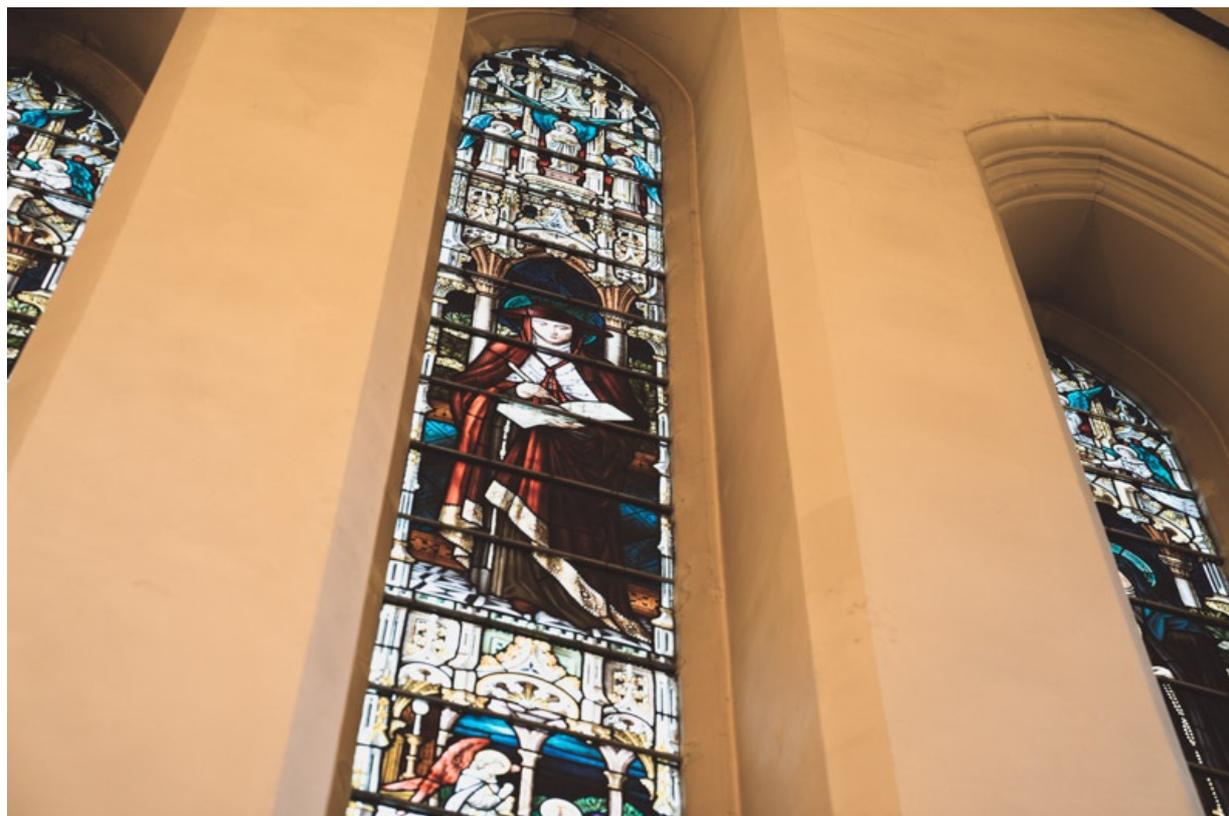


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## St Bon's eNewsletter

23rd February 2018

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

### A Message from Fr Tom

The Friday just passed was the CAFOD Lenten Fast Day. CAFOD stands for the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development. It is the charity of the Bishop's Conference of England and Wales to help bring development and aid to struggling parts of the world. Every Lent and Advent, they hold a national Fast Day and ask their representatives to read a set text to parishes across the country. The purpose of this text is to provoke us into giving and to share their work in changing people's lives around the world. Last Sunday, Hilary Farey gave her characteristic fantastic appeal, with her trade mark enthusiasm and punchiness. But despite her approach what she said left me feeling very sad. Two comments Hilary made really struck me, they may have struck you too.

The first was when she said 'Fr Tom has been exhorting us to fast and abstain in Lent but for many people in the world fasting is not a choice but a daily reality'. I cannot convey how humbled and sad I felt. For all our choosing to fast, we have the luxury and privilege of that choice. It is a choice because we are super privileged, if we don't eat well that is a choice, which of the many named supermarkets we choose to go to is a luxury. For millions, if they are lucky enough to have food, they may have no choice over what they eat. I remember a very humbling experience when I went to Uganda for a missionary experience in 2003.

