

# ST BON'S BISHOPSTON NEWSLETTER

A Community of Missionary Disciples With Contemplative Hearts

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 5th February 2017

This is your 24 day warning. Lent starts in just 24 days. Why not do something life changing this Lent? I am not saying that doing your usual thing, giving up coffee or chocolate can not be life changing but it probably isn't. It will be good for you and discipline building but maybe not that critical a turning point. To do something like that would be to do something that made a significant impact on your life but more importantly something that would make a significant impact on the lives of others.

Jesus gives us three practices which make up the heart of Lenten practice. Prayer, fasting and alms giving. The ideal would be to do something that comprised of a little of each. A friend of mine gives up meat each Lent, maybe I should because I can't imagine life without it. I was actually vegetarian for a couple of years but I can't resist roast chicken! To me roast chicken is quite normal, it is not a luxury item like coffee. But maybe I should give up meat, it would be a proper challenge. I could give the money I save to the poor. Or I could fast, like proper fasting not abstaining which I do every Lent. I usually abstain from alcohol and would like to be able to go without coffee for 40 days, I think I could live without meat more than coffee!

It sounds pathetic, Jesus went into the wilderness for 40 days so he could listen to the voice of his father with no distractions whatsoever. That is the point of our Lenten practices, to take away those things which have become barriers to us listening to God. Something life changing is listening to God more. It could be giving up all TV for 40 days and spending the hours that are then available to do some holy reading and prayer. That would have a big impact on anyone! Volunteering for an hour a week to help someone could also be life changing, it could be meaningful, it is a form of service and would draw us closer to God.

I don't know what I am I going to do yet, I am going to pray about it. I invite you to pray about what you are going to do this Lent. What does God want you to do? Ask him. Maybe this year he might like something a little more creative and inventive from you than the usual. I think it is fair to say that he does. This 24 day warning should mean that after you have reflected on what God wants you to do you can make Lent a life changing experience and not just stumble into it and fall back on the same practice you have been doing since you were 11!

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, Isabella King, Monica Fletcher, Zygmunt Sawko, Pat Parry and Gino Lombardi.

**R.I.P:** Please pray for the repose of the souls of Bridie Hearn and Helen Forder who has died recently.

**Fr Clem Memorial Mass:** A Memorial Mass will be held for Fr Clem on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 7pm at St. Teresa's. All are very welcome to attend. Details of a memorial at St Bon's will follow.

**"I was in prison and you visited me":** Fr Tom would really like to begin building a significant relationship between our Parish and the prison. Jesus says "I was in prison and you visited me". Visiting those in prison is a call from our Lord and defined by the church as a corporeal work of mercy. We have a wonderful opportunity as a Parish to enter into this work in our local area. There will be a Charity Fair for those working with prisoners on 7th February 6-7.30pm St Agnes Church. Fr Tom would like to start building a team for prison work and would like those who are interested to come along to this Fair. We are planning to lift share from the Parish car park leaving at 5.30pm. Please come and see Fr Tom after Mass if you are interested and let him know if you would be able to drive or need transport.

**Parish Visits:** If you know of someone who lives alone or may be housebound and would welcome a visit from a Parish Visitor, we can link them up. To arrange this 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.

**Praying the Rosary:** The monthly Parish Rosary Revival Prayer Group will meet on Tuesday 7th February 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 07771161259. All welcome. Prayer requests most welcome.

**Musicians/Singers Wanted:** We are always glad to welcome any musicians and singers to boost our numbers in the Church Choir so please do let Fr Tom know if you are keen to join. We are especially looking for keyboardists and drummers at present if you are able to help. Many thanks.

**St Bon's Brownies:** Our Parish Brownie pack meets on a Monday evening from 6.30pm to 8pm and is extremely popular. If you have a daughter who is 7 years old or under and would like to add her name to the Brownie waiting list please contact Angela Parry 9423176.

**Racial Justice Sunday:** There will be a second collection for this next Sunday 12th February.

**Celebration of Marriage:** Bishop Declan is inviting the people of our Diocese to join him at the Celebration of the Eucharist beginning at 12noon in the Cathedral on Saturday 11th February 2017 as part of National Marriage Week. This now annual celebration is for the whole diocesan community and especially our married couples. Any couples celebrating significant anniversaries or preparing for marriage this year who would like to attend should contact the Diocese via Alexander House on 0117 9025595 or via email at [adult.education@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:adult.education@cliftondiocese.com), giving their names and address.

**Faith Explorers 20-40ish:** Calling all young adult Catholics 20-40. Please feel free to join a group of dedicated young adults who meet to explore the faith and socialise together on Tuesdays once every two weeks at St Joseph's Retirement Home (66 Cotham Hill BS6 6JT) and go out for a drink and bite to eat afterwards. It's a great way to make some friends

and develop your faith. Their next meeting is Tuesday 7th Feb. Feel free to come along. If you would like to know more and join the mailing list contact Francois on [moana.gautier@gmail.com](mailto:moana.gautier@gmail.com).

