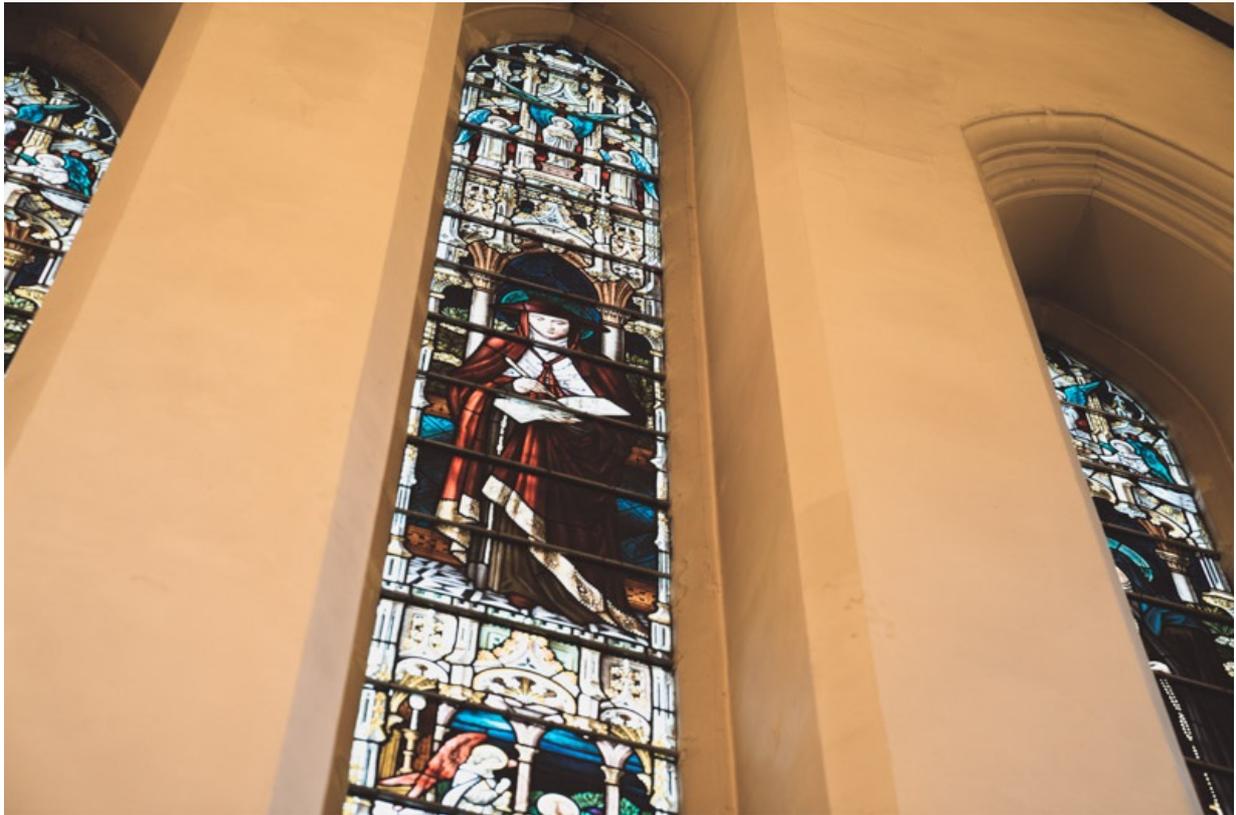


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St Bon's eNewsletter

19th January 2018

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

A Message from Fr Tom

During the month of June this year, the first communion children will be receiving their First Holy Communion within the parish masses. This will be instead of the two separate masses over one weekend, which have taken place with friends and family but outside of the parish community. This new approach is meant to enable the children to make their communion with their friends and family and also our parish community with whom they go to mass throughout the year. This will mean that for the first time in many years the parish will be present at one of the key sacramental moments of the year. It is really exciting! Each of the families has been offered the choice of making any weekend mass throughout the month of June as a mass where their child would make their FHC. They could choose a 7pm Saturday night mass, 9.30am Sunday morning or 7pm Sunday evening. However, during the course of conversation with a number of parents, it has become clear that 7pm is too late a mass for children. This has upset me because it means that two out of three of our masses are not seen to be accessible by our young families. It seems like an own goal. I recognise that for some members of the community, it is nice to have a choice of masses to go to that are not noisy.

