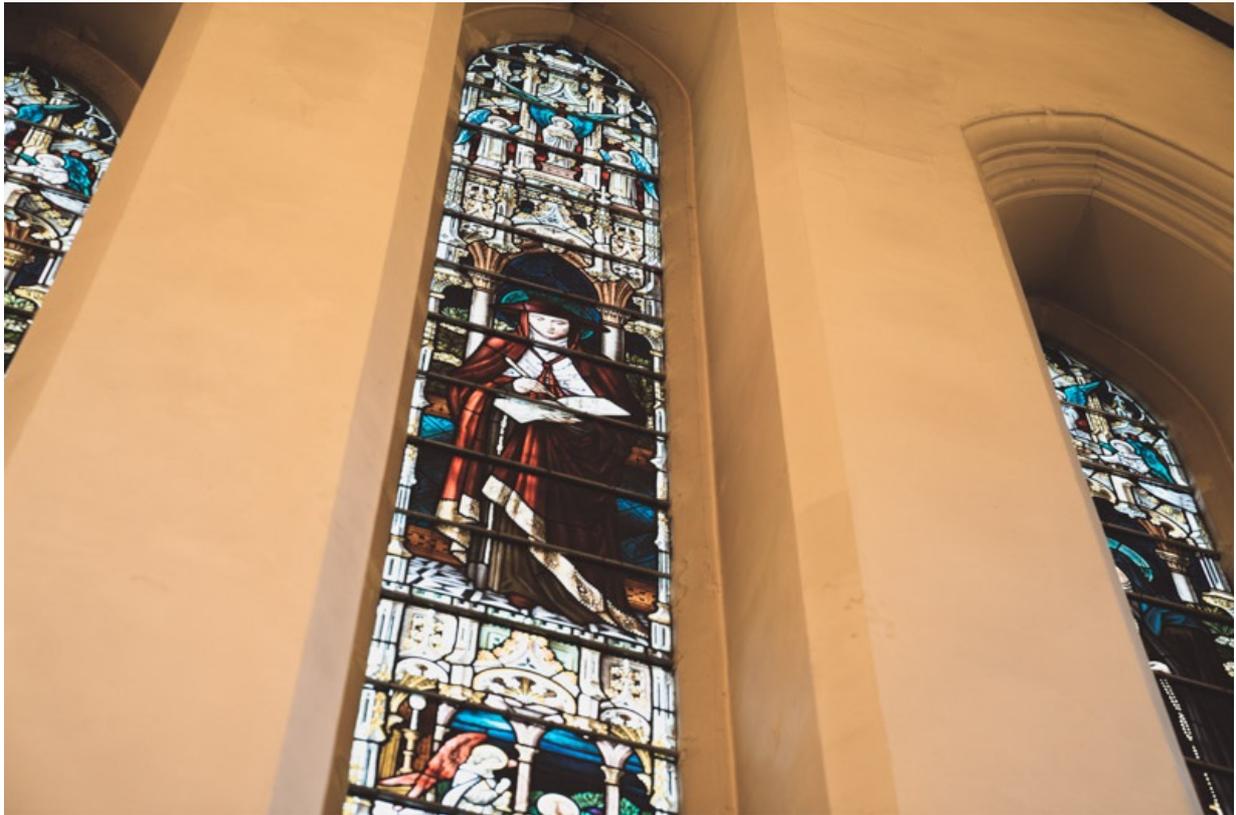


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St Bon's eNewsletter

23rd March - 7th April 2018

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

A Message from Fr Tom

I am not not a fan of Ant and Dec they are just not my thing. In my world, they are a noise in the background as I catch the tail end of "I'm a Celebrity" or wait for "The Voice" to come on. They are too high energy for me, I prefer gritty dark TV like "The Fall", "Line of Duty" or "McMafia". But it was with sadness that I watched the images of Ant as he emerged looking drunk, confused and shocked from his black Mini, which he had just crashed into someone else's car last Sunday morning. He looked pitiable, he is evidently in trouble and his troubles are now spilling out into public life. How such a lovely and likeable hero of reality TV has fallen. We are becoming used to those we put on pedestals having clay feet. In public life, over the last decade we have suffered scandal after scandal leading to a depth of cynicism previously unseen in modern times. But if we take a look down we may see our own clay feet.

It is because we have clay feet or to be more precise because we are made of clay that Jesus came to redeem us. The mercy and love of God knows no bounds and in his limitless love for us he became man for us, took our sin to himself, died and rose to new life for us. Easter is the high point of our year, the paschal mystery is our life, in the paschal mystery, we receive the forgiveness of our sins and the promise of new and eternal life, it is the central mystery of our faith.

Yet this week we commemorate Jesus going from hero to zero. The divine healer, the miracle man of Nazareth goes from feeder of thousands, to enemy of the state. He was caught in a contrived and complex political drama which only saw one outcome for him. Yet in his fall from grace we are pulled from the dirt. We cannot begin to imagine how confused and shocked his disciples must have felt. Yet their confusion at his crucifixion does not compare with their utter

incomprehension of his resurrection! The chaotic Gospel passages about the resurrection evidence just how churned up the disciples were, they had no reference point for the resurrection. Easter is a time of deep sadness and great joy, despite our clay feet, God loves us so much! I pray that for each of us this Easter will be a time when we are renewed in our faith and hopefully a time when we can rest and relax over the holiday period.

