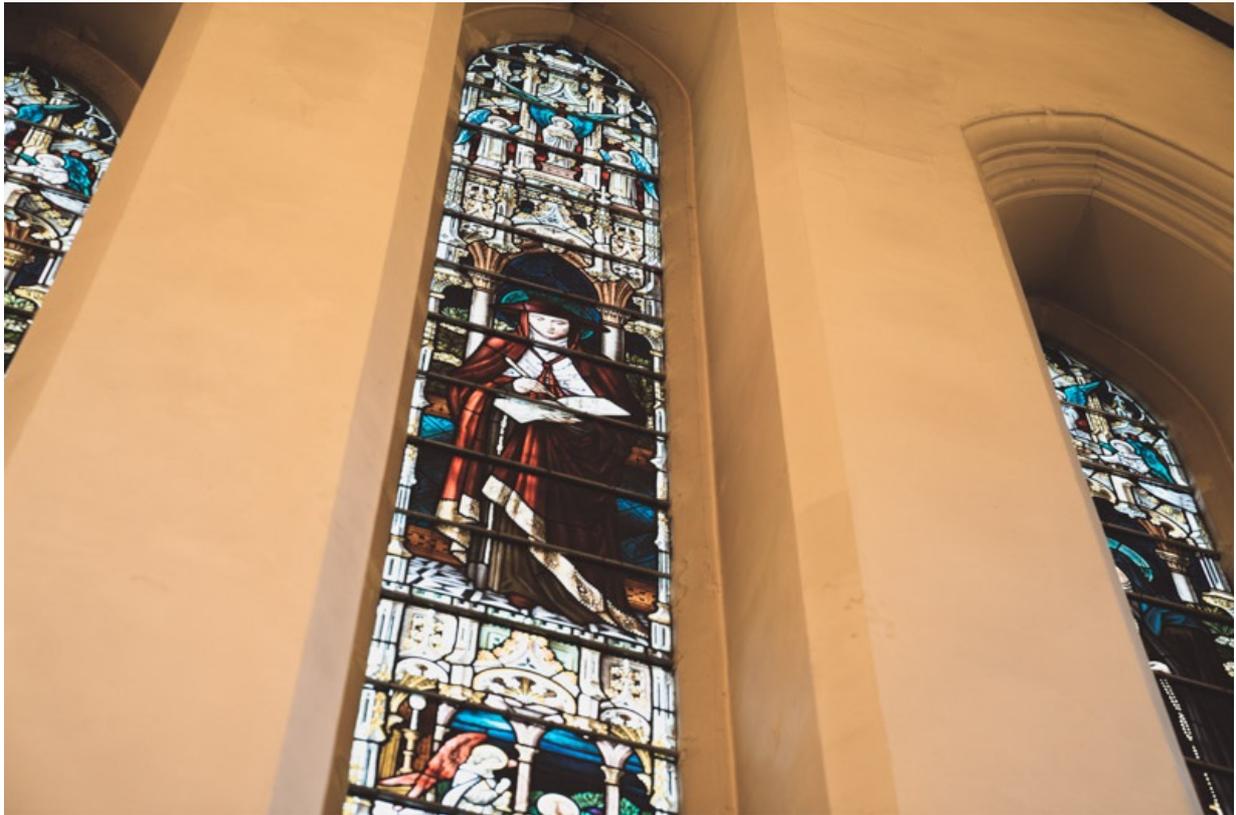


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St Bon's eNewsletter

20th October 2017

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

Message from Fr Tom

On Monday, the children at school were running around the playground declaring the end of the world. Their prophetic cries of impending doom were inspired by the eerie grey but yellow sky and the unfamiliar warm stillness that hung over Bristol that morning. As the sky turned yellower, the word apocalyptic kept appearing in my mind. Others used phrases like 'other worldly' or 'end of the world'. It's amazing how a bit of African sand and Iberian smoke can affect our mood and perspective on life so dramatically. I definitely saw a deep orange sun in the morning and that looked pretty epic but for those who saw a deep red sun it must have been even more dramatic. But while the end of the world had reached southern and western Britain, a closer version of the end of the world was visited upon Ireland devastating livelihoods, property and daily life. Ophelia sadly even claimed three lives. Our sense of awe at the freak weather shows how safe and comfortable our lives are. If we consider those who have just suffered in the devastating hurricanes in the Bahamas and America or the earthquakes in Mexico we have gotten away lightly. For those who experience severe flooding or drought and have no resources to deal with it, the end of their world is a real possibility. For those who suffer persecution or genocide and have to flee their homes and country, their world has come to an end and a harder reality awaits them in refugees camps. Maybe the weather has just triggered those feelings in the pits of our stomachs that things in our world are just not right.