That said I believe that our mass provision should be the best it can be for the whole community. It has not been on my mind to change the mass times, there is nothing worse for a priest, it usually precedes a lynching but I feel very strongly about this. Having consulted with Bishop Declan and the other priests of our Deanery, I would like to hold a whole parish consultation of what you think! This will help me make some important decisions. To this end, you are going to have the opportunity to vote on what you would like to see happen.

I recognise that we form habits and they can be hard to break but I would like you to do is imagine that we were starting from scratch, that we are starting over for our needs of today. Imagine any time of mass is possible, we could have mass at midday or 3pm on Sunday if enough people wanted it, so please let your imagination run wild.

To capture all of your imaginative suggestions you are going to be asked to make 6 selections of mass times. You are going to be asked to pick a first choice and second choice for each of our weekend masses. In other words you are going to be asked to suggest a preferred time for masses you might not attend, this is so we can gather a picture of what the parish as a whole would like rather than just a group of mass goers who have settled into a set routine. I hope this will be a creative process and will set the parish on a course of growth and to become more welcoming to newcomers.

Voting slips will be available from next weekend and will be available until the end of February so every one who comes to mass will be able to have their say. To avoid electoral fraud, voting slips will only be counted if you print your name on them, one vote one person. As a result of this process nothing may change but also everything may change! I hope it will be a wonderful opportunity for us as a community to look at ourselves and become a more dynamic community looking to the future with excitement and hope.

Fr Tom

Year of Mission

MISSION



Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

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:

Now we start to listen to St Mark's account of Jesus. This is Good News! We hear the first words of Jesus that Mark records: "Repent, and believe the good news.". That simple call is one to reorientation, to a turning back towards God, to seeking him and to finding him. We find that Jesus' mission is to gather disciples who share in the mission of drawing God's people back to him. Their skills are used and transformed. Jesus calls us in the hope that we might respond with that same energy and enthusiasm. Let's use this week to reread Mark's Gospel and encounter once again the Jesus who call us to share in his mission, too. Let's allow the good news he proclaims to touch us, to call us, to transform and renew us first before we set out in proclaiming good news to others.

Saint of the Week



Ss Timothy & Titus

Both first century bishops, they were disciples and co-workers of St Paul. Timothy accompanied Paul on his travels and was put in charge of the Church at Ephesus whereas Titus was in charge of the Church in Crete. Titus was Paul's messenger to various Christian communities and was his secretary. To these two, Paul wrote his Pastoral Epistles.

News and Events

R.I.P.: Please pray for the repose of the souls of Eileen McGeary, Winifred McCann, George Furlong and Philip Helm. Winifred McCann's funeral will be at St Bon's on Wednesday 24th January at 1.30pm. George Furlong's funeral will be at St Bon's on Monday 29th January at 1pm.

Eileen McGeary's Funeral: A big thank you to everyone who prepared the church and welcomed people. It was a wonderful celebration of Eileen's life and a beautiful way to say goodbye to a dear parishioner.

White Flower Appeal: Thank you to all that gave to this appeal. An amazing £311.47 was raised.

Racial Justice Sunday 27th/28th January: Please join in the celebration and pray for those from different countries who have contributed to life in the UK as well as those who still suffer discrimination and injustice. Help to keep the Catholic Association for Racial Justice viable by becoming a member. Visit the website info@carj.org.uk.

New Job Share Vacancy: Are you gifted in communications? Do you love social media? If so, Fr Tom needs you! We are looking to employ a new communications co-ordinator to work alongside our parish administrator to help people get to know about St Bon's and learn about all the amazing things that are happening here. The job would be 9 hours a week, including school holidays. Flexible hours and opportunity to work some hours from home. If you are interested and would like to apply, please email the Parish Office and we will send you a detailed job description and application form. Deadline for submission Monday 19th February 2018.

Mass Times: This year the First Holy Communion programme is being run in a new way and in discussion with parents, it has become apparent that our two evening masses are at a time which are unsuitable for many of our families. This seems incongruous to our aim to welcome as many to St Bon's as possible. Fr Tom has spoken with Bishop Declan and the priests of our Deanery and would like to ask your opinion as to whether you would like to see a different time for the weekend masses. We will be circulating a questionnaire from the end of January to the end of February. The form will have times for each weekend mass to enable parishioners to choose a first and second option. When completing the form, please consider not what you are used to but what may be better for our whole community and in particular to encourage new people to our parish. To avoid electoral corruption(!) for each response to be accepted you must write your name on the form.

