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## St Bon's eNewsletter

17th November 2017

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

### A Message from Fr Tom

Merry Christmas! It is officially Christmas time, well in Salisbury at least. On Thursday along with a few thousand Sarumites I gathered in the market square to witness Anthony Cotton ( of course you know who he is ) switching on the city's Christmas lights while 'We wish you a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year' played over the loud speakers. In Clifton, Christmas began last week. For many in our society Christmas will last from now until midnight on 25th December. It will be an intense five week rush. It feels strange being a believer in the God who created Christmas and celebrating it at a different time from the rest of society. As society winds down the festive period we as Catholics will only just be beginning it. We have a festive period based on a centuries old calendar and wider society bases its celebrations on commercial interest. The economy drives the festive period we have just entered. Our Festive period like with all of our celebrations begins with the celebration of the event and goes on for days and weeks afterwards. We usually anticipate great feasts with penitence and explode with joy when we get there.

On Thursday, Kay Burley announced on the news 'this is what \$450m looks like' and up popped an image of our Blessed Lord and Saviour, painted by Leonard da Vinci. It is a beautiful and striking representation of Jesus, under the title of Salvator Mundi- Saviour of the World. It was up for auction at Christie's and fetched well over the expected \$250m. I had an outlandish thought, what if Kay Burley had got down and prostrated herself before the large image of Jesus on the screen in front of her? I guess I was thinking of what a different world would look like, a world focussed on God not on Money. To any believing Christian it is sad to see a picture of Jesus celebrated not for the freedom he bought us but for outlandish price

paid for it. It is another sign of a world driven by economy. These are Two very different examples of a reality that consumes us. The reality that our culture and our very world view is driven by money rather than belief in God.

Yet Jesus tells us, his followers, that we are salt of the earth, light to the world and the yeast in the leaven. We are the small grains of salt to bring flavour to a world that has lost the taste of the divine. We are a small amount of Yeast that makes a huge difference to the dough. As Christians living in this world, this society do we acknowledge the great contribution we are called to make? Do we desire to make a difference to our society and its world view, or are we content with things as they are? If we are content, or if we do not wish to provoke maybe we need to search our hearts and ask what our belief in Jesus means. But hey, who would have thought of it we have a period of four weeks coming up, designed for that very purpose - Advent. Four joyful and Penitential weeks to ready our souls and search our hearts in preparation for the arrival of the Salvator Mundi, in a barren little cave, not an auction house frequented by the rich and famous of our world.

Fr Tom

## Saint of the Week



## St Cecilia

Cecilia was a Roman martyr of the 3rd century. According to legend she was a young Christian patrician, betrothed to a pagan. But she had already vowed her virginity to God and refused to consummate the marriage. Both her husband and his brother became Christians, were arrested, and martyred. Soon afterwards Cecilia, too, was martyred.

### Upcoming Events

**Sunday 26th November 12pm**  
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

## Christmas Dates & Mass Times

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December 3pm

**St Bon's Family Nativity Service** – an opportunity for children to dress up in their favourite Nativity costumes and join in with our performance of the Nativity. There will be mulled wine/soft drinks and mince pies after the service and some fun activities for the children. All very welcome.

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December 6pm – **First Mass of Christmas**

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December 12pm – **Midnight Mass (Carols to be confirmed—watch this space!)**

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December 9.30am – **Christmas Day Mass**

## News and Events

**Cemetery Blessing:** The Annual Blessing of the Parish Cemetery will take place after 9.15am Mass on Tuesday 28th November.

**Faith Sharing:** At the recent Diocesan Day, Fr Tom heard the story of a young nurse who shared how God's presence in her life made a difference to her care for a patient. Inspired by this, Fr Tom would like to invite people to share with the whole community an experience of their faith and God working in their life. The idea is that with such sharing we can strengthen one another in our faith and inspire each other. There will be a 3 minute faith sharing moment after Communion at our Masses. As guidance, the "ABC" of faith sharing is A– accurate, B– brief and C– Christ centred. Let's see if it's something that works here at St Bon's. It may have a powerful impact on our community. If you would like to share your faith please come and see Fr Tom after Mass.

**Advent Confession Challenge:** Fr Tom will be setting the Advent Confession Challenge again this year and encourages all to take part. It may be years since you last went to confession but why not give it a go this Advent? Just 10 minutes is all it takes! Times and dates to be confirmed. Watch this space!

**Prisoner Gift Project:** Thank you to those who offered to help with packing the gift bags for the Sixty One Project. Each of the packs costs around £5 and we have been asked as a Parish to contribute towards the cost of them. There will be a second collection on the 18th and 19th November which will be put towards this.

