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St Bon's eNewsletter

12th January 2018

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

A Message from Fr Tom

Here we are already in the throes of a new year. Christmas seems like a distant memory, the TV is full of adverts encouraging people to book their summer holidays, it seems we are looking ahead to what will be and have left behind what was. But because January can be a bit of a hard month for some - no money, cold dark days, diets - I thought I would do a little recap of the last month before talking about the exciting things that we are going to do this year.

We had a great Christmas at St Bon's. The month leading up to it was full of event. At school there was the Christmas fair, four nativities, a carol service, Advent reconciliations for years 4, 5 and 6 and a Christmas dinner and an end of term mass. For me the carol service stood out as one of the best I have been to anywhere. It was engaging, interactive, theatrical and spiritual in in one. In the parish, we kicked off Christmas with our senior citizens Christmas social with a mass of anointing - it was a great afternoon with plenty of laughter, the event was made all the more moving by the children from the school who came to sing. A highlight for me in the run up to Christmas was the nativity service. It was attended mainly by our families who are committed to the parish and made for a wonderful celebration of Christmas. There were plenty of fun activities and food and drink afterwards. Then we had Christmas its self. The masses went beautifully. And this year the Christmas tree lights stayed on for the duration of all the masses, that is success! I would like to say a massive thank you to every one who helped at the above events and over Christmas to make our church looks so wonderful and our liturgies and events run so well.

On a personal note, I would like to say a massive thank you to all of you who gave so generously to the Christmas

collection. I was touched by your kindness and consideration. I also received numerous Christmas cards with kind greetings and words of support and gratitude which I found truly touching, thank you.

So we find ourselves looking ahead to a new year full of promise for each of us but also for us as a parish community. Things feel really good at the moment, to me (I don't know about you!). It feels like we are in an exciting place. Adoration is at the heart of who we are and the 'find a prayer partner for the week during mass' has turned out to be more popular than I could ever have expected. It seems to be generating a feeling of excitement and involvement I have not felt in a parish before and in such a short space of time.

This year I feel we are really going to grow and develop as a community. One of my hopes for the parish this year is that each one of us will feel more committed, more part of St Bon's. I think people can be afraid to do things in the parish because of the sense of commitment it might mean in their already busy lives. But when I say I think people will feel more committed I don't mean to doing things but will feel more part of St Bon's, that they belong. And not just belong as in "this is my parish this is where I grew up", or "I have been coming here for years". You could have been coming here for centuries but it doesn't mean you feel you belong or that you are giving of yourself to the community. That is what I hope will grow, our own sense of what we put into St Bon's, how we see the parish. I hope we will all see it as a place where what "I do" matters, "I belong" here and "I care" for and about others who belong here too. That is community.

Fr Tom

Year of Mission



Second 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:

We leave the familiar scenes of Bethlehem behind so quickly. We've skipped through the waters of the Jordan this last week and now we enter into Ordinary Time. But we don't leave the Jordan's banks just yet for John the Baptist is pointing Jesus out to his own disciples. John has to let his own companions go to follow Jesus. John is not the centre of the message... but he discerns that Jesus is. That pointing starts a wonderful journey of people encountering Jesus and bringing others to him. There's something about Jesus and those with him that truly attracts. We evangelise through attraction! The challenge is to allow ourselves to be 'attractive' so that people are drawn to the Lord because of what they see of him in us. May we have eyes to see where we are being led closer to the Lord, but may we also have courage to lead others to Jesus, because it is all about him.

Saint of the Week



St Wulstan

Wulstan (1008-95) was a Benedictine monk at Worcester where he became prior. He was a great preacher and counsellor and became Bishop of Worcester in 1062, being the first English bishop known to have made a systematic visitation of his diocese. Under him Worcester became one of the most important centres of Old English literature and culture. He was known for his abstinence and generosity to the poor. With Lanfranc he was instrumental in abolishing the slave trade from Bristol to Viking Ireland. He re-founded the monastery at Westbury-on-Trym. He insisted on clerical celibacy and, under him, Worcester became renowned as a centre of Old English literature and culture.