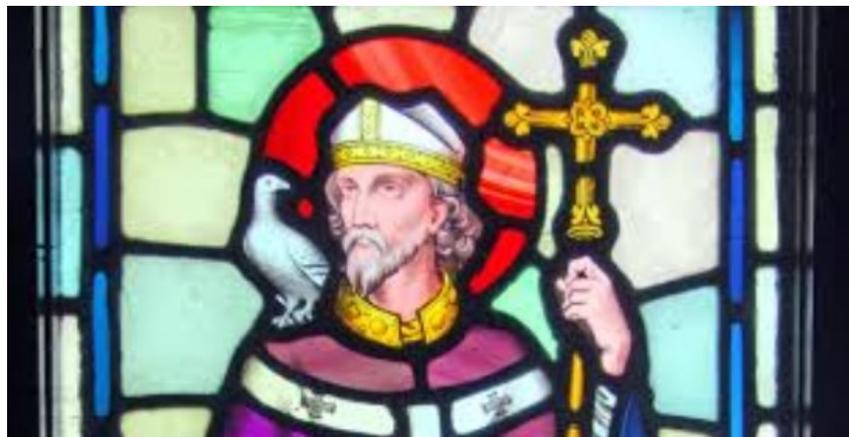
I was bored to death by the white or brown maize that accompanied every single meal. To me it was tasteless and depressing to eat meal after meal after meal, it was sometimes accompanied by the luxury of chicken but it was so rubbery you had to chew it for ages just to swallow it. One day we went out into the bush in the north of the country, in the

Karamajong region, to do about thirty Baptisms. For the celebration, the local community cooked a goat. The goat was amazing and it was seasoned beautifully. As a guest of honour, I was given one of the first helpings of goat and a big dollop of white tasteless maize. Having eaten my fill, I put my plate to one side only for a young girl to snatch it from me and lick the discarded bones clean and to eat the maize I did not want to finish. I felt firmly put in my privileged place. The injustice and inequality I felt from seeing how those people lived has never left me, it is like a nagging voice in the back of my head. That girl and her community, while having little, had food. Millions in our world have no food.

To get that point across, Hilary ended her talk by saying that during the time she had spoken four children would have died around the world from malnutrition and the diseases that accompany it. That hit me hard. It didn't stop me going out for a nice Sunday lunch with a friend but it has knocked my complacency. If you add that statistic to the 45 million people in slavery around the globe and the 200,000 homeless in the U.K., the lives we lead can seem farcically over privileged. Our worries and concerns about what to eat, what to wear, where to live can seem a little grotesque. While we are not going to sell up and give the proceeds to the poorest of our world we have so much we can give them. Thanks to the many aid agencies, including CAFOD, who serve the poorest, we have every means at our disposal to do so. Have a Happy Lent!

Fr Tom

## Saint of the Week

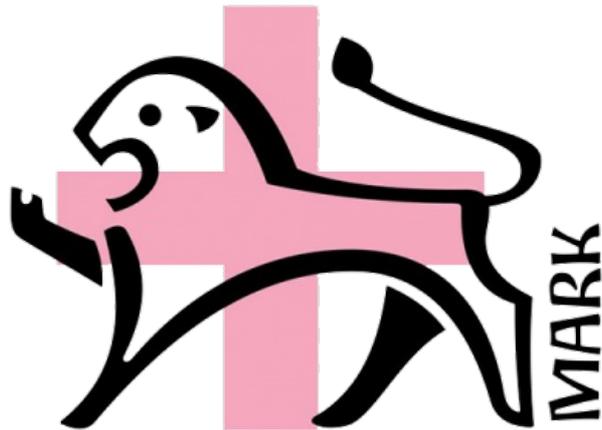


### St David

David (d. 601 or 589) was a monk of the 6th century. Since the 12th century he has been regarded as the patron of Wales; he is also the only Welsh saint to be canonised in the Western church. He was primarily a saint of Pembrokeshire (Dyfed). His cult spread through South Wales by dedications well before the 12th century. He is said to have travelled to Brittany and Cornwall after the plague of 547. He is also said to have founded ten monasteries, among them Menevia and Glastonbury, where the monks lived in extreme hardship, imitating the monks of Egypt in their regime of heavy manual labour and study. David is usually depicted in episcopal vestments, standing on a mound with a dove at his shoulder, in memory of his share in the Synod of Brevi.

## Year of Mission

# MISSION



## Second Sunday in Lent

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

There's a theme flowing through the readings for this Season in Year B and it seems to be the theme of Covenant. Noah and the rainbow featured in last week's first reading and this Sunday's reading of Abraham's sacrifice speaks to us of God forming a people for himself. This reading anticipates the Covenant God enters into with Abraham. This Lent is a time for renewed relationships – with God and with others. Maybe our focus this second week of Lent rests upon renewing those relationships in our lives that are not quite right! We might have to make a first move but in doing so we truly imitate God who always takes the initiative to enter into love with us. It might be that we take up the opportunity to renew our relationship with the Lord in prayer but also through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. God waits for us there! God waits to heal us, to renew us, to strengthen us and to love us. He will not abandon us for through his Son he has entered into an everlasting Covenant with us... and he will not go back on his word.

## News and Events

**R.I.P.:** Please pray for the repose of the soul of Una Cunniffe, who has died recently. Una's funeral will be here at St Bon's on Wednesday 7th March at 10am.

