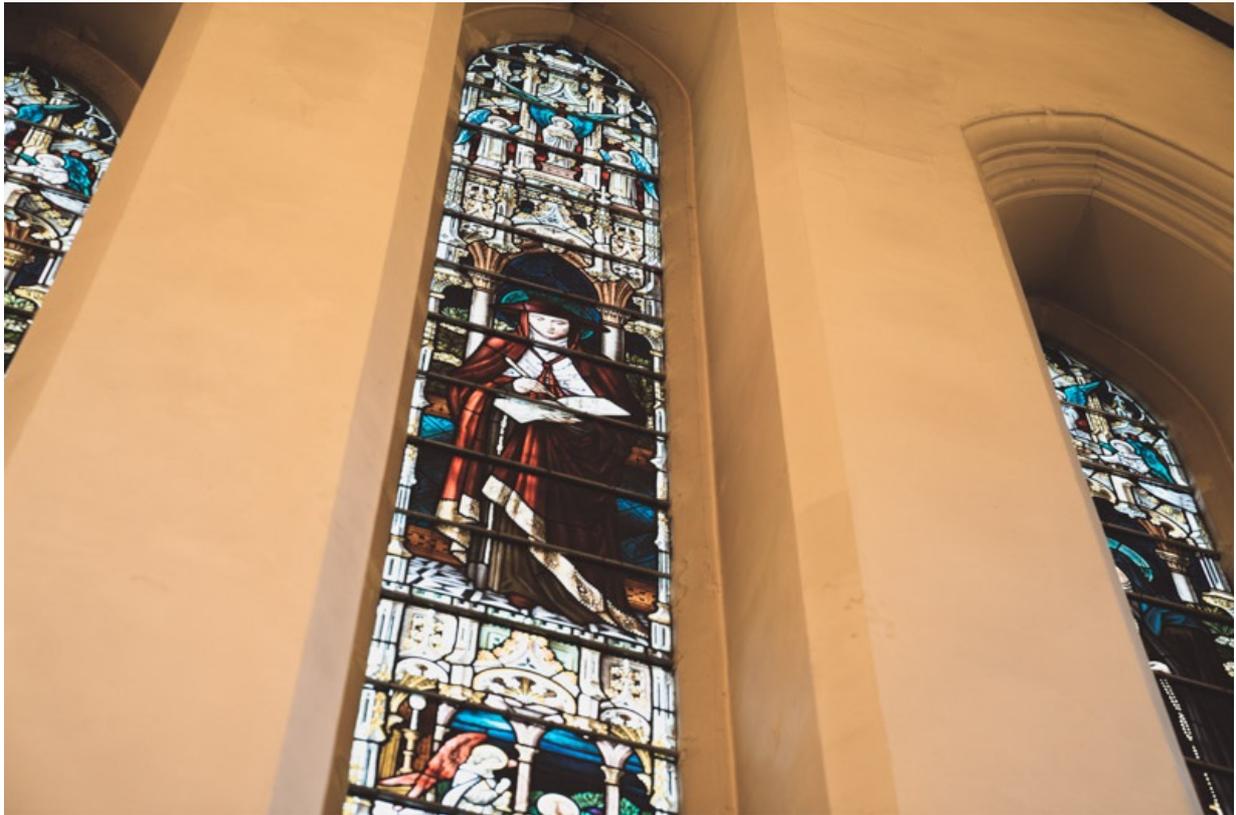


[View this email in your browser](#)



St Bon's eNewsletter

28th January 2018

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

A Message from Fr Tom

Last week, I announced that we would be holding a parish wide consultation on Mass times. This was in response to some parents telling me that our two evening Masses are too late for them to bring along small children. Obviously, I'm not a parent but this makes sense to me and it upset me that if this were true for a large number of our families, two of our three Sunday Masses are not serving our needs as a whole community. It seemed that a measure of the parish's thoughts was needed and after speaking with Bishop Declan and the priests of the Deanery, I have decided to hold the consultation over the next few weeks to see what people think. As we are undertaking such a big exercise, I thought we could also look at the time of our Sunday morning Mass to see if being a little later would suit some people's needs as well.

As I have been thinking about this, it has crossed my mind that there is a difference between a Mass time and a habit. The time of Mass is an objective thing, Mass is at 9.30am, that can be changed quite easily but what is not easy to change is the habit we form around that time. Obviously, my life is fixed around that time, I used to joke (complain) with the 8am congregation in Warminster that the only reason I was out of bed at that time of the morning on a Sunday was because of them! It is the habit we form around that time that is the hard thing to change. When a time is set, we develop a routine around that and if we have lived that routine for a long time and, especially if we enjoy it, it can be very hard to want or see a need for a different routine.

