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St Bon's eNewsletter

24th November 2017

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

A Message from Fr Tom

As you are probably aware by now, I love leadership stuff. I say 'stuff' because some of it can seem a bit woolly or vacuous. There can be some great leadership jargon but when you try to translate it in to something practical it can be quite difficult. This doesn't put me off and there are many gems to be found in the thoughts of great leaders and those who study leadership. A quote I heard at a recent conference really excited me. It is not technically a leadership quote but I thought it would be a great motto for St Bon's. It is by Brian Wilson of the Beach Boys 'Beware the lollipop of mediocrity; lick it once and you'll suck forever'. I love it. Each of us probably have areas of our lives where we suck a bit and we can be confused about a way of changing that. How does it apply to your life of faith? Is there room for improvement?

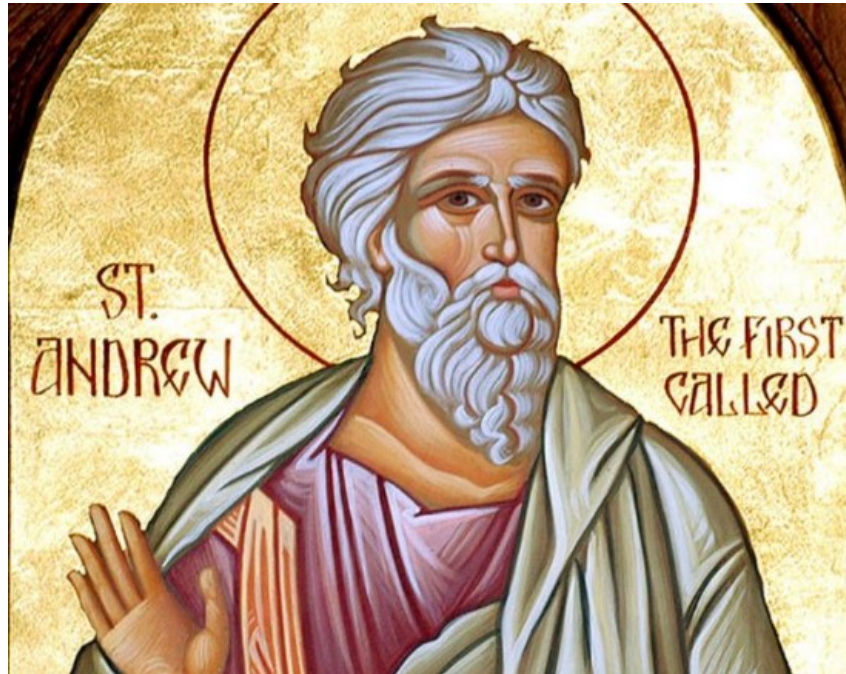
Of course, there is room for improvement. I am sure Mother Teresa would have told us she had room for improvement. So how can we become better Christians? An American neuro scientist, Angela Duckworth, has spent years studying what makes people successful. In a recent talk she said that successful people often ask them selves "what one thing can I change that will take me closer to my goal?". Translated to the life of discipleship, what one thing can I change that will make me a better follower of Christ?

I am aware that Advent will soon be upon us. The church presents us with Advent as a powerful opportunity to grow in our faith, to reflect on our lives and make some changes to how we live our faith. I would like to challenge you to change one thing in your life that will help you to become a better Christian. For me, I know I have a few areas where I could make a

change. One is making more time for prayer and reflection, the other is making time for spiritual reading. Although I don't want to challenge myself in this area, I probably should have a look at least one of them. One question I have to answer honestly is: if making more time for prayer will bring me closer to Christ and therefore make me a better Christian what am I currently doing that is more important than that? Good luck and in a few weeks I would love to hear what you have picked and how it has made a difference.

Fr Tom

Saint of the Week



St Andrew

Andrew, like his brother Simon Peter, was a fisherman. He became a disciple of John the Baptist who pointed Andrew to 'the Lamb of God'. He is the first-called disciple of Christ. He brings St Peter to Christ and Jesus promises to make them 'fishers of men'. It is believed that after the Ascension of the Lord, Andrew preached the gospel in Greece. He is said to have been put to death on a cross, tied not nailed. He suffered for two days, still preaching from the cross, before dying.

