

ST BON'S BISHOPSTON NEWSLETTER

A Community of Missionary Disciples With Contemplative Hearts

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

Sunday 8th January 2017

2017 is going to be a wonderful year for St Bon's parish. Or do I mean a big year, or a massive year or a year where we open a new chapter as a parish? I think I mean all of them! We have so many exciting things to look forward to this year including a Parish Mission in March and the Building of our Business Centre this Spring.

Before I tell you about those exciting things I would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who made Christmas at St. Bon's so wonderful this year. Christmas got off to a beautiful start with our Nativity service, it was lovely to see so many people and some new faces among them. The celebrations afterwards were wonderful, the highlight being the Piñatas. The 6pm mass on Christmas Eve was fantastic, the church was full to bursting, a friend of mine came and left again as there was no room. All the Christmas masses were beautiful so thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make them so.

Over the last year we have been looking at how we can deepen our sense of discipleship and mission as individuals and as a community. The call to fall more in love with Christ and to share that love is an exciting adventure and this year will provide us with opportunities to do that. In March we have Fr Gary Holmes, a priest from Toulon in France, coming to preach a weekend mission to us about the power of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. That will be a special moment as Fr Gary invites us as a parish to become more prayerful and to focus on the person of Jesus, who is at the heart of all we are. It is Jesus who gives us our buzz. As Christians we are very aware that we are both body and soul, material and spiritual. As we seek to grow in love with God we also have to nurture our parish site and buildings so that they can enable us to proclaim Christ to our local community.

It is with great, joy, relief and excitement that I can say that we have the Green Light for the Business Centre to go ahead. The Diocesan Trustees have given the project their approval. I am so excited! I would like to thank Tony Nelson, Iwona Tempowski and David Foley for all their hard work and effort in developing the business plan that made the case to the Diocese. I would like to thank those of you who have supported the project already so generously. Your support gave great credibility to the project and no doubt helped in their decision making. But now we are moving into a new phase of the project- we are going to build the Business Centre! It is our hope that our planning application will be approved and to have the Business Centre up and running just after Easter. To achieve this we need to raise another £40,000. This project needs your prayers and financial support. I hope as a parish we can pull together and make this project a wonderful success because then there will be no limit to the wonders we can do in proclaiming the gospel in our local community!

Fr Tom

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, Helen & Maria Wysocka, Isabella King, Monica Fletcher, Zygmunt Sawko, Pat Parry, Bridie Hearn and Gino Lombardi.

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

Christmas Thank You: I would like to give a heartfelt thank you to all of you for your beautiful cards, good wishes, messages of support and gifts. In particular, I would like to thank you all for your generosity and kindness in the Christmas collection.

Extraordinary Ministry at Mass: You may or may not have noticed a change in the practice of the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC). We have updated our practice at St Bon's in accordance with the latest instructions issued by the Congregation for Liturgy in the Vatican. When Extraordinary Ministers were introduced by the Church after the Second Vatican Council, no instructions were given as the Ministry was so new but after 50 years the Church has now issued instructions revising the practice! You may notice our EMHC's going up to the Altar a little bit later than before. I am really grateful for all of their hard work, especially those that take the Blessed Sacrament to the sick. I am delighted that at St Bon's we are following this good practice and setting a high standard for our parish.

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. The sessions will resume on the 11th January.

Friday Soup Group: We have a thriving group of senior citizens who meet each week to share a simple lunch and have fun together. Please do come along on Fridays at 12pm in the Presbytery. A donation is made to charity. We are also looking for more soup makers for occasional Fridays, please come along and have a chat (and some lunch).

Skittles Night: Please come and join us at our next St Bon's Community event on Saturday 21st January 8pm for 8.15pm start for some rounds of skittles at the Conservative Club on Nevil Road. £3 for 3 goes. There will also be a raffle and a winners prize and a bar!

