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St Bon's eNewsletter

8th April - 15th April 2018

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

A Message from Fr Tom

During the Easter vigil last week I was spell bound, so much so that I made quite a big mistake. The singing and music were beautiful and I could have stayed listening to it all night, there was such a sense of peace in the church. The psalms which were sung after each reading were heavenly, it was like going to a Trappist convent or monastery. It was after the last psalm that I forgot a prayer I had to say. It was quite important because it affected the running order of the mass, but it didn't cause too much chaos.

The beauty of the vigil summed up the liturgies of Easter, they were moving and beautiful. I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make them happen. A small number of people did so much, the cleaners, the flower arrangers, the sacristan the musicians and singers, the altar servers, those who arranged the children's stations of the cross on Good Friday and to the team who worked so hard to serve the soup for the charity lunch. I was touched by the hard work people put in to great affect. I am sure those who attended the liturgies over the triduum were equally moved by them, as I have already received some appreciative feedback.

Christmas is a celebration which is big and exciting and has its own special atmosphere but Easter, the bigger and more pivotal of the two, is much smaller and more intimate in the way it is celebrated. Easter is not about glitz and excitement. Blessed Cardinal Newman famously wrote that prayer is about 'heart speaking unto heart'. The heart of God communicating with our heart in intimacy. That is Easter, it is a feast where we come to be with our God, in his passion for us, in his suffering and death and in the overwhelming new life he gives us in the resurrection of Jesus. One ancient author has

described Easter as 'The most longed for feast of the year'. It is the feast at which the church traditionally welcomes its new members through baptism, it is the feast that gives the church (and the world) new life.

In our parish it is very important that we consider how we are going to cultivate the small green shoots of new life in our community. What would new life look like for us? Does it mean having new people join our community? Yes. Does it mean having lots of new people? No. Does it mean having more committed members of the community, people willing to get stuck in and lend a hand? Yes. That would be a welcome sign of growth. It was commented that during the Good Friday Soup lunch people were really happy to chip in and help out, thank you. It comes down to you and your heart to heart with God. Does his love for you make you want to give back and serve in your parish community? I hope so, that really is a sign of new life, and new life is what being a disciple of Christ is all about.

Fr Tom



Mass Times

Sunday 8th April
Second Sunday of Easter
9.30am Mass Richard Long-Fox R.I.P.

Monday 9th April
Solemnity of the Annunciation
12pm Mass

Tuesday 10th April
Weekday of Easter
12pm Mass

Wednesday 11th April
Saint Stanislaus
12pm Mass

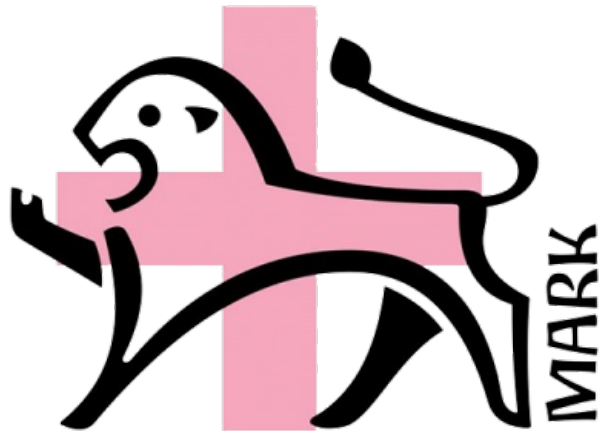
Thursday 12th April
Weekday of Easter
No Mass

Friday 13th April
Weekday of Easter
7.00pm Mass
7.30pm Holy Hour

Saturday 14th April
Third Sunday of Easter
7.00pm (Vigil) Mass

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday 6.00pm-6.40pm

MISSION



SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

As the Father sent me, so I send you! These words of the Risen Christ draw the disciples into a new mode of being. They are not simple followers any longer; they are touched and anointed by that outpouring of the Spirit to be the very mission of Jesus. His work is now their work. As he was sent, so now he sends and they are to be caught up in continuing to proclaim Good News in all they do. His is a work of peace-bringing and of healing and forgiveness. And then we encounter Thomas who has to touch the wounds of Christ in order to believe. In that simple gesture of Thomas we are reminded of the mission to reach out and touch the woundedness of those around us and to leave them having encountered peace. May the wounds and brokenness of those we encounter this week know the healing balm of Christ's mercy and his compassion through us and through the peace we breath upon them.

News and Events

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.

R.I.P: Our prayers and condolences are offered to the family of Bridie Madden who sadly died last week. Bridie was part of the furniture of our parish and a member of the cleaning team. She will be truly missed. Her funeral will here at St Bon's on Tuesday 24th April at 10am.

Divorced and Separated Catholics: Bishop Declan extends a warm invitation to couples and individuals in our parish community who may be divorced, remarried or simply separated to come together at Sacred Heart Church, Westbury on Trym for a celebration of Evening Prayer on Sunday, 29 April, at 3.30pm. There will be refreshments St Margaret Mary room after Evening Prayer.

Good Shepherd Sunday: Good Shepherd Sunday, World Day of Prayer for Vocations, falls on Sunday 22nd April this year. There will be some specially designed Clifton Diocese 8-page booklets, relevant to our Year of Mission, exploring vocation through the lens of mission and discipleship. The booklets are simply entitled 'Praying for Vocations' and offer a reflection and a prayer from a married couple, a priest, and a religious sister on how they are missionary disciples through the living out of their vocation. There will also be envelopes for the second collection for the Clergy Training Fund, which is an important source of income for the training of our seminarians.

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.

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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