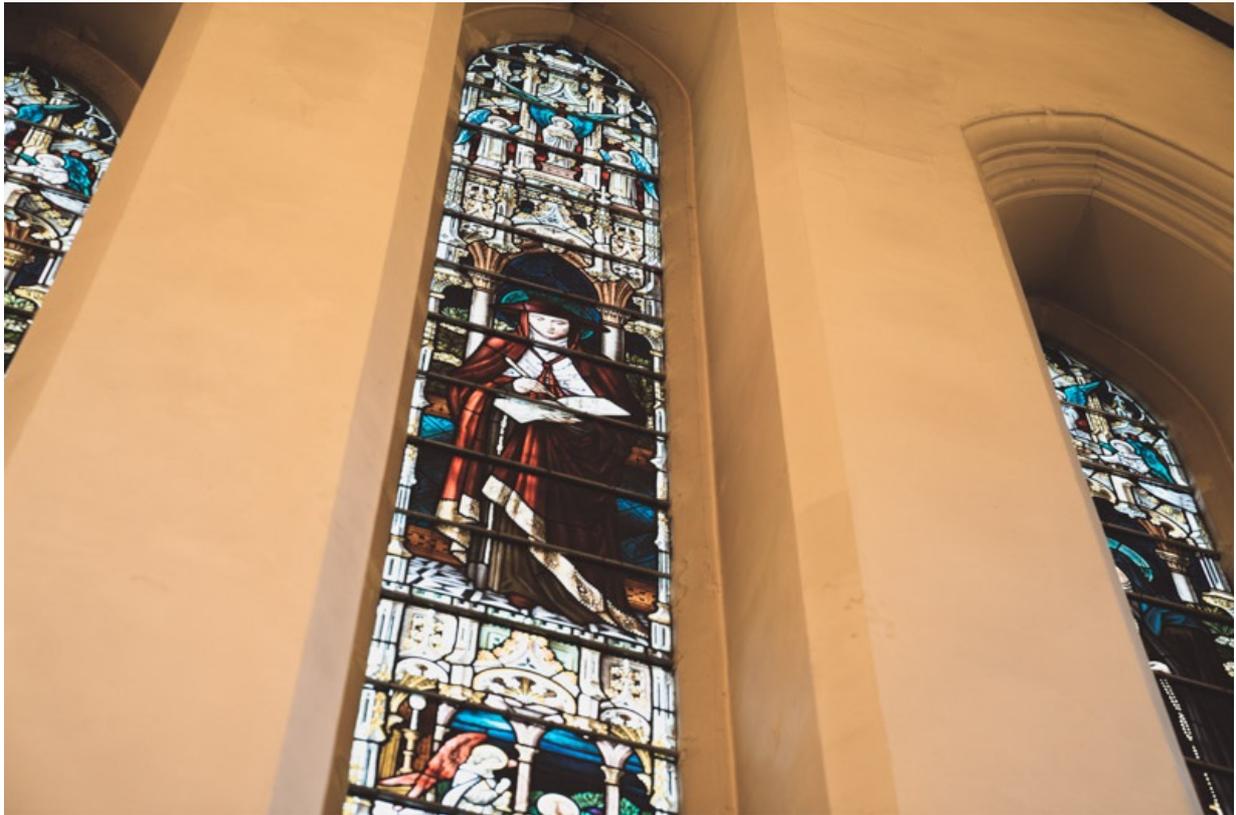


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## St Bon's eNewsletter

8th December 2017

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

### A Message from Fr Tom

I have just started reading a book about behavioural economics. I realised that I have been interested in this area for years but didn't know it was called behavioural economics. The book is called 'Nudge' and is co-written by the Nobel Prize winner for economics this year, Richard Thaler. The book, which is very readable, even for a non-economist like me, is engaging and makes really insightful points about the way we behave and how we can be influenced in the decisions we make about different choices in our lives. This influence is called a 'nudge'. One subject the book covers briefly is risk. The authors explain how when we are posed with the risk of losing something we feel 'twice as miserable as gaining the same thing makes you happy'. Another way of seeing that is that we find change hard. The book explores how marketeers and governments know this and many other things about how we behave and can influence our behaviour accordingly by nudging us in a particular direction. As with many things I read, I have begun wondering how it applies to our spiritual lives.

One of the core themes of the gospels over the last few Sundays has been the end of the world and the beginning of the eternal kingdom. The gospels, or Jesus to be more specific, have stressed the importance of our decision making when it comes to securing our place in the eternal kingdom of God. Jesus has made it very clear that how we live our faith here and now will affect our eternal beatitude; that is our existence for ever, for eternity. In other words, there is a lot to lose or gain! Unfortunately, over the last eight decades the church's teaching on the afterlife seems to have been taught in a polarised way. I don't know this by experience because I wasn't alive eighty years ago but, from what I hear, a common way of teaching the afterlife in the 40's, 50's and part of the 60's was by highlighting the losses, by focusing on the horrors of

hell. That approach was not productive, it actually appears to have turned a lot of people away from the practice of their faith. The focus of the teaching on the afterlife in the 70's, 80's and even today has made eternity a one size fits all nice place for everyone, irrespective of how we have lived our lives. There is almost a sense that there is no choice to make, heaven is an automatic right. The gain is accentuated but for no work. Neither approach seems helpful.

