

ST BON'S BISHOPSTON NEWSLETTER

A Community of Missionary Disciples With Contemplative Hearts

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Sunday 2nd April 2017

I can't remember a Lent where I have heard so many confessions or helped out at so many Penitential services. I can recall one Good Friday in Cheltenham where I heard almost three hours of confessions in one sitting and staggered out of the confessional for the Liturgy of the Passion. But I honestly can't remember where I have attended so many Penitential services. It is a fantastic thing and I am glad I can do it. I feel that only priests can hear confessions so if there is anything I should be doing with my time it is that. If you have still not had the chance to come to confession there are some opportunities in the weeks ahead. Please do come and encounter the mercy and love of God in this wonderful sacrament. But I am aware that Lent is now fast running out and as the days are getting longer we are moving into an exciting time in the Parish.

In the months ahead, we have two very exciting things happening. So exciting that I can't wait! That said one of those exciting things is not actually in our control and is still not guaranteed. The Business Centre is in the planning phase with the City Council and has now gone out for public consultation. I am hopeful but at the same time cautious. If we are granted permission we will hear on 3rd May. The other exciting project taking place is our Perpetual Adoration Prayer initiative. A number of you have already signed up to spend an hour in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. That prayer will make a huge impact on your life. As a Parish we will form a chain of prayer spanning a couple of days and this will be a very powerful moment in our week as a community. In both of these projects we are creating firm foundations for the parish for the years ahead.

Any parish that builds foundations has to ensure that they are both spiritual and material. It is common to hear of communities that have big building works. But without spiritual building, the actual bricks and mortar are nothing. Great churches do not make great parish communities. In the course of the history of the church what has given life to the church and enable growth is holiness. It is undeniable and evident in every age. Those who stay close to the Lord are able to discern his will and thus live it in their lives. That is our challenge as a community: to discern the will of God and live it for our local community in Bristol. The hours we spend in adoration will bring us as individuals and as a community closer to God. What is the point of a business centre if we don't know how to follow the Lord? God willing the business centre will present us with a tremendous opportunity but one we need to know how to use wisely. There is so much to look forward to in the days ahead. Let us pray that as the days of Lent give way to the joy of Easter we may grow closer to the Lord who is the source of our life and joy.

Fr Tom

Egerton Road, Bishopston, Bristol BS7 8HP

Tel: 0117 942 4448

E-mail: bristol.stbonaventure@parish.cliftdiocese.com

Parish Office Hours (term time only): Tuesdays 12-3pm, Thursdays 9am –12pm, Fridays 1-3pm

Parish Priest: Fr. Tom Smith

Parish Administrator: Caroline Evans

Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration

Adoration is a way of being witness to our love for Jesus who in His great love remains with us day and night in the Blessed Sacrament.

After Easter, St. Bonaventure's Parish will launch the Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration. This is a very exciting moment in the life of our Parish. Commencing on Monday 24th April at 10am parishioners will adore the Blessed Sacrament continuously until midnight on Tuesday 25th April. Each worshipper adores the Eucharist for an hour and is then replaced by another person. Every Monday and Tuesday thereafter, we will worship perpetually. If more people volunteer then, we will extend the days. Prayer can be a very challenging activity. Often in the silence of prayer we are confronted by ourselves but this opportunity for prayer is very powerful and one that you will not regret! Adoration prolongs and intensifies what is celebrated in the Mass. Do fill in a form from the back of the Church or email the Parish Office to join our Adoration Group.

Fr Tom, Gary Aldwell, Cecilia Browne, Felicity Cook, Ray Gunning and Becky Molloy.

Sick and Housebound: Please pray for Una Cunniffe, Ivy Sewell, Maria Wysocka, Monica Fletcher, Zygmunt Sawko, Pat Parry, Nedra Paynter and Brendan Woodhouse.

Anniversaries: Vincenzo Ventura, Onofrio Mercato and Nick Mercato R.I.P.

