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St Bon's eNewsletter

16th March 2018

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

A Message from Fr Tom

I don't want to labour a point, but I'm going to! Salisbury, yes little Salisbury, was the topic of conversation at the UN Security Council meeting last week, in fact the Security Council was convened specifically to talk about the events in Salisbury and the international fall out from them. I do accept though that this is a dubious honour!

It seems strange thinking about those events because I am writing this article sat in a slightly dated, but all the better for it, arm chair in a cosy room at the Bernadine Cistercian monastery near Stroud. I have come for a retreat day. It is something I make time for every Advent and Lent as part of my preparation for the coming liturgical celebrations. Sat here the world I have left behind need not exist. If I stayed here forever and didn't listen to any news, my life would probably not be affected, the peace of this place and its rhythm of life are all I need, I highly recommend it. But I am not staying here forever, I love you all too much for that, and the nuns who live here do read the news. The idea of a retreat house is not to hide from the world (however, appealing that may seem at times) but to come and find peace and pray for our world. It seems at the moment that we are in need of prayer.

What has surprised me so much this week is Russia's reaction to the accusation that it was responsible for the nerve agent attack in Salisbury. I thought the Russian government may have said yes we did it but we don't care, but they have derided our politicians and have accused us of being aggressive towards them. I was only alive for a small part of the Cold War, the Berlin Wall came down when I was 11 years old, but it sounded dreadful as did the Cuban Missile Crisis. I have not really had experience of another state demonstrably showing aggression and contempt for Britain in my life time and I find it

unnerving.

An ex-MI5 spy expert was suggesting on the radio that our government's reaction to this situation may be a bit rash and from what they were saying they may be right. Yet, as an average punter, as a man on the street, I am delighted they have taken a firm line with Russia because Russian state sponsored terror on our streets cannot become the new normal, yet by being firm our government is provoking an international crisis which doesn't feel good. While I would like to stay hidden behind these walls for a while more, I realise that the world exists to be lived in.

As we continue in this season of Lent, let us pray and fast for peace in our world, that the international tension we find ourselves embroiled in be resolved cordially for the good of all.

Fr Tom

Saint of the Week

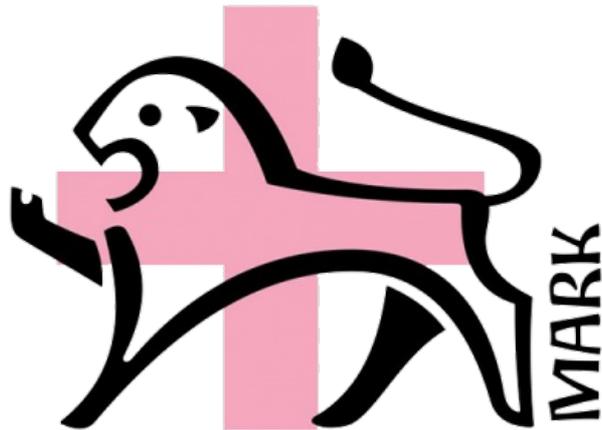


St Turibius of Mongrovejo

1538-1606. Turibius was a lay professor of law at Salamanca University from which Philip II appointed him Principal Judge in the court of the Inquisition at Granada. Very unexpectedly, he was appointed archbishop of Lima. Both these appointments were most unusual ones for a layman to hold. Turibius in vain pleaded his own incapacity and the enactments of canon law, which forbade such promotions. All was in vain; he received orders and was consecrated bishop. He arrived in Lima in 1581 and his vast diocese comprised some thousands of square miles; his first visitation took seven years. Spanish conquerors often gave appalling examples of tyranny, oppression, and cynical disregard for Christian moral teaching. Turibius took positive steps to improve matters by building churches and founding hospitals and religious houses. In 1591, he founded the first seminary for priests in the New World. He championed the rights of the Indians and the poor.

Year of Mission

MISSION



Fifth 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:

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Covenant is renewed in this Sunday's first reading. You could say that the Covenant is re-written and re-inscribed but not in a way that God's People had imagined. Remember that image from two Sundays ago and the gift of Law on Mount Sinai. There the Law was written on those two tablets of stone; now it is to be written on the human heart. God plants his law deep within us writing it upon the very core of our being. In doing so God shows mercy, compassion and forgiveness towards his people in giving them a new start. But maybe during this Year of Mission we need to take note of the request made to Philip in the Gospel, 'We want to see Jesus'. It may not be articulated in such a way, but is that the request of today? Are there people looking for Jesus, wanting to find him and come near to him? The answer is 'yes'. As disciples, we are the ones who can point people to the Lord; we can enable people to find him and encounter him in us if our lives are centred on the law of love planted within us. We mustn't be afraid of allowing others who search to encounter the Lord through us!

