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St Bon's eNewsletter

15th April - 22nd April 2018

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

A Message from Fr Tom

"I am an anywhere but I long to be a somewhere." If you know what I mean then you will have heard of David Goodhart's thoughts on Tribal Britain. Goodhart is a social commentator who works for the think tank Policy Exchange. He has come up with a theory that society can be divided into two groups of people: those who are happy to live anywhere and those who desire to live somewhere. Wherever I go I find parishioners in parishes loosely fall into these two categories.

An 'anywhere' is usually someone who moves with work, does not live where they grew up, and places more emphasis on their opportunities than on their roots or surroundings. A 'somewhere' is someone who may live where they grew up, they may have never moved away, or if they did they came back. They are close to family and familiar surroundings. Goodhart's theory is that these two groups have very different aspirations and expectations from society and life in general.

I am an 'anywhere', as by the nature of my vocation I am an 'anywhere', I have said yes to the Bishop sending me anywhere he wants me to serve in his Diocese. Yet, I have agreed to that service within a set geographical framework, the Clifton Diocese. So, in that sense, I am a 'somewhere'. Whichever parish I have been in I have been able to see these two social groups. Any parish is invariably made up of those who have lived there forever, and have chosen to settle nearby, as well as those who have moved into the area. Both are very important to the character of a community.

As I said, I long to be a 'somewhere'. I love stability, routine, and familiarity. They mean a lot to me. Yes I know, maybe I didn't think things through all those years ago! But what I have come to treasure about being a Catholic is that I am at home

anywhere because I am loved by God. Living in Him and his Church is somewhere, it is familiar, it is home. I love our church and spending time in our church, as there is such a sense of peace and belonging. Yet this same peace can be felt in so many churches around the world. As Christians we are rooted somewhere, in God's love and the unity of the Catholic church but we can live anywhere because of it.

The longest I have lived anywhere since I left home at 18 is 5 and a half years. I reflect on the line from Philippians Ch3:20 'Our true home is in heaven'. In a world that appears to be becoming more fractured and fragmented, let us pray that we may all realise that we have one true home and that we are all children of our loving God in heaven.

Fr Tom

Year of Mission

MISSION



THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Peace is ushered in again in this week's gospel as Luke picks up the narrative after that encounter on the Emmaus road. Jesus feeds the frightened disciples with the word of the scriptures and he breaks it open so that they might see more clearly and so understand. This is not a ghost speaking to them; this is the Risen Christ empowering them and commissioning them with his word and sending them out. Through preaching, through forgiveness, through their witness, through their attentiveness to the scriptures they bring Christ to the world. The Risen Christ feeds us each and every time we come to the Eucharist. He feeds us with his word and with the gift of his Body and Blood. He feeds us in order to bring us the peace of knowing he is with us. Maybe this week is about us being living witnesses of his loving presence to those who need to know Christ's peace. May our way of speaking and the way we live put others at peace because in us they know the Lord is near.

News and Events

Welcome: Please extend a warm welcome to Fr Christopher Whitehead and to Canon Vincent Ryan who are looking after you while I am away. I am really grateful to them for all they are doing.

Sick and Housebound: 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.

Red Missio Box Results 2017: We have heard recently from Missio that the grand total for 2017 for all the Dioceses in England and

Wales amounted to £3,028,634. As a parish we raised a fantastic £1,741.51 (this includes donations that have been gift aided). It is an amazing amount so thank you very much for your tremendous generosity.

A thank you poster, is displayed on the notice board in the Church Porch with a photo of Fr. Henry from St Thomas's Church in Malawi. He and his community are supported by your generous support. He writes ' Thank you for believing in us year after year. We know that the people of England and Wales continue to pray for us daily. Please know that we, too, pray for you and thank God for the love shown to us.'

Easter Collection message from Fr Tom: I would like to say a massive thank you to all of you for your generosity and kindness in the Easter collection. I am very grateful, Fr Tom.

Living Your Faith Camps: The annual Clifton Diocese Summer Camps have been launched for 2018 and bookings are now being taken. This year, the camps have moved to a new location in Viney Hill in the Forest of Dean and are being held between 13-17 August (ages 7-11) and 20-24 August (ages 12-16). The camps promise to be weeks full of fun, faith and friendship. If you are interested in finding out more, or to book a place for your child, please visit <http://livingyourfaith.co.uk> or email livingyourfaith@hotmail.co.uk.

Walking in the footsteps of St Teresa of Avila and St John of the Cross: Clifton Cathedral is organising a pilgrimage to Spain, walking in the footsteps of two great saints: St Teresa of Avila and St John of the Cross. The pilgrimage will take place the week commencing Monday 10th Sept 2018, flying to Madrid from Bristol and including visits to Avila, Segovia, Valladolid and Salamanca among others. If you would like to join this pilgrimage you will be very welcome. We will be based in one hotel in Avila for the full six nights. The cost of the pilgrimage will be £895 per person in a shared room (single room supplement £30 per night). The Dean of Clifton Cathedral, Canon Bosco MacDonald, will be leading the pilgrimage. There are 50 places available and these will be on first-come-first-served basis. For details and to request a booking form please send an e-mail to cliftonpilgrimage@yahoo.com or telephone 0117 9738411.

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.

Lourdes: Several of our parishioners spent Easter week in Lourdes with HCPT Group 176. While they were there prayers were said for St Bon's Parish and a candle was lit for all those who have supported HCPT through the year. There are photos of the pilgrimage on the Clifton Diocesan website. Log onto www.cliftondiocese.com and click on the news section.

Praying the Rosary: The monthly Parish Rosary Prayer Group will meet on Tuesday 1st May 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.

Mass Times

Sunday 15th April

Third Sunday of Easter

9.30am Mass

7pm Mass

Monday 16th April

Weekday of Easter

12pm Mass *Peggy Loftus R.I.P.*

Tuesday 17th April

Weekday of Easter

12pm Mass *Tom & Irene Loftus*

Wednesday 18th April

Weekday of Easter

12pm Mass

Thursday 19th April

Memorial of St. Alphege

No Mass

Friday 20th April

Weekday of Easter

7.00pm Mass

7.30pm Holy Hour

Saturday 21th April

Fourth Sunday of Easter

7.00pm (Vigil) Mass Pro pop

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday 6.00pm-6.40pm

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: 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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