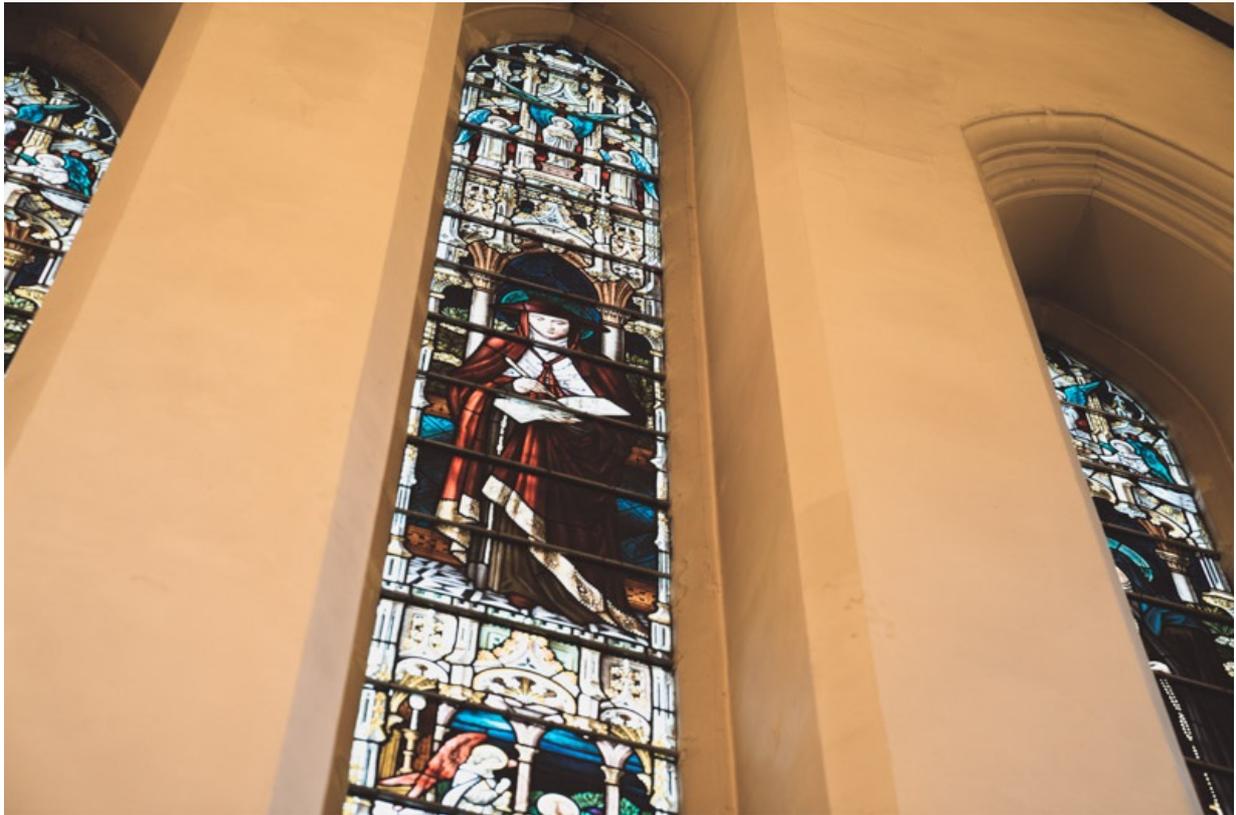


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St Bon's eNewsletter

4th August 2017

Welcome to our new parish eNewsletter bringing you Sunday's news on Friday!

A message from Fr Tom

God is present to us now, not in the past or future.

Last week I took a trip down memory lane. I went with some friends for a day out to the beautiful seaside town of Swanage. It looked a lot smaller than it did when I was 10 years old! The promenade wall which runs along the sea front seemed colossal when I was a child, last week it appeared quite small in comparison.

If the truth be told we did not go to Swanage for Swanage's sake, we went so we could travel on a train line axed by the infamous Dr Beeching in the 1970s. The line from Wareham to Swanage has taken decades to re-open involving the work of over 400 volunteers. Our trip seemed like a small act of defiance in the face of 1970's 'progress'. For me the real treat was travelling on a train that was in service throughout my childhood, even the seat colours were the same and there were carriages with corridors and compartments, that was the most exciting thing, I loved those compartments. There were doors you could open and windows you could stick your head out of, it reminded me of a time when you were allowed to be an adult - ok, a few people got decapitated by passing trains but only a few!