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February 10.30am Clifton Cathedral:** All are welcome on 18<sup>th</sup> February at Clifton Cathedral for a day of renewal reflecting on 50 years of charismatic renewal in the Catholic Church. Mass at 10.30 am followed talks by Fr Richard McKay and Kevin Loud. There will be a time of adoration and healing prayer ministry. For more information and timings email [renewal@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:renewal@cliftondiocese.com) or call 07815 751 556.

**Dissertation Research:** We have been approached by a University of Bristol student who is writing her dissertation on the Islamic veil and looking to organise an informal focus group exercise of 6-8 people to discuss opinions surrounding veiling and how Islamic identity is negotiated in Europe. The session will be audio recorded but fully anonymous and would take around 1.5 hours in the multi-faith chaplaincy on Woodland Road BS8 1TB in the coming week or so, date/time TBC, likely early evening. If interested please email [ec14105@my.bristol.ac.uk](mailto:ec14105@my.bristol.ac.uk). Thank you.

**HCPT Pig Racing Night with Curry Supper:** Saturday 25th February 7.30pm at St. Teresa's Social Centre, Filton. A fun filled evening for all the family. All are welcome to attend. If you would like to purchase a pig please speak to Angela Parry at the 9.30am Sunday Mass or give her a ring on 9423176. Pigs are £5 each and winning owners stand a chance of winning a great prize!

**Parish Hall Manager/Committee:** The Parish Finance Council are seeking volunteers for a Parish Hall Committee so that they can oversee the management and the running of our much sought after Parish Hall. We are looking for enthusiastic and committed parishioners who are able to take on this responsibility by taking regular bookings, administration duties and ensuring contracts are adhered to. If you are interested please do contact our Parish Administra-

tor.

**Parish Treasurer:** The Parish Finance Council are now seeking a volunteer as the Parish Treasurer. The role of a treasurer is a very important one and will need to conform to Charity Commission guidance. Appointing a treasurer is a significant role for our Church. The treasurer does not need to be an accountant, but we are looking for an enthusiastic and committed parishioner who is able to take on this responsibility to prepare the finances of the Church. If you are interested, please do contact our Parish Administrator.

**St Bons Development Fund Pledges:** Please note that on the weekends of 4th/5th February and 11th/12th February after the Masses, the Parish Finance Council will be completing formalities with the parishioners who have pledged an interest to fund the Business Centre project. Please remember to bring your cheque books. We still need your financial support, and asking if you can be generous with your donations or if you are able to organise more fund raising events. Please do contact our Parish Administrator.

**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!

**Finance and Fabric:** Many thanks!  
Last week's collection: £567.02  
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.

***“In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men” (Matthew 5:16)***

The Gaia space telescope is making the most precise map of the night sky ever assembled. So far, it has plotted one billion stars in our Milky Way galaxy. These sources of light pale into insignificance when we consider that they have come into existence through the Word. That same Word wants us to bring his light to others. Whether it's by being married, or being a priest, such faithfulness to the Word's call on our lives will allow us to shine really brightly. Much brighter than if we were to randomly choose our own path.

### Saint of the Week

#### **3rd February SS Paul Miki & his Companions**



St Francis Xavier was the first Christian apostle of Japan arriving in 1549. When he left Christians numbered perhaps 2,000. Fifty years later the Japanese ruler, incensed by their increase, embarked on a persecution. Paul Miki was Japanese, a Jesuit priest and a notable preacher. His companions included six Franciscans. The other seventeen were Japanese lay-folk and one Korean; they included a soldier, a physician, and three young boys. They were twenty-six in all and were crucified near Nagasaki.

### **Eucharistic Adoration**

Tuesday 7.30pm-8.30pm

Wednesday 9.45am– 10.45am

Thursday 9.00pm-10.00pm

Friday 9.45am –10.45am

Saturday: 6.00pm –6.45pm



### Liturgy Schedule

#### Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

#### **Sunday 5th February – Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

9.30am Mass *Pro Pop*

7.00pm Mass *Brian McCorry R.I.P.*

#### **Monday 6th February – Memorial of Ss Paul Miki & Companions**

No Mass

#### **Tuesday 7th February – Weekday in Ordinary Time**

7.00pm Mass *Deceased members of Clarke Family*

7.30pm Holy Hour

#### **Wednesday 8th February – Weekday in Ordinary Time**

9.00am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass *Bella Condron R.I.P.*

#### **Thursday 9th February – Weekday in Ordinary Time**

9.00am Morning Prayer

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

#### **Friday 10th February – Memorial of St Scholastica**

9.00am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass *Isabella King*

#### **Saturday 11th February – Weekday in Ordinary Time**

7.00pm (vigil) Mass *In Thanksgiving June Krysta*

#### **Sacrament of Reconciliation:**

Saturday 6.00pm-6.40pm