

ST BON'S BISHOPSTON NEWSLETTER

A Community of Missionary Disciples With Contemplative Hearts

Third Sunday of Lent

Sunday 19th March 2017

This week over a quarter of a million people have been on pilgrimage. Their destination: a patch of grass in the small Cotswold village of Prestbury. To the initiated, the large expanse of grass is known as Prestbury Park. It is the home of National Hunt horse racing. Some of you may have been watching it on TV this week. I grew up hating horse racing. My memories of it were spending bored Saturday afternoons at home as my Dad watched what seemed to be weekly instalments of racing. So it was with a sense of interest rather than excitement that I went to my first race meeting when I was a curate in Cheltenham. What I encountered could not have been further removed from my childhood experiences and I was hooked. What attracts me to National Hunt racing is firstly the most beautiful crazy, highly strung, temperamental animal athletes that run each race, thoroughbred horses. The second thing is the most varied crowd of any sporting event I have ever attended. This week Cheltenham Racecourse will host people from every walk of life. Some go for a laugh others are totally devoted to racing. The diversity of people is one of its greatest pulls for me.

The only other place I have ever witnessed that diversity of people is in the Catholic Church. I can recall one night during my time at Manchester University going to a Mass in a local parish. I remember feeling how I might never have met these people in any other circumstance, what brought us together was that we all loved Jesus. He is what bound us together. This strikes me every Sunday as we all gather together as a parish. Where else would you get people from such different backgrounds coming together under the same roof. It is a totally beautiful event. What is more beautiful is that whatever our education or background we are all the same, children of God. We all come to Mass with our hopes and dreams, our sins and burdens. We stand before our loving father as his beloved children.

At the races there is the excitement, anticipation, the roar of the crowd, the horses and the jockeys in their silks, it is a spectacle. But at Mass there is Jesus, the angels, the word of God, the music, the children, the elderly, the priest, it too is a spectacle but unlike the excitement of an annual event, weekly Mass can become routine for us. But if there is a chance that the mysticism and power of the Mass might pass us by let us remind ourselves that the Mass is the closest to heaven we will ever experience on earth, which is why Mass is celebrated in the week too. How could we not want more? How could you ever have enough of meeting God!
Fr Tom

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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:

Fr Gary Holmes will be leading a mission here at St Bon's at each Mass this weekend (18/19th March). This is going to be an amazing opportunity to encounter God in a different way. Make sure you're there!



There will also be a Second Collection to help cover Fr Gary's travel expenses this weekend.

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

R.I.P: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Isabella King who has died recently.

Bridie Hearn R.I.P.: The family of Bridie Hearn would like us to send to you their thanks for your support, best wishes, cards and donations in her memory.

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

Fr Clem Memorial Mass: This will take place this Tuesday 21st March at the 7pm Mass.

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.

Journey in Faith Group: If you are not Catholic but interested to learn more about the Catholic faith, Journey in Faith is for you. We welcome all at St Bon's and would love for you to come to our Journey in Faith group on Wednesday evenings 7.15pm to 9pm in the Presbytery.

Mentor Me: Alison Paginton of Mentor Me will be coming to talk to any volunteers interested in working with ex-offenders this Wednesday 22nd March at 7pm in the Dining Room at St Bon's. This is a great opportunity particularly if you were unable to come to the Prisoner Charity Fair. All very welcome.

Parish General Meeting; We invite you all to the St Bon's Parish General Meeting on 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. We look forward to seeing you there!

New Parish Website: We are in the process of developing a new St Bon's Parish website and would like to include some photographs of our parishioners and the various groups that run here at St Bon's. Please let the Parish office know if you would be willing to have your photo taken for the website. Thank you

St Bons Development Fund: Thank you for your tremendous support and pledges towards the proposed Business Centre. Your generosity has been incredible. We are not yet over the finishing line so if you have not had the opportunity to pledge or donate now really is the time so please contact the Parish Office.

Car Boot and Wheelbarrow Sale: Saturday 25th March 10am to noon in St Bon's car park. This event is to raise money for the business centre development. £5 for cars £3 for wheelbarrows. We will be serving drinks and cakes. Helpers will be needed and donations of cakes. Please contact Mary Moore mcmoore@blueyonder.co.uk 07929 399907, Hilary Farey hilary@farey.org or Veronica Swann veronica.swann@hotmail.co.uk for a car/barrow or to offer help.

Clifton Singers "Light of Light": The Clifton Singers will be returning to St Bon's on Sunday 26th March at 3pm with a programme of contemplative music for Lent. Admission free. Retiring collection in aid of Church funds. Please could you let the Parish Office know if you are able to help with handing out the programme before the concert and with the retiring collection. Many thanks.