**Those whose anniversary occurs at this time:** Tom Clements

**Stations of the Cross:** Every Friday during Lent at 11.30am and 6.15pm.

**Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration:** A few gaps have arisen in our Eucharistic Adoration programme. These are on a Tuesday afternoon 12.00 noon-1pm and 3pm-4pm. Please could you help by volunteering to sit in the presence of the Holy Eucharist for just one hour? We guarantee this experience will greatly improve your prayer life and bring you closer to God's wonderful existence within our lives. You may never experience this unless you actually give it a try! Please contact one of the Adoration leaders if you can help. Thanking you in anticipation.

**Mass Times:** As most of you will be aware, Fr Tom would like to ask your opinion as to whether you would like to see a different time for the weekend Masses. The questionnaire is available at the back of church or you can complete it online via <https://tinyurl.com/stbonmass>. 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. If you have already completed a paper questionnaire, thank you and please do not complete the online one as well. We look forward to hearing your views. The deadline is 4th March.

**Business Centre & Development Fund:** Thank you for your tremendous support and pledges. Please don't forget to collect your signed loan certificates from the Counting Room in the Presbytery. Thank you again for all your support with this project and thank you to

Bristol Spaceworks for their great efforts in finding us occupants for all the offices.

**Praying the Rosary:** The monthly Parish Rosary Prayer Group will meet on Tuesday 6th March 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.

**Lenten Reconciliation Mass:** The Lenten Reconciliation Mass will take place at St Teresa's on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March at 7pm led by Bishop Declan. You are warmly invited to attend.

**Living with Dementia:** Dementia is a devastating disease and can be isolating not only for the person suffering from this condition but also their carer. Coming to Mass and taking part can become more difficult as things progress. If you or a member of your family or a friend have dementia and would be interested in supporting each other either by just talking, sharing experiences and information or meeting for coffee then please contact Margaret Crowley on 071562353650.

**Modern Slavery Event:** Following on from the collection of Christmas presents for the women in the Modern Slavery safe house, St Bon's would like to provide continued support. We understand that there are items required on an on going basis for the house (such as welcome packs for the ladies, who arrive with nothing but the clothes they are wearing) and also that there is the opportunity to provide social support (with some training). In order to get a full picture of what is required Simone Lord, the manager of the house, will visit us on Sunday 18th March. She will speak at both Masses. We are also organising an afternoon event in the Presbytery from 5pm-6.30pm on the same day with a much more detailed talk and an opportunity to ask questions and speak with Simone. Please could you let the Parish Office know if you wish to come (for numbers). Please bring a friend who might be interested in helping. Those who do not attend St Bon's are also welcome to attend.

**St Bon's Fundraising Charity Gig:** Ad Hoc will be playing a gig to raise funds for the Church on Saturday 12th May from 7.30pm until 11.30pm. Tickets £5 on the door. The 4 piece band will play covers from Stevie Wonder to The Jam, including Van Morrison and Bruce Springsteen etc. Venue is the Church Hall and please feel free to bring your own drinks.

**St Bon's Newsletter:** In an effort to reduce the amount of paper we use, we are now printing less copies of the paper newsletter and encouraging as many to subscribe to the e-Newsletter as possible. If you have access to the internet, please go to our website [www.stbonsbristol.co.uk](http://www.stbonsbristol.co.uk) and at the bottom of the homepage you can add your email to subscribe. If you do subscribe already, please do not take a paper copy as well as these are needed by those without access to the internet.

**"Arise"- English Retreat and Healing Service:** Monday 12th March from 6pm - 9pm at St Vincent de Paul RC Church, Embleton Road, Southmead, Bristol, BS10 6DS. The day will comprise of Praise and Worship, Word of God sharing, Testimonies, Spiritual Sharing, Holy Mass and Adoration.

**Clifton Diocese Accounting Officer Vacancy:** Reporting to the Diocesan Financial Administrator, this role is based in the Finance Office. at Alexander House, Bristol. The team is small and friendly, but also very busy. The key components of this role are purchase ledger, sales ledger and banking administration. The role also covers a wide range of other tasks related to maintaining the nominal ledger and general bookkeeping. Full-time 35 hours per week. For further details and an application form visit: [www.cliftdiocese.com/diocese/working-for-us](http://www.cliftdiocese.com/diocese/working-for-us). Closing date for receipt of applications: Friday 9th March 2018.

**HCPT 200 Club:** Congratulations to the winners of the February draw—£60 Robert Eastman 60, £25 Tony and Karen Nelson 178 and £10 Mary Carroll 110.

**Second Collection:** Lent Fast Day—please find the envelopes at the back of Church.

## Mass Times - Second Week of Lent

Sunday 25th February - Second Sunday of Lent

9.30am Mass *John O'Neill R.I.P.*

7.00pm Mass *Pro Pop*

Monday 26th February - Weekday of Lent

9.00am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass *In Thanksgiving*

Tuesday 27th February - Weekday of Lent

9.00am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass

Wednesday 28th February - Weekday of Lent

9.00am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass

9.45am Holy Hour

Thursday 1st March - Feast of St David

No Mass

Friday 2nd March - Weekday of Lent

7.00pm Mass

7.30pm Holy Hour

Saturday 3rd March - Weekday of Lent

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

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