The Bible talks of the end of the world in different ways. Jesus suggests that when he comes it will be suddenly and silently, that we have to be constantly vigilant waiting for him, otherwise we might miss him.

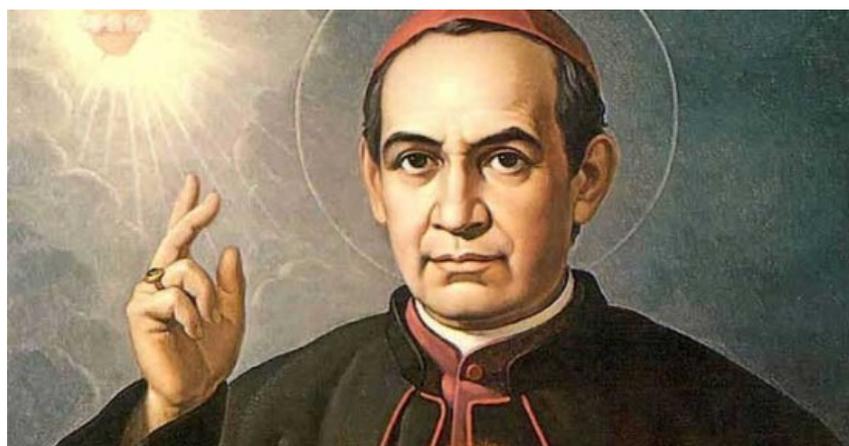
In other passages he talks about the signs of the end of times, earthquakes, famines and wars. Have you ever tried to imagine the end of the world? I have once or twice but it is hard without a reference point. Some disaster or horror films have a good try at showing what it might be like but I somehow cannot hold on to the ideas of total destruction or of flesh eating zombies. Maybe that is the problem none of us have a reference point nor any clear idea about what the 'end' might look like but when we look around us and see so much instability in our world we become unsettled. There is deep unrest all around us and even the threat of nuclear war.

Nuclear war aside, have things not been like this since at least the late 1700's? Since then we have had the American War of Independence, the Napoleonic wars, conflicts and conflagrations over the continent of Europe, the Crimean War, the First World War, the Great Depression, the Second World War, the Cold War, the Vietnam War, the Cuban Missile crisis, the Gulf Wars, 9/11, Afghanistan and now ISIS. Those are only the conflicts I can remember off the top of my head and it does not portray a pretty picture of global history over the last two centuries. I do not believe that things are worse now but that we are far more aware of global problems far more quickly than ever before. Is it this factor that heightens our sense of global malaise?

Throughout history our forbears have had to deal with trial and tribulations and for many their sense of faith was the rock which gave foundation to their lives. We have to remember that every time we hear of a devastating situation from some far flung corner of the world it is being transmitted to us by a business, a 24hr hour media business with companies competing with each other for our attention and their viewing figures. We have to take that news and the increasingly distressing images which accompany it and put it in perspective. If we go back to a time before radio and TV, let alone the internet, most people would know very little of what was happening in the world around them. What occupied their life was their family, their security, their livelihood and for many in the centuries before us, their faith. Faith has been the reference point for the West at least for the last 2000 years. It is faith in God which has made sense of tragedy and hardship of threats and detestations. In a culture increasingly without a sense of faith in anything, it is no wonder that as we become more aware of the terrors of the world we become more panicked and unsettled but the cause of that might not be the terrors but the lack of faith that has become so normal in our culture.