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.

Pre-School Children's Liturgy: We're looking for a few more helpers for the pre-school children's liturgy. We take turns leading a short session and it would be lovely to add a few more names to the rota. I promise it's not too demanding and there are always friendly faces on hand to assist! Please email me if you think you could do a session or two and I can explain it all. Thanks, Rachel rachel@moffatanderson.com.

Children's Liturgy of the Word Saturday 18th March: This is a superb opportunity for CLOW teams as well as those who may be interested in or new to Children's Liturgy taking place at Alexander House, 160 Pennywell Road, Bristol, from 10am until 1pm. There is plenty of parking. Refreshments will be available from 9.30am. If you would like to register for this formation session or you need further details, please contact Fr Christopher Whitehead at adult.education@cliftondiocese.com.

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.

Interested in receiving free Safeguarding training?: Any member of the Diocese can register to access free online EDUCARE Safeguarding training by emailing your name, parish/religious congregation and role e.g. Parish Priest, Catechist, Governor etc. to Rebecca.Monks@cliftondiocese.com. Once registered, you will have instant access to the e-Learning programme and will be able to print out your own certificates of completion.

CAFOD Lent Fast Day: Thank you to everyone who gave so generously raising £113.74!

Book Buddies needed at St Bon's Primary: St Bonaventure's Primary School is looking for 'Book Buddies' to come in and read with our wonderful children each week. Our Book Buddies are paired up with a class in school. They come in for half an hour to an hour each week and listen to children reading. A short training session is given and a DBS certificate is required before starting. If you think you are able to help please contact sue.rees@bristol-schools.uk.

'Laudato Si – a Call to Action' Retreat Day Saturday 25th March: 11am (arrivals and coffee from 10.30am) to 4pm at the Bristol University Catholic Chaplaincy, 103 Queens Road, Clifton, Bristol BS8 1LL. Clifton Diocese Justice and Peace Commission have arranged a day of reflection on our response to Pope Francis' call to care for our common home. The day will include talks and group discussion, prayer and an afternoon walk around Brandon Hill. Tea and coffee are provided; please bring your own lunch. The event is free. For more information, please contact Sue Ingham on 0117 924 3011 or justiceandpeace@cliftondiocese.com.

Lourdes Pilgrimage 18th—25th August 2017: The Diocese has arranged for a coach and Jumbulance to leave St Teresa's Filton on Thursday 17th August or they are happy to arrange transport from Toulouse airport if you want to book a flight by EasyJet from Bristol. Please see the poster in the Church porch.

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. Many thanks.

Finance and Fabric: Many thanks!
w/e 5th March: £570.38
w/e 12th March: £650.60
Plus £750 Standing Order each week



Vocation Matters

Written by Fr Matt Anscombe, our Diocesan Vocations Director, these reflections will help us to be constantly reminded that God chooses each one of us in Christ, and that

we are called to discover his plan for ourselves in the midst of the Church.

“Anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again” (John 4:14)

“Give us water”, cried the earthquake victims in a remote part of China, as rescuers found them days after the event. Water is essential to life. How many people are dying of spiritual thirst though? A vocation to the priesthood, consecrated life or marriage can be a conduit through which living water may flow to others. If we choose our path under God’s guidance, and not by selfish motive, we can be channels of life-giving grace to the world. Do we want that to happen, or are we too headstrong to listen to our hearts and the cries of others?

Saint of the Week **20th March** **St Joseph**

Joseph was foster-father of Jesus and husband of Mary. He was of Davidic descent and his trade was probably that of carpenter. He was betrothed to Mary at the time of the Virgin Birth. His doubts about the conception and the decisions to go to and return from Egypt were all the objects of angelic disclosures during sleep. He was declared Patron of the Universal Church by Pius IX in 1870.



Liturgy Schedule

Third Sunday of Lent (A)

Sunday 19th March – Third Sunday of Lent

9.30am Mass *Francis & Johanna Higgins R.I.P.*

7.00pm Mass *Pro Pop*

Monday 20th March – Solemnity of St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

No Mass

Tuesday 21st March – Weekday of Lent

7.00pm Mass *Fr Clement Chimwala*

7.30pm Holy Hour

Wednesday 22nd March – Weekday of Lent

9.00am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass *Constance Small R.I.P.*

Thursday 23rd March – Weekday of Lent

9.00am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass *Gerlando Caci*

Friday 24th March – Weekday of Lent

9.00am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass *Violet Crumlish R.I.P.*

Saturday 25th March – Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord

7.00pm (vigil) Mass *Brid Gillespie R.I.P.*

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

