

[View this email in your browser](#)



## St Bon's eNewsletter

1st December 2017

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

### A Message from Fr Tom

Advent = prepare for Christmas time.

Advent does not technically mean prepare for Christmas time, the word derives from the Latin 'Ad Venire' to come. It is the season dedicated to the coming of the Lord, it is a season dedicated to his coming. This takes two forms. The first half of Advent looks at the coming of the Lord in majesty and glory at the end of time while the second half focuses our attention on the coming of Jesus at Christmas. The second half is full of prophecies from the Old Testament which speak of the coming of the Messiah, God's chosen son.

As we know, the society we live in sees this time almost as Christmas time itself. Christmas is thought of by many as the time leading up to 25th December and maybe Boxing Day too. Yet as Christians and as Catholic Christians with two millennia of traditions we recognise this time as a time of preparation for the coming of Jesus and we joyfully celebrate his arrival on Christmas Day. It would be awesome if I had as many Christmas dinners during the twelve days of Christmas as I did in the month leading up to Christmas! I don't mean because I want more Christmas dinners but that they would be more appropriate in the twelve days. With all that is going on around us it might be tempting to give in to premature Christmas celebrations, my first Christmas dinner will be on 8th Dec! We could easily make this coming month just about preparing for the family occasion and the celebration, that is a big enough job in itself. But the church provides us with this special time and calls us to make it a spiritual preparation for the coming of Jesus as a baby in the manger at Bethlehem.

So what can we do to make this a time of spiritual preparation? Here are some suggestions:

Make a good confession. There is nothing like confession to help us root out our old ways, say sorry for our sins and receive the most precious gift of God's forgiveness. This helps us start again with a spring in our step.

Reading Scripture. There are some little books at the back of church to help you read the Bible in this season. The Advent 'day by day' books are there for you, please take one and use it for a few moments each day.

Spiritual reading. You may have a book about Advent or Christmas that you like to read at this time of year. A few pages a day can be a great way to take some time out of the rush and prepare for the big day.

Come to Mass. If you come to Mass every few weeks why not come each week in the lead up to Christmas, the Sundays of Advent specially mark the countdown to Christmas with the lighting of the Advent wreath.

If you come to Mass each week why not come for some of the weekday Masses over Advent, these feature some very beautiful readings from the prophets who speak of the coming of Jesus.

Whatever you are able to do, I hope Advent will be a grace filled time for you, preparing you to celebrate with joy the birth of Christ on Christmas Day!

Fr Tom

## Saint of the Week



## St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin

1474-1548. The Virgin Mary appeared to Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin, 'talking eagle', an Aztec Indian in Guadalupe, Mexico. Juan repeatedly went to the clerics in the region and told them of his vision. On his last attempt to prove it was real, he returned to them with his cloak filled with rose blossoms, believed to be miraculous since they grew at the wrong time of the year. When he opened his cloak, not only did the roses spill out, but also imprinted on the cloth was an image of the Virgin. St Juan is an important symbol for those who have suffered persecution including slavery.

## Upcoming Events

## **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, 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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 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**

**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](mailto:carolinevirgo@gmail.com).

**First Holy Communion (FHC) Programme:** For those that missed the initial meeting, 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:** Thank you to everyone that came along to this event and to all that helped cook and serve the delicious food and drinks. Special thanks to the Social Justice Team for all your hard work. It was a lovely afternoon and a great chance for all to get together as a community.

**Volunteers Thank You Party:** The bring & share brunch is after Mass this Sunday 3rd December in the Parish Hall for all who volunteer at St Bon's and their families. We look forward to seeing there!

**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:** The Advent Confession Challenge is on and everyone is encouraged to take part. Fr Tom will be waiting to hear your confessions straight after Mass on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays (up to and including 22nd December) and he will stay for as long as there are people to be heard. There will also be the usual time of 6-6.40pm on Saturdays (including 23rd December). 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!

**Advent Day by Day Prayer Book:** These are now at the back of Church. Please put your donations in the candle money boxes.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**Act in support of Catholic Education:** The Government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents new Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. The Prime Minister has acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and had promised previously to abandon it. Now the Government may decide to keep this discriminatory policy in place instead of removing it. We need you to tell the Government not to discriminate against Catholics and to remove the admissions cap on new faith-based schools. Visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/education-cap> to write to the Government and urge them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic schools.

**Second Collections:** w/e 3rd December—Poor Missions of the Diocese

## Mass Times

### Sunday 3rd December - First Sunday of Advent

9.30am Mass *Eileen Hanley R.I.P.*

7.00pm Mass *Ray Rigg R.I.P.*

### Monday 4th December - Weekday of Advent

9.00am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass *Mary Taylor R.I.P.*

### Tuesday 5th December - Weekday of Advent

9.00am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass *Deceased Members of the Virgin Family*

### Wednesday 6th December - Weekday of Advent

9.00am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass *Deceased Members of the Willmer Family*

9.45am Holy Hour

Thursday 7th December - St Ambrose

No Mass

Friday 8th December - Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

7.00pm Mass *Private Intentions*

7.30pm - 8.30pm Holy Hour

Saturday 9th December - St John Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin

7.00pm Mass (Vigil) *Isabella King 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.

*Copyright © 2017 St Bon's, All rights reserved.*

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

MailChimp