Golden Wedding Anniversary; Congratulations to Vincenzo & Carmela Maniglia who are celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary and will be receiving a special blessing by Fr Tom at the 7pm Mass this Saturday 1st April.

Easter Mass Times: These can be found at the end of this newsletter. Please note in particular the 9pm start for the Holy Saturday Easter Vigil Mass to ensure that it begins after dark. There is also an Easter Sunday evening Mass.

Stations of the Cross: Every Friday during Lent at 11.20am and 6.15pm. On Good Friday there

will be Stations of the Cross at 9.30am and a children's Stations of the Cross at 11am.

Good Friday Soup Lunch: Once again this year, there will be a soup lunch following the children's Stations of the Cross. If you would like to help to serve on the day or are able to help with making some soup, please send your details to Karen and Dorothy at the following e-mail addresses or leave a note at the Presbytery for them if you do not have e-mail.: karenanelson@blueyonder.co.uk and dotofarrell@blueyonder.co.uk.

All Night Prayer Vigil: Our next all night prayer vigil will be this Friday 7th April. There will be Mass at 7pm and Adoration through the night until 8am on Saturday. Sign up sheet at the back of Church.

Parish Visits: If you know of someone who lives alone or may be housebound and would welcome a visit from a Parish Visitor, please contact Linda Spong via the Parish Office. If you know of someone who suffers with a mental health condition who would welcome a visit please speak to Fr. Tom.

Welfare Group: The next Welfare Group meeting will be held in the Presbytery Dining Room on 6th April at 2pm.

Parish General Meeting: Don't forget it's our Parish General Meeting this Sunday 2nd April at 11am in the Parish Hall. The meeting is an opportunity to get together to update you all on the progress of the Business Centre project and get involved in a general discussion around the finances of the Parish. Sarah Bonehill will also be holding a cake sale at the meeting in aid of her climb of Kilimanjaro this Summer for a charity called Dig Deep so please bring some change. We look forward to seeing you there!

New Parish Website: Please be aware that we will have a photographer at the 9.30am Mass this Sunday 2nd April to take pictures of our parishioners and the various groups that run here at St Bon's.

St Bons Development Fund: Thank you for

your tremendous support and pledges towards the proposed Business Centre. Your generosity has been incredible. A massive thank you to the Monday night St Bon's Brownies who have raised an absolutely terrific £500 towards the Development Fund by doing a sponsored Danceathon. Well done to all! We do still need your pledges and donations so if you are able to help please do contact the Parish Office as soon as you can.

Car Boot and Wheelbarrow Sale: Thank you to all that came along and supported the car boot sale last weekend. The sun shone and £300 was raised, which is amazing. Thank you must go in particular to Mary Moore, Hilary Farey and Veronica Swann for all your hard work in making this event a great success. More sales are planned in the upcoming months so please watch this space for further details and start digging out your items for sale. Many thanks.

Clifton Singers "Light of Light": Thank you to the Clifton Singers for their wonderful concert on Mothering Sunday and for the money that was raised for the church. It was a lovely afternoon and we are incredibly grateful to the Clifton Singers for their beautiful singing.

Children's Liturgy: On those Sundays when the children preparing for First Communion have their own group at 9.30 Mass, there will be pre-school/Reception and Year 1&2 liturgy groups as usual, but not an older group. Children in Year 4 & above should stay in church with their families. This applies from now through to 2nd April, plus 7th, 14th & 21st May. We would also ask that if possible parents/carers of children in Year 1 and above stay in Mass during liturgy. We have a lovely and very capable liturgy team who are more than happy to care for your children during the sessions so please don't feel you need to stay with them.

CAFOD Cake Sale: First Holy Communion groups will be holding a cake sale after the Sunday 9.30am Mass on 7th May in the Presbytery. All proceeds from the cakes and drinks will go to CAFOD.

Praying the Rosary: The monthly Parish Rosary Revival Prayer Group will meet on Tuesday 4th April at 2pm in the Dining Room in St Bon's Presbytery. We will pray and discuss the rosary and have a cup of tea. Contact Chris Searle on 07771161259. All welcome. Prayer requests most welcome.