News and Events

Holy Week Mass Times:

Maundy Thursday 29th March

8pm Mass

Good Friday 30th March

9.30am Stations of the Cross

11am Children's Stations of the Cross

3pm Mass

Holy Saturday Easter Vigil 31st March

8.30pm Vigil Mass

Easter Sunday 1st April

9.30am and 7pm Mass

Anniversaries: Kathleen Cullen.

Stations of the Cross: On Friday 23rd March there will only be Stations at 6.15pm as we have a funeral at 12pm.

Lenten Reconciliation: There will be a Reconciliation here at St Bon's on the 20th March at 7.30pm. Bishop Declan will also be leading a Lenten Reconciliation Mass at St Teresa's on Thursday 22nd March at 7pm.

Good Friday Children's Stations of the Cross: We will be having our annual Children's Stations of the Cross Service on Good Friday at 11am followed by soup and hot cross buns in the Presbytery from 12noon. If your child/ children would like to be part of the service either reading or taking part on the reflection, please contact Neta Roylance-Smith on 07980175565 or by email at neta_pourhosseini@hotmail.com.

Good Friday Soup Lunch: Our traditional Good Friday soup lunch will take place again this year. We are looking for volunteers to make soup for the lunch and for people to help on the day. If you are able to make some soup, please e-mail Karen Nelson karenanelson@blueyonder.co.uk or Dorothy O'Farrell dotofarrell@blueyonder.co.uk who will let you know what is required. Helpers on Maundy Thursday afternoon to move the tables and chairs over would also be most welcome. Please contact Dorothy if you are able to help with this. Thank you. The soup lunch will be served from 12 noon on Good Friday with donations going to charity. There is a list at the back of the church for those intending to come. If you do plan on coming, please sign the list.

Divine Mercy Sunday: On Sunday 8th April we will have our traditional Divine Mercy celebration starting at 2.30pm. Further details to follow but please put the date in your diary.

Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration: There are still a couple of gaps in our Eucharistic Adoration programme. These are on a Tuesday morning 8am-9am and now also a Tuesday evening 7pm-8pm. 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. Please could we also ask if you are able to provide occasional cover that you also contact the team to offer your time and support. Thanking you in anticipation.

Holy Land Pilgrimage: We are planning a pilgrimage to the Holy Land during the February 2019 half term (16th—23rd February 2019). Cost will be approximately £1,500 per person, including flights, accommodation, meals on a half-board basis (breakfast and dinner), a professional English speaking guide, transport in the Holy Land and all entrance fees. If you would be interested, please contact the Parish Office.

Church Flowers: Thank you to the wonderful flower group that prepared the beautiful daffodils for Mothering Sunday. Your hard work was greatly appreciated. We do need more volunteers to help our flower group. It is not a huge commitment and you will be working as part of a team. Please contact the Parish Office if you can offer your help.

Mothering Sunday CAFOD Cake Sale: Thank you to everyone who supported the CAFOD cake sale last Sunday. £107.00 was raised, which when doubled by the Government will give a total donation of £214.00.

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 07562353650.

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. In order to get a full picture of what we can do to help, Hannah Beattie from the Medaille Trust is visiting us this 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 Hannah. 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.

Praying the Rosary: The monthly Parish Rosary Prayer Group will meet on Tuesday 10th April at 2pm in the Sitting Room (not 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.

Missio Red Box Holders: The Spring 2018 edition of 'Mission Today' is now available to collect from the table in the church porch.

HCPT 200 Club: Congratulations to the winners of the March draw: £60 Mary Hethrington 64, £25 Margaret Griffin 140 and £15 Sue Jones 2.

Mass Times - Fifth Week of Lent

Sunday 18th March - Fifth Sunday of Lent

9.30am Mass *Mary O'Brien R.I.P.*
7.00pm Mass *Pro Pop*

Monday 19th March - Solemnity of St Joseph

9.00am Morning Prayer
9.15am Mass *Francis & Johanna Higgins R.I.P.*

Tuesday 20th March - Weekday of Lent

9.00am Morning Prayer
9.15am Mass *Edward Williams R.I.P.*

Wednesday 21st March - Weekday of Lent

9.15am St Bonaventure's School Passiontide Mass
No Morning Prayer or Holy Hour

Thursday 22nd March - Weekday of Lent

No Mass

Friday 23rd March - Commemoration of St Turibius of Mongrovejo

12.00pm Funeral *Coleman O'Donnell R.I.P.*
7.00pm Mass
7.30pm Holy Hour

Saturday 24th March - Weekday of Lent

7.00pm Mass (Vigil) *George Buckley 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, Kathleen Ward and Maria Wysocka.

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