Fr Tom

Saint of the Week



St Anthony Mary Claret

Anthony was born in Sallent, Spain. He worked as a missionary preacher in Catalonia and the Canary Islands. As Archbishop of Santiago, Cuba, he fought for humane conditions for slaves, where he overcame great trials including fifteen assassination attempts. Later he became the confessor of the Queen of Spain, and led a revival of the faith in that country. In 1849 he founded the Missionary Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (Claretians). He died in France in 1870.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday 7th November 7pm

Modern Slavery Presentation, Presbytery Dining Room

Friday 17th November 7pm

St Bon's Community Quiz Night, St Bon's School Hall

Sunday 26th November 12pm

New Parishioners Lunch, Parish Hall

Sunday 3rd December after 9.30am Mass

Volunteers Thank You Party, Parish Hall

Sunday 10th December 2pm (not 12pm)

Senior Citizens Anointing the Sick Mass and Christmas Social, Church & Presbytery

Saturday 16th December 3pm

Christmas Nativity, Church & Presbytery

News and Events

October Month of our Lady: The Rosary will be said every week day after Mass in October.

November Month of all Souls: The Annual Mass of Remembrance for all those who have died during the past year will take place on Friday 10th November at 7pm. In addition to letting the Parish Office know if you would like a Mass said for a loved one who has died, the Book of Remembrance will be available at weekends for you to enter the names of those whom you wish to record there. The Annual Blessing of the Parish Cemetery will take place after 9.15 Mass on Tuesday 28th November.

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.

First Holy Communion (FHC) Programme: Parents/carers of children who would like to take their First Holy Communion next year are invited to a meeting on Sunday 19th November 2017 at 11am in the Parish Hall to learn more about the programme and register your interest. Please be aware that as part of your commitment to placing your child in our FHC programme, we expect you to take them to weekly Sunday mass and to each FHC session. We know that time is a precious commodity so to make things easier we are going to run the programme on a Sunday morning after Mass so that you only need to commit to coming to Church on one day of your weekend. The classes will begin in early 2018 and will run from 11am-12pm on Sundays during term time after the 9.30am Mass.

Volunteers Thank You Party: There will be a bring & share brunch after Mass on Sunday 3rd December for all who volunteer at St Bon's and their families. Please do come along and if you can help please contact Neta Roylance-Smith: email: neta_pourhosseini@hotmail.com or call 07980175565.

Year of Mission: Bishop Declan invites you all on Wednesday 29th November 7pm to gather in the Cathedral for a celebration of Evening Prayer, launching our Diocese into a Year of Mission.

Praying the Rosary: The monthly Parish Rosary Revival Prayer Group will meet on Tuesday 7th November 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.

Sister Cecilia Memorial Service: Sister Cecilia, former headmistress of St Ursula's High School, died on Thursday 28th September at the Convent of Mercy Fishguard where she had lived for 9 years. There will be a memorial service for Sister on Saturday 27th January at midday at Sacred Heart Church.

Remembrance Day Cake Sale: St Bon's Brownies will be having a cake sale in the hall after the 9.30 Mass

on Remembrance Day 12th November. Donations of cakes gratefully received. All proceeds will go to the HCPT group who will be taking children with special needs to Lourdes at Easter.

200 Club: Thank you to all parishioners who have supported the 200 Club this year. Profits raised from the Club go to HCPT - The Children's Pilgrimage Trust, enabling children with special needs to visit Lourdes at Easter. Membership now needs to be renewed. Representatives from the Club will be at all Masses this weekend to collect subscriptions. Its £24 per year. Cheques should be made payable to "St Bonaventures 200 Club" please. Alternatively, please leave your cheque in an envelope in the Presbytery, clearly marked FAO Angela Parry - 200 Club. New members welcome!

HCPT Quiz Night: HCPT are holding a quiz night on Friday 11th November in St Teresa's Social Centre (Gloucester Road North). Refreshments will be on sale and there will be games for all the family. All are welcome to join the fun from 7.30pm onwards.

Starting School: Parents of children born between 1st September 2013 and 31st August 2014 must apply now for a school place for September 2018 onwards. Application forms are available from Bristol City Council or you can apply online. You must apply by 15th January 2018. For St Bonaventure's Primary School Catholic children you must also provide a copy of the baptism certificate to the School.