**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.

**Parishioners Lunch Sunday 26th November 12 Noon Parish Hall:** This event is particularly to welcome newcomers to the Parish, but is an opportunity for everyone to get together and share food and conversation. Food and drink will be provided and children are very welcome too—there will be a play area for them. Please put the date in your diary now—we look forward to seeing you there!

**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 Evening Prayer:** Bishop Declan invites you all to Evening Prayer at the Cathedral on Wednesday 29th November at 7pm. During Evening Prayer, the Bishop will present to each community copies of the resource to accompany us through the "Year of Mission". Each parish, school, and religious community will be called forward by name during that evening to receive from the Bishop the resource. Please let Fr Tom know if you can attend and help to represent our Parish.

**Praying the Rosary:** The monthly Parish Rosary Prayer Group will meet on Tuesday December 5th at 2pm in the Dining Room in St Bonaventure's Presbytery. Join us this Advent to prepare for Christmas. We will pray and discuss the Rosary and have a cup of tea and a mince pie! Contact Chris Searle 07771161259. All welcome. Prayer requests

most welcome.

**Community Fund Award:** St Bon's Brownies have been shortlisted for an Aviva Community Fund award. Anyone who lives in the UK and registers on the Aviva Community Fund website can vote for projects between 24th October and 21st November. Angela Parry (the Brownie leader) has said she will make donations to our Parish building fund and HCPT Group 176 if they get enough votes and win the award. So, please, please, please get voting and ask your friends/family to vote too: <https://www.avivacommunityfund.co.uk/voting/project/view/17-5622>. Thank you for your support.

**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.

**Something to Say? :** Young People aged 11+ and Young Adults are invited to St Brendan's Catholic Sixth Form College, Bristol. BS4 5RQ on Saturday 25th November 10.30am-3pm for our Diocesan gathering to celebrate National Youth Sunday. Great workshops, praise and worship, the opportunity to tell us what you think and be commissioned to be young disciples in our parishes. Book your place via e-mail: [youth@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:youth@cliftondiocese.com)

**Little Hearts Toddler Group:** Sacred Heart are looking for someone new to run Little Hearts Toddler Group at Sacred Heart Church in Westbury on Trym from January 2018. The group runs every Wednesday during term time from 10-1130am in Newman Hall. It is well attended by 10-15 families a week and has the full use of the facilities at Newman Hall, including the kitchen, and owns a very good selection of toys to suit all ages. The role would involve setting up tables and chairs, putting out the toys and making teas and coffees for attendees, and clearing away at the end of the session. To find out more, please email [littleheartstoddlers@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:littleheartstoddlers@yahoo.co.uk) or contact Hilary Wilcox on 07870 726777.

**Jenny Peplow Singers Fund Raising for St Joseph's:** The award winning female choir will sing at St Joseph's Home, Cotham Hill BS6 6JT on 2nd December at 2.30pm. Join them for a thoroughly entertaining afternoon followed by tea and cakes.

**Vocations Discernment Retreat:** The retreat is being run by Clifton Diocese and Downside Abbey from Friday 1st to Sunday 3rd December. This is a great opportunity to gather 18-35ish men and women and to help them to discern more deeply how God might be calling them to marriage, consecrated life or priesthood i.e. this is a retreat exploring all vocations! The cost of the retreat is just £25. For further information, please contact: [vocations@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:vocations@cliftondiocese.com)

**HCPT 200 Club:** Congratulations to the winners of this months draw:

£60 Geoff Barrett 30

£25 Michelle Phelan 27

£15 Christine Menzies 38

**Second Collections:**

w/e 19th November—Prisoner Gift Project

w/e 26th November— Catholic Youth Service

## Mass Times

Sunday 19th November - 33rd Sunday in O.T.

9.30am Mass *Tom & Edna Hennessey R.I.P.*

7.00am Mass *Pro Pop*

Monday 20th November - Weekday in O.T.

9.00am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass *Geraldine Flanagan R.I.P.*

Tuesday 21st November - Presentation of the Virgin Mary

9.00am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass *John-Boy McDonagh R.I.P.*

### Wednesday 22nd November - St Cecilia

9.00am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass *Aaron Mark Leonard R.I.P.*

9.45am Holy Hour

### Thursday 23rd November - Weekday in O.T.

No Mass

### Friday 24th November - Ss Andrew Dung-Lac & Companions

7.00pm Mass *Deceased Members of the Dolan Family*

7.30pm - 8.30pm Holy Hour

### Saturday 25th November - Weekday in O.T.

7.00pm Mass (Vigil) *Laurence McGeary 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, Christopher Browne, Una Cunniffe, 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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