In my opinion 9.30am is not too early on a Sunday but if it is our only Sunday morning Mass and it is, it does seem early. I know it is at 9.30am because there used to be an 11.00am. Now there isn't, it is permissible to have our morning Mass at a

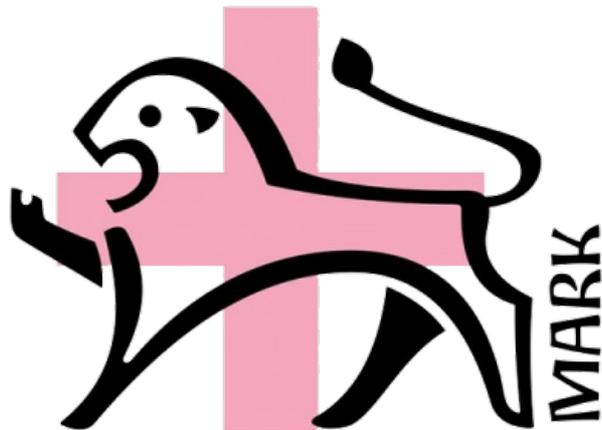
later time. If we were starting from scratch, I would assume a later time would be chosen. But we are not starting from scratch we are starting from our set routines. The benefit of a slightly later Mass is that it not only gives families a little longer to undertake the getting out of the house routine but also might benefit the older members of our congregation. There may be people who currently don't go to that Mass who would if it were later. That is why each of you is being asked to pick the times you would like for all the Masses. If we did change things, it may create new opportunities for some. Likewise an earlier evening Mass may suit those who currently don't go because it is too late. I know what you are thinking, what about those for whom the times are perfect and have set their decades long Sunday routines around them? That's ok they can have their say too!

You are being asked to make a 1st and 2nd choice for each Mass we have. This was the idea of a member of the Finance and Fabric Committee, it is a very good idea. It means that if a hundred people pick 7.00pm on Sunday as their first choice and a hundred people pick 5.30pm as their first choice but two hundred people pick 6.00pm as their second preferred choice that gives a good indication of what people are thinking. I am really excited about seeing the data that comes back from this. To capture the thoughts of as many people as possible the consultation will be open for the next four weeks. Please have a think about what you would like, we are setting the foundation for the future. Nothing may change because of this but then again everything may change!

Fr Tom

Year of Mission

MISSION

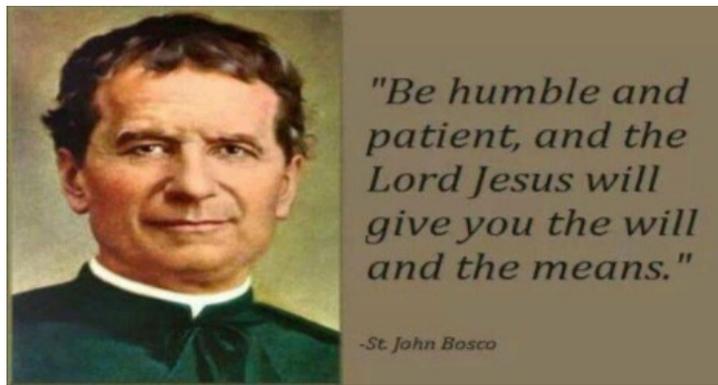


Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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:

Jesus makes that wonderful impression upon people in this weekend's gospel. He speaks with authority. Bishop Declan often links this word with the word authenticity. Jesus is authentic in everything he says and everything he does. That authenticity, that authority flows from his nearness to the Father. Jesus is 'plugged in' to the Father and his love so that it really is the Father's love that Jesus proclaims in all he says and does. It's an authority, and authenticity, a closeness that our world longs for and can find in us. Let's allow those we encounter this week to see something authentic and real in us. We don't necessarily want people to say, 'Wow!' but to find something of God's nearness to them, of his outreaching in us. Let us be signs that God cares and that God loves.

Saint of the Week



St John Bosco

Born in the Diocese of Turin in 1815, John was brought up by his mother in extreme poverty. He founded the Salesian Order working to education boys and young men of the working class as well as providing for the training of shoemakers and tailors. With his eloquent preaching and charismatic personality, he drew many to his oratory and evening classes. Renowned for dealing with difficult youths without punishment, he had a gentle and effective firmness. He died in 1888 and 40,000 visited his body as it lay in state.

News and Events

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

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. The questionnaire is now available at the back of church. It sets out times for each weekend Mass to enable parishioners to choose a first and second option. When completing the questionnaire, 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 questionnaire. It would also be helpful if you put on the questionnaire which Mass you normally attend. We look forward to hearing your views.

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 Counting Room in the Presbytery. Thank you again for all your support with this project.

First Holy Communion Programme (FHC): We had a brilliant first FHC session with the children last week. A reminder please that if your child was not baptised at St Bon's, please would you bring a copy of your child's baptism certificate to the next 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.

Welfare Group: Members of the Parish Welfare Group will meet in the Presbytery at 11.00am on Wednesday 31st January to pray for the sick and the housebound and for those who have died since our last meeting in October and their bereaved families. We shall also be discussing future plans for the way in which we can continue to, and best meet, the needs of our Parish community.

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.

Filipino Rosary Circle—A Day with Mary: Saturday 3rd February at St Gregory's Parish Church in Cheltenham. Fr Tom is giving a homily in the afternoon. There are flyers at the back of church if you are interested.

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.

Mass Times - Fourth Week of Ordinary Time

Sunday 28th January - Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9.30am Mass *Bridie Hearn R.I.P.*

7.00pm Mass *Pro Pop*

Monday 29th January - Weekday in Ordinary Time

No Morning Prayer or Morning Mass

1.00pm Requiem Mass *George Furlong R.I.P.*

Tuesday 30th January - Weekday in Ordinary Time

9.00am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass *Tom & Irene Loftus*

Wednesday 31st January - Memorial of St John Bosco

9.00am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass *Tom Millar R.I.P.*

9.45am Holy Hour

Thursday 1st February - Weekday in Ordinary Time

No Mass

Friday 2nd February - Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

7.00pm Mass *William & Johanna Loftus*

7.30pm Holy Hour

Saturday 3rd February - Weekday in Ordinary Time

7.00pm Mass (Vigil) *Judy Tooze 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: 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.

Copyright © 2018 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