

ST BON'S BISHOPSTON NEWSLETTER

A Community of Missionary Disciples With Contemplative Hearts

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Sunday 26th March 2017

- On Thursday, I went to London to see my Spiritual Director. One of his parishioners had been killed in the terror attack on Wednesday. Their children were in his First Holy Communion programme. While I was with him, he was having to turn ITV away from the Parish door. There are so many more people affected by acts of terror than we realise. Its effects reach into whole communities and neighbourhoods. Let us keep in our prayers those who were killed, those injured and those who are living with the shock and sadness at having witnessed those events and all who were affected.

- I have had the craziest week of my life. It might not be actually the craziest but it feels like it. It has really highlighted to me people's thirst for God but also how few priests there are to help bring God to those who are thirsting for him. Often we think the number of priests just affects how many masses a parish has or how many parishes a priest will look after. But what I am beginning to notice is it is the extra things that feed people's desire for God that are under threat.

Last Friday, I went to Cardiff to preach a mass for a youth event. It was a joy to go there with a small number of parishioners. We got back at midnight, the next morning I was in Portishead at 8.30am to help a friend with his First Communion children's first confessions. I was then back to St Bon's to talk to our own first Holy Communion children. Over the weekend I had a number of confessions outside the usual times. On Monday and Wednesday, I was called to the hospital. On Tuesday I went to Downside Abbey to give some talks to a group of lay people for the day. On Thursday, I was at St Patrick's helping with confessions for the Diocesan Penitential. Yesterday we had the Penitential service for our First Holy Communion children. On Wednesday, I will be at Sacred Heart's helping Fr Colin with his Penitential service. As you can see none of the above important events are connected to Sunday mass times. Yet it is the thought of those mass times that is often mentioned first when we think of the decreasing number of priests.

Please pray for more priests. We urgently need more. Not necessarily to give people an extra option of a mass to go to at the weekend but to be able to bring God to people through the other sacraments, especially the sacraments of baptism and reconciliation. To bring God to people by their priestly presence and through their preaching and talks and by their counsel. Today is Mothering Sunday, we think with gratitude of the gift of motherhood and the graces it can bring. Mothers can have a very powerful role in helping their children understand the presence of God in their lives. This in turn could inspire some of our children today to consider being the much needed priests of tomorrow.

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

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

Fr Clem's Memorial Mass: It was wonderful to see so many people come to pay their respects at Fr Clem's Mass. Thank you to Des & Val for all their hard work and thank you to Neta for organising the refreshments. He will be greatly missed but we thank God for having brought him into our lives.

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 on 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.

Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration: Thank you to Fr Gary for preaching the mission. We have had a fantastic response but we would like to invite everyone to be able to spend an hour before the Blessed Sacrament each week. If you have not filled out an invitation slip, please do so and return it to Fr Tom as soon as possible as time slots are now being allocated by the organisers.

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.

Mentor Me: We had a wonderful meeting on Wednesday. I would like to thank Lindsay Jarman for coming and sharing her expertise and knowledge of the prison system.

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. We have a photographer coming to the 9.30am Mass on Sunday 2nd April.

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.

Clifton Singers "Light of Light": The Clifton Singers will be returning to St Bon's this Sunday 26th March at 3pm with a programme of contemplative music for Lent. Admission free. Retiring collection in aid of Church funds. If you are coming along, it would be great if you could offer to help with handing out the programmes 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 are 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 some more names to the rota. I promise it's not too demanding and there are always friendly faces on hand to assist! If you think you could do a session or two, please contact Rachel: rachel@moffatanderson.com.

St Elisabeth's Convent Belarus: The Sisters from St Elisabeth's Convent will be selling their crafts after the 9.15am Mass on Thursday 30th March. They would also like to invite you to their choir concert at St John the Evangelist Church (South Parade, Bath BA2 4AF) at 7pm on Sunday 8th May. Their concerts will feature chants of the Orthodox Divine Liturgy as well as Russian and Belarusian traditional folk songs.

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 [\[becca.Monks@cliftondiocese.com\]\(mailto:becca.Monks@cliftondiocese.com\).](mailto:Re-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

Book Buddies needed at St Bon's: The 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.

Children's Summer Camps: The Diocese is holding two Living Your Faith Residential Weeks in August. Week 1: 7th – 11th August (Age 7-11) and Week 2: 14th – 18th August (Age 12-16) at the Marist Convent in Nympsfield. These weeks are intended to encourage children and young people to engage in their faith through fun, games and spiritual input. For more details contact Stephen Spurrell on 07860 849460 or at livingyourfaith@hotmail.co.uk.

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.

Finance and Fabric: Many thanks!
Last week's collection: TBC
Plus £750 Standing Order each week



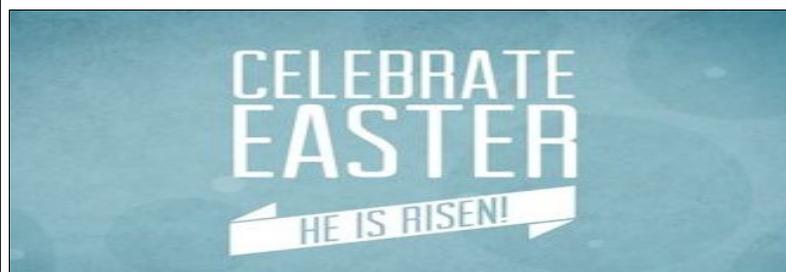
Vocation Matters

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.

“I am the man” (John 9:9)

“There comes a time when silence is betrayal” said Martin Luther King Jr. in opposition to the Vietnam War. His words could be translated into many arenas, not least that of faith. In the gospel, the man born blind is unafraid to stand up and be counted. He is an example of someone who is prepared to single out Jesus for who he is. Seeking our vocation and being faithful to it, is also to stand up and be counted. Not asking the question is a form of silence. Let’s not be silent then, but keep asking the question.



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

Fourth Sunday of Lent (A)

Sunday 26th March – Fourth Sunday of Lent

9.30am Mass *Pro Pop*

7.00pm Mass *Doris & Stanley Gittoes*

Monday 27th March – Weekday of Lent

No Mass

Tuesday 28th March – Weekday of Lent

7.00pm Mass *Jim Donlon*

7.30pm Holy Hour

Wednesday 29th March – Weekday of Lent

9.00am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass *Teresa Musiime Intentions*

Thursday 30th March – Weekday of Lent

9.00am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass *Sue Lees & Family R.I.P.*

Friday 1st April – Weekday of Lent

9.00am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass *Gerlando Caci R.I.P.*

Saturday 2nd April – Weekday of Lent

7.00pm (vigil) Mass *Lucy Broughton 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