Business Centre & Development Fund: Thank you for your tremendous support and pledges. The business centre is almost fully let now, just one unit left! We have now received back the signed loan certificates from the Diocese and we will have these ready for collection after Mass at the weekends or you can collect them from the Parish Office. Thank you again for all your support with this project.

First Holy Communion Programme (FHC): All those who have registered their children for the FHC programme this year should now have received an email from Fr Tom with updates about the programme. The first session is this Sunday 21st January from 11am to

12pm in the Church hall (next to the car park). If your child was not baptised at St Bon's, please would you bring a copy of your child's baptism certificate to the first session if you have not already provided a copy to the Parish Office. We also ask that you bring a donation of £10 towards the running costs of the course please. Please can all children enrolled in the FHC programme this year remain in Mass this Sunday 21st January (and not go out to Children's Liturgy) so that Fr Tom can welcome you to the programme.

Praying the Rosary: The monthly Parish Rosary Prayer Group will meet on Tuesday February 6th at 2pm in the Dining Room in St Bonaventure'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.

Celebration of Marriage 3rd February 12pm: Bishop Declan is celebrating Mass in the Cathedral at the beginning of February and inviting all married couples to join him on Saturday 3 February (12 noon). All are very welcome including those who are engaged to be married. If you are celebrating a significant wedding anniversary this year, please let the Parish Office know. It is always an encouraging celebration and, during this Year of Mission, a real opportunity to see marriage and married love as part of the mission of Christ and the Good News of God's incredible love for our world that we proclaim.

PACT: The Prison Advice and Care Trust (PACT) are looking for Volunteers at HMP Bristol. PACT believes that everyone deserves a fresh start with non-judgemental support. They have roles in the Visitor centre, Catering and Play areas. These positions vary, and all require DBS clearance - some require prison vetting experience. Please note this can take a number of weeks. For full descriptions and to apply please check:

<https://www.prisonadvice.org.uk/volunteer>

or contact Casey Clay at

Email: casey.clay@prisonadvice.org.uk

Mobile: 07703705110

Catechists' Formation: The Diocese will be running their course aimed at forming new catechists as well as supporting and refreshing existing and "well-seasoned" catechists every Wednesday evening once a month from 28th February 2018 at St Patrick's Parish Hall, Brockworth. There will be plenty of parking at St Patrick's, sessions start at 7.30pm with refreshments from 7pm. Further information can be found at: <https://cliftondiocese.com/news/new-catechists-formation-course/>.

HCPT Fundraising Coffee Morning: Veronica and Chris Swann are holding a Fundraising Coffee Morning/bring and buy/cake sale for HCPT on Saturday 10th February 10am - 1pm at 12 Malmesbury Close. Please come along and support this and bring cakes, books, DVDs, bric-a-brac, unwanted Christmas presents etc. to sell. If you are unable to come but have donations of goods to sell these could be left in the Presbytery (in a marked bag please) or taken to the house beforehand. For further information please telephone: 0117 9427018.

Creation Care and the Kingdom of God: The first talk in the Christians in Science series on Our Fragile Planet. Friday 19 January, 7 for 7.30 pm, at Redland Church hall, Redland Green, BS6 7HE. Speaker: Dr Hilary Marlow.

Mass Times - Third Week of Ordinary Time

Sunday 21st January - Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

9.30am Mass *Pro Pop*

7.00pm Mass *Deceased Members of the Castleton Family*

Monday 22nd January - Weekday in Ordinary Time

9.00am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass *Rhay & Lily Gittoes*

Tuesday 23rd January - Weekday in Ordinary Time

9.00am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass *Nanchatter Kaur*

Wednesday 24th January - Memorial of St Francis de Sales

No Morning Prayer or Mass

1.30pm Requiem Mass *Winifred McCann R.I.P.*

Thursday 25th January - Feast of the Conversion of St Paul

No Mass

Friday 26th January - Memorial of Ss Timothy & Titus

7.00pm Mass *Holy Souls*

7.30pm Holy Hour

Saturday 27th January - Weekday in Ordinary Time

7.00pm Mass (Vigil) *McDonagh Family*

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: Geoff Barrett, Anita Bridges, Christopher Browne, Una Cunniffe, Monica Fletcher, Sheelagh Gaines, Bernadette Minihane, Pat Parry, Nedra Paynter, Roger Paynter, Margaret Rogers, Zygmunt Sawko, Bernard Seward, Ivy Sewell, Martin Sewell, Peter Sewell, Jim Smith and Maria Wysocka.

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