Petitions for Lourdes: HCPT Group 176 will be flying out to Lourdes on Easter Sunday morning. Many thanks to all who have supported our fundraising events throughout the year. You will all be remembered in our prayers at the grotto. If you would like the group to take your personal petitions to Lourdes please place them in an envelope clearly marked LOURDES PETITIONS and leave them on the sideboard in the Presbytery or give them to Angela Parry before Good Friday. Thank you.

Newsletter Items: Please can you ensure that any items are emailed to the Parish Office by Wednesday 12pm to ensure that they are included in that weekend's newsletter.

Parish Office: The Parish Office will be closed over Easter from 3pm on Friday 7th April re-opening on Tuesday 25th April. As a result of the changes to the Mass times, the Parish Office hours will also change after the Easter holidays to:

Tuesday 12-3pm

Wednesdays 9am -12pm

Fridays 1-3pm

Finance and Fabric: Many thanks!

w/e 19th March: £557.50

w/e 26th March: £503.47

Plus £750 Standing Order each week

IMPORTANT

Changes to WEEKDAY Mass Times

After Easter, Fr Tom will be changing his day off. There will be a new Monday and Tuesday morning Mass with no evening Mass on Tuesdays. There will be no Mass on Thursdays. The Friday morning Mass will be replaced by an evening Mass at 7pm. Mass times with effect from Monday 24th April will, therefore, be as follows:

Mondays

9.00am Morning Prayer, 9.15am Mass

Tuesdays

9.00am Morning Prayer, 9.15am Mass

Wednesdays

9.00am Morning Prayer, 9.15am Mass

Thursdays

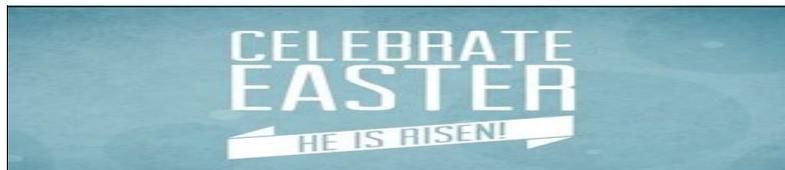
No Mass

Fridays

7.00pm Mass, 7.30pm Holy Hour
(no morning Mass)

The weekend Masses will remain unchanged (Saturday 7pm, Sunday 9.30am and 7pm).

We hope that we have managed to speak to all those directly affected already but if you do have any queries, please do speak to Fr Tom. Thank you as always for your support.



Holy Week Mass Times

Maundy Thursday 13th April

8pm Mass

Good Friday 14th April

9.30am Stations of the Cross
11am Children's Stations of the Cross
3pm Mass

Holy Saturday Easter Vigil 15th April

9pm Vigil Mass

Easter Sunday 16th April

9.30am and 7pm Mass

Liturgy Schedule

Fifth Sunday of Lent (A)

Sunday 2nd April – Fifth Sunday of Lent

9.30am Mass *Pro Pop*

7.00pm Mass *Vincenzo Ventura R.I.P.*

Monday 3rd April – Weekday of Lent

No Mass

Tuesday 4th April – Weekday of Lent

7.00pm Mass *Nolan Family*

7.30pm Holy Hour

Wednesday 5th April – Weekday of Lent

9.00am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass *Tony Virgin R.I.P.*

Thursday 6th April – Weekday of Lent

9.00am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass *Imelda's Intentions*

Friday 7th April – Weekday of Lent

9.00am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass *Tony Willmer R.I.P.*

Saturday 8th April – Weekday of Lent

7.00pm (vigil) Mass *Kathleen Walsh*

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday 6.00pm-6.40pm

Lent Confession Challenge

Tuesday 7.30pm-8.20pm

Wednesday 9.45am– 10.45am

Friday 9.45am –10.45am

Saturday: 6.00pm –6.40pm