St Brendan's Open Events: The College welcomes any prospective pupils and their families to their open events on: 5-8pm on Thursday 19th October, Wednesday 15th November and Thursday 8th February.

Mentor Me Training: Mentor Me supports ex-offenders and is looking for volunteers who, driven by their faith, can help offer the unique services of friendship, hospitality, encouragement, support, care and a patient listening ear to those leaving prison or who have already done so and who wish to make positive changes to their lives. Are you interested? Training with a view to becoming a mentor is now taking place Contact alison@mentormeuk.org or on 0117 403 7905 for more information.

Old Reading Glasses: MentorMe take old pairs of glasses into HMP Bristol as so often those men who are desperate to learn to read and write or study, simply cannot see. They don't have to be men's glasses - if they can see through them they will wear them! With or without cases is fine. Giving something away that we no longer use may be of little cost to us but to those men it can make a world of difference. Please drop them into the Parish Office.

CAFOD: Do you wonder where CAFOD receives its funding from? How much is raised by CAFOD Lent and Harvest Fast Days? Where is the money spent? - which countries/what projects? If you've ever asked yourself any of these questions come along to the CAFOD Clifton Roadshow Saturday November 18th - Holy Family Church Patchway BS34 5DP; 14:00. In addition listen to guest speaker Nikki Evans and the update from Harvest Fast day 2016 Altiplano Bolivia. Enjoy Food and Drink and take part in a unique CAFOD social following the presentations. To book, contact Liz Baldwin at the CAFOD Clifton Volunteer Centre at Clifton@cafod.org.uk or call 0117 942 8328.

CAFOD school volunteers needed: Could you spare some time to volunteer with CAFOD and help children and young people learn about global poverty, and motivate them to take action? We are looking for volunteers to cover the Gloucester/Cheltenham and Salisbury/Yeovil areas to visit Catholic schools and parish groups. For further information please contact Liz Baldwin at CAFOD Clifton on 01179 428 328 or email clifton@cafod.org.uk

St Joseph's Home Christmas Fair: Saturday 18th November from 12 Noon onwards. Admission 50p. Children Free. St Joseph's Home, Cotham Hill, Bristol.

Parish e-Newsletter & Website: If you're reading the paper version of our newsletter, have you considered subscribing to our e-Newsletter? For every new subscriber, we can print one less copy of the paper Newsletter and do a little bit towards helping our environment. Don't forget to confirm your subscription when you get the email prompt. If you're reading the e-Newsletter, thank you—we hope you're enjoying it! Please do also check out our new website www.stbonsbristol.co.uk -all feedback is greatly welcomed!

Mass Times

Sunday 22nd October - 29th Sunday in O.T

9.30am Mass *Mary Cannon R.I.P.*

7.00am Mass *Pro Pop*

Monday 23rd October - Weekday in Ordinary Time

9.00am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass *Joe Madden Intentions*

Tuesday 24th October - Weekday in Ordinary Time

9.00am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass

Wednesday 25th October - Weekday in Ordinary Time

9.00am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass

9.45am Holy Hour

Thursday 26th October - Weekday in Ordinary Time

No Morning prayer or Mass

Friday 27th October - Weekday in Ordinary Time

7.00pm Mass *May Tuohy R.I.P.*

7.30pm - 8.30pm Holy Hour

Saturday 28th October - Feasts of SS Simon and Jude

7.00pm Mass (Vigil) *Alesandra R.I.P.*

Confession

Saturday 6.00pm - 6.40pm

Eucharistic Exposition

Monday 10.00am - Wednesday 12.00am

Wednesday 9.45am - 10.45am

Friday 7.30pm - 8.30pm

Saturday 6.00pm - 6.40pm

Please Pray For: Anita Bridges, Una Cunniffe, Celia Dolan, Monica Fletcher, Sheelagh Gaines, June Krysta, Pat Parry, Nedra Paynter, Roger Paynter, Margaret Rogers, Zygmunt Sawko, Bernard Seward, Ivy Sewell, Martin Sewell, Peter Sewell and Maria Wysocka.

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