I did not have myself down as a nostalgic person before my trip to Swanage but I enjoyed going back in time and reviving some old memories. My trip has made me aware that the past can be quite rose tinted in our minds, it can be something we want it to be rather than what it was. Our memory can be a dangerous thing when coated in sugar.

Life is a gift from God, the life we live now is God's gift. Yes the life you are living this second as you read these words, as you breathe your breath is God's gift. It seems that we have made a habit of missing the grace and gift of the now and often spend our time in the past where things were better or in the future where things will be better. They seldom are. Now doesn't always feel lovely. Now can be difficult but now is the gift from God and to experience God's presence in our lives we need to experience him in the present moment. The prayer of gratitude is a powerful way of doing this. If we can spend a few moments at the end of each day being grateful for five to ten things that we have received from God's providence in that day we will be well on the way to finding God in the now. It could be simple things that we can take for granted like, the meals we have eaten, the friends we have chatted to or something more like someone who went out of their way to help us. When we put our minds to it we will find there are many things to be grateful to God for each day. That is where we will find him, not in a better past or future but right here now, showering us with his blessings.

Saint of the Week



St John Vianney 1786-1859

Born near Lyons, the son of a farmer, he had little schooling and struggled with his studies. Because of this he was turned down for the priesthood. But with the help of others, the grace of God and determination he passed his studies and was ordained. In 1817 he became Parish Priest of Ars-en-Dombe where he spent the rest of his life, and excelled at preaching and counselling. He was said to have the gift of reading hearts. He is the only parish priest to be canonised and therefore he is patron of all the priests of the world.

Parish News and Events

Business Centre & St Bon's Development Fund: Thank you for your tremendous support and pledges. The main building works are almost complete but we do need to raise a further £20,000. This is to install a lift to the upstairs hall and make it accessible to all. It's not too late to help shape the future of St Bon's so please do contact Fr Tom, Peter Ingham or Tony Nelson who will be happy to discuss ways in which you can help.

Business Centre Open Weekend: Thank you to everyone who has so generously supported this amazing project. We would like to give you a guided tour of our new centre. This will take place after the weekend masses on the 19th and 20th August, just pop round after mass and Tony Nelson will be there to greet you and answer your questions.

Summer Cream Tea: Bishopston and St Andrew's Churches Together Seniors Group invite all Seniors to this wonderful event.

It will take place on 12th August from 2.30pm- 4.30pm at the Church of the Good Shepherd. A £3 donation for the Cream tea would be greatly appreciated! Please contact Joy Rigg 942 1925.

Art Group: The Art Group will be meeting again on the 9th (no group on the 2nd August) and 23rd August after that back to the normal 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month.

Parish Office: The Parish Office will be closed from 3pm on Friday 21st July and will re-open after the Summer holidays at 12pm on Tuesday 5th September. If there is an urgent matter, please telephone Fr Tom on 0117 9424448 or speak to him after Mass.

Phone Lines: The parish phone has been out of action for almost a week now, we are very sorry for any inconvenience caused, the fault was entirely with our service provider and has now been rectified.

Our Lady of Fatima: During this centenary year of the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima celebrations are taking place across the country. There is one for our diocese on **Saturday 19th August** from 10:30am until 4:30pm at **Sacred Heart, Westbury-on-Trym** (Grange Court Road, Bristol BS9 4DR). The day will begin at 10:30am with the welcome for the statue of Our Lady and the relics of Saints Francisco and Jacinta, and continue with the Rosary. Mass will be at 11:30am. After lunch (please bring a packed lunch) there will be a Holy Hour from 1:15pm and then a film at 2:30pm. The day will end with an opportunity to venerate the relics of the saints and final prayers. All are welcome to all or part of this special day.

Mass Times

Sunday 6th August - The Transfiguration

9.30am Mass

7.00pm Mass

Monday 7th

9.00am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass

Tuesday 8th - St Dominic

9.00am Morning Prayer

9.15 am Mass

Wednesday 9th - St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross

9.00am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass

Thursday 10th

No Morning Prayer or Mass

Friday 11th - St Clare

7.00pm Mass

7.30pm - 8.00pm Holy Hour

Saturday 12th

7.00pm Mass (1st Mass of Sunday)

Confession

Saturday 6.00pm - 6.45pm

Eucharistic Exposition

Monday 10.00am - Wednesday 12.00am

Wednesday 9.45am-10.45am

Friday 9.45am-10.45am

Saturday 6.00pm- 6.45pm

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