before Pentecost) at St Joseph's, Christchurch. Theme: The Holy Spirit
- 3. Day for Readers** – An important day for all those who read the Scripture in church: Sat 16 th June, probably at St Bede's, Basingstoke. More details in due course
- 4. Day for Catechists** – An important day for all those involved in a teaching ministry, e.g. Sacramental Preparation & Children's Liturgy: Sat 20 th October, 10am-4pm at Portsmouth Cathedral. [www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/formation/](http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/formation/)

## RINGWOOD NEWS

Please come and join us for tea and coffee after Sunday Mass each week in the presbytery.

## FORDINGBRIDGE NEWS

### GOOD FRIDAY - CHURCHES TOGETHER Friday 30th March at 10.30am

Please see the large yellow poster in the Porch re the outdoor Passion Play. Some small yellow flyers are also being given out at Mass. We are asked to congregate at the Park from 10.30 am and in biblical style dress if possible. Our own **Cathy Guy** is one of the actors so please come and support her. Jan Brian 656726.

**St Mary's Church in Fordingbridge are holding a Good Friday Evening Service at 6.30pm Please see the posters in the hall and porch for full details**

**CHURCHES TOGETHER** in Fordingbridge and District have launched 'We ♥ SP6' "Loving God, Loving People" The aim is to let people know the local Christians love the local community. After Easter there will be freely available leaflet posing the question 'What Hurts the Most?' when anyone can let us know what is not good for them in their lives. Later in the year the answers will be collated and Churches Together will see what skills and talents we have to improve things. There are bookmarks available in the porch with a prayer for this initiative.

In just under two weeks time, on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March, I am lining up for a new London Half Marathon – the London Landmarks Half – and although my time is likely to be slow, as I'm certainly not built for running, I'm determined to finish! By running, I'd like to raise some money for two very good causes. One is a very newly opened nursery, Little Foresters, which is at my daughter's school - Western Downland CofE Primary School in Rockbourne and Damerham and which would benefit hugely from some additional start up funding, and the other is CAFOD – the Catholic international development charity which does a tremendous amount helping to tackle poverty and injustice in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. As I wish to support two causes, it is not possible to have a Just Giving page, but if you do want to sponsor me, there is a form at the back of the Church. Remember that everything raised for CAFOD during Lent will be doubled by the government, so the effect of your giving will be all the more. However, any amount, no matter how small, will make a big difference and will encourage me to keep running – thank you!" Alix Downing

### NEAREST CATHOLIC SCHOOLS:

- Christchurch:** St. Joseph's Primary, Dorset Road, BH23 3DA, 01202 485976, [www.stjosephs.dorset.sch.uk](http://www.stjosephs.dorset.sch.uk)  
**Salisbury:** St. Osmund's Primary, Exeter Street, SP1 2SG, 01722 322632, [www.st-osmunds.wilts.sch.uk](http://www.st-osmunds.wilts.sch.uk)  
**Wimborne:** St. Catherine's Primary, Cutlers Place, Colehill, BH21 2HN, 01202 883763, [www.stcatherinescolehill.dorset.sch.uk](http://www.stcatherinescolehill.dorset.sch.uk)  
**Bournemouth:** St. Peter's Secondary, St. Catherine's Road, BH6 4AH, 01202 421141, [www.st-peters.bournemouth.sch](http://www.st-peters.bournemouth.sch)

### Liturgical Calendar for the Week

Monday: 4th Week of Lent  
Tuesday: 4th Week of Lent  
Wednesday: 4th Week of Lent  
Thursday: 4th Week of Lent  
Friday: 4th Week of Lent  
Saturday: St Patrick

### We acknowledge with thanks, our February Collections:

	Ringwood	Fordingbridge
Non Gift Aid Cash/Chq	£739.80	£807.00
Gift Aid Envelopes	£355.00	£532.00
Non Gift aid Envelopes	£70.00	£0.00
Standing Order/ Direct debits	£1242.00	£838.33
Total monthly collection	£2406.80	£2177.33

## COMMON NEWS FOR BOTH PARISHES

### Lenten Penitential Services

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00 pm in Iford  
Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March at 3.00 pm in Ringwood  
Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March at 6.00pm in West Moors  
Wed 28<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00pm in Fordingbridge

### Avon Stour Pastoral Area:

#### Other Priests in the Pastoral Area:

Fr. Darryl Jordan: 01202 485588 (Iford)  
Fr. Kevin Hoiles: 01202 424960 (Southbourne)  
Rev. John Cooke: 01202 483340 (Christchurch)

### Second Collection 11th March Clergy Assistance Fund

I would like to put together teams for Adoration in both our churches. If you are interested in helping please email me at: [ptownsend@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:ptownsend@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) (PJT)

**The Science and Religion symposium in Winchester:** Thanks for the enquiries about this. The details are given at: <http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/enews/issue164.php> (PJT)

### CALLING ALL FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CATECHISTS!

The [Formation for Mission](#) team is offering 2 training days for anyone interested in the new First Holy Communion programme, 'I want to make my Home in you' which I commend to you and recently now published by Redemptorist Publications. This programme integrates evangelisation and catechesis through the use of Scripture and beautiful silhouettes. Come and join us to discover the programme and receive training:

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March**, in Holy Family Church, Redbridge Hill, Southampton SO16 4PL, from 9.30 am to 1.00 pm for a morning session. **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May**, in St Bede's Church, Popley Way, Basingstoke, RG24 9DX, from 9.30 am (beginning with Mass) to 3.00 pm. The material for the programme (see next item) will be available for purchase at both these days. E-mail Sr Hyacinthe: [ffm@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:ffm@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) if you would like to attend either of these days.

## HAVE YOU BOOKED YOUR PLACE FOR ADOREMUS CONGRESS YET?

HAVE YOU BOOKED YOUR PLACE FOR ADOREMUS NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC PILGRIMAGE AND CONGRESS YET? **ADOREMUS** WILL TAKE PLACE FROM 7<sup>TH</sup> – 9<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018 IN LIVERPOOL WITH SOME 10,000 CATHOLICS EXPECTED TO ATTEND. **ADOREMUS** WILL CONSIST OF:

- A one-day Theological Symposium on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> September. Admission will be by ticket only at a cost of £40. Canon Mervyn Tower, Canon David Oakley, and Sr Margaret Atkins will all give Key note speeches.
- A stage led conference on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September, at the Echo Arena, Liverpool for which admission will also be by ticket only at a cost of £40. The Key note speaker will be Bishop Robert Barron an American prelate of the Catholic Church, author, theologian and evangelist, known for his Word on Fire ministry.
- A Eucharistic Procession in the city of Liverpool on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> September. Our Diocese has a limited ticket allocation. It is essential that you **book your tickets NOW** by emailing [congress@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:congress@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) or phoning 07780 221686.

**The deadline for ticket applications is Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March!**

### Dipping your toe into the Bible - for busy people...

The Bible Society has a great new resource specifically to help Catholics get started on reading the Bible, even if they are busy people! Visit this website for tips to get started and a short video story. [www.biblesociety.org.uk/explore-the-bible/word-on-the-go/](http://www.biblesociety.org.uk/explore-the-bible/word-on-the-go/)