Neither of these approaches seem to give us the right incentive for living our faith well. The fear of hell is too scary and the promise of heaven for doing nothing doesn't excite or inspire - why live my faith if I'm going to heaven anyway? But if we are not alive in our faith, Jesus tells us the gain and loss is significant. But because we have not experienced heaven we cannot be miserable at the loss of it. Unlike economics which often works by prediction, our faith is just that - faith. We are called to believe in the promises of a loving saviour who has only our interest at heart. Jesus teaches us to long for heaven and hate hell because he loves us, both are choices, both are realities. He wants us to make the right choice. As we are consumed in a spaghetti of political maelstrom and global uncertainty, let us look hopefully to the certainty of eternal life heralded by the coming of our saviour at Christmas. Irrespective of what is going on around us, let us make the right choices for living our faith and the gain we are promised for doing so.

Fr To

## Year of Mission



### Second Week of Advent

As we enter into this *Year of Mission*, Fr Christopher from the Diocese's Department for Adult Education and Evangelisation shares these thoughts with us:

Between today and Advent 2018 we will listen to the whole of the Gospel of St Mark. Mark gives his Gospel a title: 'The beginning of the Gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.' That title is often misunderstood and taken as the first sentence. But for Mark the whole of what he is to write about Jesus - his life, his birth, death and Resurrection - is just the beginning of the Good News, the Gospel. That is very important because when we come to the Resurrection we have just begun to tell the story of Christ. Our mission is to continue the Gospel of Jesus Christ and we do that when we bear witness to our faith in word and in deed.

### Upcoming Events

**Sunday 10th December 2pm**

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 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

**R.I.P.:** Please pray for the repose of the souls of Irena Golunska and Ana Tulodziecki. Irena Golunska's funeral will be at St Bon's on Tuesday 19th December at 11am. Details of the funeral arrangements for Ana Tulodziecki will follow.

**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).

**Volunteers Thank You Party:** Thank you to everyone that came along last weekend to the party. We have an amazing group of volunteers and it was lovely to get together and enjoy good food and wine. Thank you especially to Neta for organising the event.

**Adoration during Christmas and New Year:** There will be no adoration on Christmas Day/ Boxing Day or New Year's Day. Instead adoration will be offered to anyone who would like to attend on January 2nd, between 2-5 pm. You are welcome for one or more hours during this time. All current adorers are invited, but also those who would like to try adoration. There is much grace to be received during adoration and after the busy festive period the peace found for quiet contemplation will be appreciated. Please contact any of the Team Leaders if you would like any further information (see notice board in the porch).

**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 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. £5 per strip of tickets.

**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.

**Boxing Day Ramble for the family:** Walk off that turkey and pud on the annual Boxing Day Ramble. Approx 5 miles. Meet in St Bon's car park at 11am. Bring a packed lunch and be prepared for mud. For further info please contact [annie\\_sparkes@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:annie_sparkes@hotmail.co.uk).

**Praying the Rosary:** The monthly Parish Rosary Prayer Group will meet on Tuesday January 9th at 2pm in the Dining Room in St Bon's Presbytery. Join us for this first prayer group of the New Year (note this month only we are meeting on the 2nd Tuesday). We will pray and discuss the Rosary and have a cup of tea. Contact Chris Searle 07771161259. All welcome. Prayer requests most welcome.

**Cemetery Flowers:** St Bon's gardening team would just like to let parishioners who are remembering departed loved ones by placing flowers in the parish cemetery know that we will move aside flowers and other plants once they start to fade so that we can help to keep the cemetery garden looking at its best. We'll leave the flowers in an obvious place so that relatives can collect and replace them as they wish. Thank you.

**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 Bonaventure's Catholic Primary School Open Day:** Friday 5th January 9.30am and 1.30pm. No need to book, just come along.

## Mass Times

### Sunday 10th December - Second Sunday of Advent

9.30am Mass *Deceased Members of the Pereira Family*  
2.00pm Anointing the Sick Mass  
7.00pm Mass *Pro Pop*

### Monday 11th December - Weekday of Advent

9.00am Morning Prayer  
9.15am Mass *Bill Moore*

### Tuesday 12th December - Weekday of Advent

9.00am Morning Prayer  
9.15am Mass *Christina Orlando*

### Wednesday 13th December - St Lucy

9.00am Morning Prayer  
9.15am Mass *Rosemary & Sam Truesdale*  
9.45am Holy Hour

### Thursday 14th December - St John of the Cross

No Mass

### Friday 15th December - Weekday of Advent

7.00pm Mass *Rosemary & Sam Truesdale*  
7.30pm - 8.30pm Holy Hour

### Saturday 16th December - Weekday of Advent

7.00pm Mass (Vigil) *Tom & Irene Loftus*

## 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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