Fr Tom



Holy Week Mass Times

Maundy Thursday 29th March 2018

8.00pm Mass

Good Friday 30th March 2018

9.30am Stations of the Cross

11.00am Children's Stations of the Cross

3.00pm Passion of the Lord

Holy Saturday Easter Vigil 31st March 2018

8.30pm Vigil Mass

Easter Sunday 1st April 2018

9.30am and 7.00pm Mass

Good Friday



Good Friday is a day of Fasting and Abstinence

Fasting is observed by all 18 years of age and older, who have not yet celebrated their 59th birthday. On a fast day, one full meal is allowed. Two other meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including milk and juices, are allowed. Parents should ensure that even those who are still too young to be bound by the laws of fasting and abstinence are trained to have a true appreciation of penance.

Abstinence is observed by all 14 years of age and older. On days of abstinence, no meat is allowed. Note that when health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige. When in doubt concerning fast and abstinence, the parish priest should be consulted. Almsgiving in conjunction with fast and abstinence and linked with a greater intensity in prayer opens our awareness to the needs of others for whom fasting and abstinence are a way of life by virtue of their socio-economic status. For those of us who have the privilege of being able to fast and abstain,

we do so in solidarity with our less fortunate sisters and brothers throughout the world, and unite our sacrifice with theirs in interceding to the Lord for peace in our time.

Year of Mission

MISSION



Palm Sunday

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

Palm Sunday

As we enter into Holy Week with great procession we will listen to Mark's account of the Passion. It appears so stark and bleak and we should notice the contrast from how Jesus stands at the beginning of the gospel. Do you notice that now Jesus is alone? All the crowds that flocked around him have vanished and even his own disciples have fled. Jesus, the Son of God, is left abandoned and alone, broken and bruised. But the centurion is the one to point out who Jesus is: he is the Son of God, the innocent one, rejected and crushed, taking upon himself our faults. The cross has been on the horizon from the start of Jesus' ministry and it has to be a feature in the life of the disciple. Our Year of Mission allows us to see our own discipleship as that same outreach of love towards our world. It is God's love we proclaim revealed in the outstretched arms of Jesus, the Christ, the Anointed One of God. This is how we live mission and how we live discipleship, in the giving of ourselves for the life of the world: loving to the cost of everything.

News and Events

R.I.P: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Giuseppina Cimmino who has died recently.

Good Friday Collection for the Holy Places of the Holy Land: Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, head of the Vatican's Congregation for Eastern Churches has called on Catholics around the world to give generously to the Good Friday collection that traditionally goes to support the Church in the Holy Land. Faced with the events that "take place in this troubled region of the world", the Cardinal says, there is a risk that we see them as unconnected to our own lives, "as if we had no responsibility". But by taking part in this annual collection for the Holy Land, he says, Catholics can personally contribute to combatting "war, poverty, terrorism, violence, division". The collection for the Holy Land has been supported by the different Popes over the decades, to "keep a strong bond between all Christians across the world and the Holy Places". Please give as generously as you can to support Catholics in the Holy Land.

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.

Lourdes Petitions: Several of our parishioners will be travelling to Lourdes at Easter with HCPT group 176. We are extremely grateful to St Bon's Parishioners who have supported our fundraising throughout the year. A candle will be lit for you all at the grotto. If you have petitions that you would like taken to the holy Shrine please pop them in an envelope and leave them in the Presbytery clearly marked LOURDES PETITIONS by Good Friday.

Divine Mercy Sunday: On Sunday 8th April we will have our traditional Divine Mercy celebration starting at 2.30pm. Confessions will be available from 2pm. Please see the poster at the back of Church for further information.

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: Please do consider volunteering to help with 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.

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.

livesimply



livesimply Thought for the Week:

'Only by cultivating sound virtues will people be able to make a selfless ecological commitment. A person who could afford to spend and consume more but regularly uses less heating and wears warmer clothes, shows the kind of convictions and attitudes which help to protect the environment. There is a nobility in the duty to care for creation through little daily actions. [...] We must not think that these efforts are not going to change the world. They benefit society, often unbeknown to us, for they call forth a goodness which, albeit unseen, inevitably tends to spread.' Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'* On care for our common home, 2015 # 211-212

Mass Times - Sixth Week of Lent

Sunday 25th March - Palm Sunday

9.30am Mass *Pro Pop*
7.00pm Mass *Jill Rees Int.*

Monday 26th March - Monday of Holy Week

9.00am Morning Prayer
9.15am Mass *Kath Ward (ill)*

Tuesday 27th March - Tuesday of Holy Week

9.00am Morning Prayer
9.15am Mass *Tony Willman R.I.P.*

Wednesday 28th March - Wednesday of Holy Week

9.00am Morning Prayer
9.15am Mass *Anthony Lane R.I.P.*
9.45am Holy Hour

Thursday 29th March - Maundy Thursday

8.00pm Mass *Private Intention*

Friday 30th March - Good Friday

9.30am Stations of the Cross
11.00am Children's Stations of the Cross
3.00pm Passion of the Lord

Saturday 31st March - Holy Saturday

8.30pm Holy Saturday Easter Vigil Mass

Mass Times - First Week of Easter

Sunday 1st April - Sunday of the Resurrection

9.30am Mass
7.00pm Mass

Monday 2nd April - Monday within the Octave of Easter

10.00am Mass *Marianne Tomasch R.I.P.*

Tuesday 3rd April - Tuesday within the Octave of Easter

9.00am Morning Prayer
9.15am Mass *James Connery*

Wednesday 4th April - Wednesday within the Octave of Easter

9.00am Morning Prayer
9.15am Mass

9.45am Holy Hour

Thursday 5th April - Thursday within the Octave of Easter

No Mass

Friday 6th April - Friday within the Octave of Easter

7.00pm Mass
7.30pm Holy Hour

Saturday 7th April - Saturday within the Octave of Easter

7.00pm Mass (Vigil) *Eileen Bulger 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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