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 16th 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, including a prize for the best dressed! If you would like to have a part in the play or are able to help, please let the Parish Office know. All are very welcome.

Sunday 24th December 6pm

First Mass of Christmas: We invite children to wear their Nativity costumes again to this Mass and celebrate the arrival of Jesus.

Sunday 24th December 12pm

Midnight Mass (Carols to be confirmed—watch this space!)

Monday 25th 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.

Helping Victims of Modern Day Slavery: Thank you to Caroline Virgo, one of our parishioners, and Melissa Blackburn from the charity unchosen and all who attended our Modern Day Slavery presentation. It was a great evening and has helped raise our awareness and given us inspiration to move forward. An opportunity has arisen to offer some support to women who have been rescued from human trafficking. We would like to invite you to buy Christmas presents (up to the value of £30) for 14 women who have been rescued and are now being processed by the system. These women are in absolute poverty and we are hoping these gifts, which could include toiletries, warm clothing etc. will help to bring a bit of joy to their Christmas. If you would like to do this, please contact Caroline Virgo at carolinevirgo@gmail.com.

First Holy Communion (FHC) Programme: Thank you to all that attended the meeting last week. For those that missed it, there are registration forms at the back of Church for completion and return by no later than Friday 8th December for children in Year 3 or above who would like to make their First Holy Communion at St Bon's Church next year. 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. 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 This 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. 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.

Anointing of the Sick Mass and Senior Citizens Christmas Social Sunday 10th December 2pm: After the Anointing Mass, we hope you will all come into the Presbytery for the Social and enjoy the get-together in a festive atmosphere. To help with catering arrangements, please give your name to one of the volunteers on the way out after the weekend Masses.

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!

Advent Day by Day Prayer Book: These are now at the back of Church. Please put your donations in the candle money boxes. There are also a few copies of the Diocese Directory available for £5 each.

Win a Christmas Hamper: We will be selling raffle tickets after each weekend Mass to win an amazing hamper filled with lovely goodies to set you and your family up nicely for Christmas.

Sponsored Christmas Cards for St Bonaventure's Development Project: These Christmas cards, especially designed by Sue Jones for St Bon's, will be on sale at the back of the church after all masses during Advent. £5 for 10 cards. As last year, ALL the money raised will go to St Bon's.

Prisoner Gift Project: Thank you to those who helped with packing over 100 gift bags for the Sixty One Project and gave to the Second Collection last week. A tremendous £540.97 was raised. Thank you so much for your extraordinary generosity.

Parish Community Quiz: Thank you to all that took part in the quiz last week. It was a thoroughly entertaining night with a lovely mix of parishioners, young and old. Special thanks must go to quiz master extraordinaire, Liz Romero, and Neta, Tony and Karen for all your amazing help with making it such a great night. Over £500 was raised!

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.

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.

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.

Second Collections:

w/e 26th November— Catholic Youth Service

w/e 3rd December—Poor Missions of the Diocese

Mass Times

Sunday 26th November - Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

9.30am Mass *Alexander Roylance-Smith R.I.P.*

7.00am Mass *Pro Pop*

Monday 27th November - Weekday in O.T.

9.00am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass *Neil Gallagher R.I.P.*

Tuesday 28th November - Weekday in O.T.

9.00am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass *Canon Martin Fitzpatrick R.I.P.*

Wednesday 29th November - Weekday in O.T.

9.00am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass *Betty Taylor & the Bevan Family*

9.45am Holy Hour

Thursday 30th November - St Andrew

No Mass

Friday 1st December - St Alexander Briant

7.00pm Mass *Deceased Members of the Flanagan Family*
7.30pm - 8.30pm Holy Hour

Saturday 2nd December - St Osmund

7.00pm Mass (Vigil) *Pro Pop*

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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