News and Events

R.I.P.: Please pray for the repose of the souls of Eileen McGeary, Winifred McCann and George Furlong. Eileen McGeary's funeral will be on Friday 19th January at 9.30am. Winifred McCann's funeral will be on Wednesday 24th January at 1.30pm. George Furlong's funeral will be on Monday 29th January at 1pm. All will be taking place here at St Bon's.

Peace Sunday 14th January: The work of Pax Christi is based on the gospel and inspired by faith. Their vision is of a world where people can live in peace, without fear of violence in all its forms. Rooted in Catholic Christianity, they work with all who share their values to abolish war and create communities of peace and justice. If you would like to donate to Pax Christi this Peace Sunday, there are envelopes at the back of Church.

White Flower Appeal 13th & 14th January: The Society for the Protection of Unborn children (SPUC) will be holding its annual appeal this weekend. Thank you for your support.

Christmas Thank You: Fr Tom would like to say a huge thank you for all the wonderful cards and offerings he received this Christmas. You are a wonderful, generous community and he is so grateful for everything you do for him and our church.

Prisoner Gift Project: Please see the following from the Governor of Bristol Prison:
"The impact of the Christmas Gift project cannot be overstated, the vibrancy and hope felt across the prison 'post the delivery' was immense. Many of the men were touched and surprised by the generosity. On behalf of everyone in Bristol, a massive thank you to everyone involved for their kindness and charity. Your invaluable support has helped us to further develop a true sense of community and hope, that we desire for our prison."

Sponsored Christmas Cards: Many thanks to all those who bought the sponsored Christmas cards. The total money raised was £226, which has been donated to the St Bon's Development Fund. Thank you so much to Sue Jones for her initiative and beautiful cards.

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: An email has been sent to all those who have registered their children for the FHC programme this year. The first session will be on 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.

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

CAFOD: Hear about CAFOD's work in Zimbabwe this Lent!—come along and hear from one of the speakers at one of our Lent Events – Chris Bain, Director of CAFOD, will be speaking at the Bristol event: Wednesday January 31st – Holy Family Church Southsea Road, Patchway, Bristol BS34 5DP 7.00pm-8.30pm Or hear a speaker from CAFOD at Saturday February 3rd 2.00 – 4.00pm: Gloucester - English Martyrs Church, Tuffley Lane, Tuffley, Gloucester, GL4 0NX Or hear a speaker from CAFOD at Saturday February 10th 2.00 – 4.00pm: Trowbridge – St John the Baptist church, 2 Wingfield Road, Trowbridge BA14 9EA. Booking is essential for all events as space is limited – email Liz on ebaldwin@cafod.org.uk or call 01179 428 328.

HCPT 200 Club: Congratulations to the winners of the December and January draws.

December: £60 Patricia Tester 107, £25 Barbara Garry 81, £10 Ann Kennard 23

January: £60 Angela and Eric Pitt 141; £25 Kate Hayes 84; £15 Mary Miskella 106.

Newsletter Items: Please can any items be emailed to the Parish Office by Wednesday 10am to include them in that weekend's newsletter.

Mass Times - Second Week of Ordinary Time

Sunday 14th January - Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

9.30am Mass *Deceased Members and Friends of the Carruthers Family*

7.00pm Mass *David Mathieson R.I.P.*

Monday 15th January - Weekday in Ordinary Time

9.00am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass *June Krysta R.I.P.*

Tuesday 16th January - Weekday in Ordinary Time

9.00am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass *Dennis Chandler R.I.P.*

Wednesday 17th January - Memorial of St Anthony

9.00am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass *Vaughan Spruces*

9.45am Holy Hour

Thursday 18th January - Weekday in Ordinary Time

No Mass

Friday 19th January - Memorial of St Wulstan

9.30am Requiem Mass *Eileen McGeary R.I.P.*

No evening Mass or Holy Hour

Saturday 20th January - Weekday in Ordinary Time

7.00pm Mass (Vigil) *Eileen McGeary 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, 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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