White Flower Appeal 8th January: The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) will be holding its annual appeal on Sunday 8th January. In 2017 SPUC is commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the passing of the 1967 Abortion Act. Over 8.7 million unborn children have lost their lives due to abortion in the last 50 years. Since 1967 SPUC has been working tirelessly to uphold the sanctity of human life from conception until natural death. Please help make

2017 a landmark year in SPUC's historic campaign to win legal protection for unborn children. Please be as generous as you can to help SPUC and help save mothers and babies from abortion.

Peace Sunday 15th January: The work of Pax Christi is based on the gospel and inspired by faith. Our vision is of a world where people can live in peace, without fear of violence in all its forms. Rooted in Catholic Christianity, we work with all who share our values to abolish war and created communities of peace and justice. There are envelopes at the back of Church for your donations next week.

Association for the Propagation of the Faith: Thank you to all Red Missio Box holders for your very generous contributions during 2016. The amount banked for the Missions last year was £647.49. The next collection of boxes will be in April but if you wish your box to be emptied before then please bring it to the Sacristy before or after a weekend Mass so that it can be put in a safe place. Please ensure your name is on the base of the box. Calendars for 2017 are available in the Church Porch. Thank you again for your generosity.

200 Club: Congratulations to the winners of the January draw:

£60 Bridie Madden 161

£25 Mary Miskella 106

£15 Roger Kitteringham 104

Newsletter Items: please can you submit any Newsletter items to the Parish Office by email. Many thanks.

Parking at St Bon's: Please do not park on Friary Road in front of the School or Church. We have again been made aware of cars blocking the road and causing dif-

ficulty to our neighbours. Friary Road is a public highway and must be kept clear, especially in case emergency vehicles need to gain access.

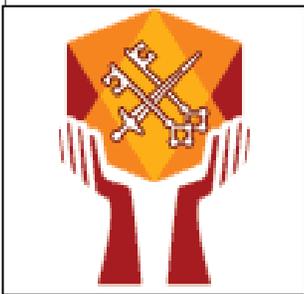
Parish Hall Manager/Committee: Very sadly due to the financial situation of the Parish Hall, we had to make the Hall Manager's role redundant. Mandy White has been with us for over 10 years and we are very sorry that this had to happen. We would like to thank her very much for her dedication and work in the Hall. The Parish Finance Council are now 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 Administrator with your details. Many thanks, Giovanni Maniglia - Communications Co-ordinator.

Finance and Fabric: Many thanks!

Collection w/e 18th December: £563.74

Collection w/e 1st January: 415.21

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.

“Mary...treasured all these things in her heart.” (Luke 2:19)

“A penny for your thoughts” was a request often made to medieval pilgrims, who were seen as possessing special spiritual wisdom. When we spend time to contemplate in our heart the mystery of the Incarnation, a picture of how we might serve the living God may rise up in our minds. Pondering like Mary, our vocation may then spring forth and catapult us forward in our walk with Jesus. So cultivate that space as this new year begins. Then, when offered, “A penny for your thoughts”, your response may be to share an insight into your calling.

“Go and find out all about the child” (Matthew 2:8)

In BBC’s “*The Apprentice*”, budding entrepreneurs who fail to invest time in discovering the needs of a customer, usually sell little. Inevitably, they hear the words, “You’re fired!”. Discerning a vocation may draw from this experience, taking it to the spiritual level. If we want to know Jesus’ plan for our lives, then we have to spend quality time with him. He will reveal himself to us more and more if we invest time with him in prayer. So put a plan in place to be with him; joyfully discover your vocation; and hear those loving, affirming words, “You’re hired!”

Eucharistic Adoration

(Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament)

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

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 8th January – Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

9.30am Mass *Deceased Members of the Pereira Family*

7.00pm Mass *Pro Pop*

Monday 9th January – The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

No Mass

Tuesday 10th January – Weekday in Ordinary Time

7.00pm Mass

7.30pm Holy Hour

Wednesday 11th January – Weekday in Ordinary Time

9.00am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass

Thursday 12th January – Weekday in Ordinary Time

9.00am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass

Friday 13th January – Weekday in Ordinary Time

9.00am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass

Saturday 14th January – Weekday in Ordinary Time

7.00pm (vigil) Mass *Bridie Hearn (sick)*

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday 6.00pm-6.40pm