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## St Bon's eNewsletter

29th April - 5th May 2018

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



### A Message from Fr Tom

Do you use socials much? Do you DM celebrities? Do you prefer Snapchat, Instagram, Facebook or Twitter? Some of you will get that, some of you won't. Socials means 'Social Media' and all of the above are social media platforms. They are ways of communicating using software that enables you to post pictures and messages to your friends or followers on the internet. DM, which until recently I thought was a cool make of footwear, means Direct Message, if you follow a celebrity on social media you can send them a direct message. For instance, I use Facebook to DM my friends.

It is quite remarkable that in the last twelve or so years the world has shrunk to a minuscule size because of social media. Unfortunately, we seem to hear about the negative sides, like how a politician in Australia was picking his nose in Parliament. The pictures flew around the world immediately. Who cares about what is happening in Australia (unless you are Australian or know someone there) and who cares about someone picking their nose (it was quite a cool story actually!). Now what we do anywhere can be news everywhere. On the reverse, social media can be used for so much good. I love messaging my friends and can do so for free. So with friends in Mexico or Chippenham, it costs nothing to be in touch. There is so much that is possible that was not possible before and it can help maintain friendships in a way that has never happened before.

It was with interest that I read this week about a survey conducted about numbers of young Catholics: it seems they (young Catholics, not surveys) are becoming rarer than dinosaurs. The survey estimates that 10% of the population of 16-29 yr.

olds identify as being Catholic in some way. I have done some rough estimations using Statista (<https://www.statista.com/statistics/281174/uk-population-by-age/>). In 2016 there were about 12.4 million young people aged between 15 and 29 yrs. old in the U.K. That would mean that 1.2 million young people identify in some way as being Catholic. The survey claims that of that 1.2 million 10% go to Mass with any regularity. I make that about 120,000 young Catholics in the whole of the U.K showing up in their parishes from week to week. It really makes me see that we have plenty of work to do.

So where do we focus our energies as a church? Most of my energy is spent on those over 65. It is because this age group come to church in greater numbers and are actually interested in what goes on here. Does the church community spend its time on those who do not come, or on those who do? Social media presents us with a fantastic opportunity to communicate with the 120,000 or maybe with the 1.2m young Catholics in a way we could not have done before. The challenge for me as a priest and us as a parish is that while we can invest time and money into that communication, which is exciting and necessary, it cannot be used to reach out to the older members of our communities because often they haven't a clue about social media! That needs a whole other investment of time and money, usually involving paper (so prehistoric!). Communicating today is a complex undertaking but essential for us if we are to have any community in the years ahead!

I am delighted that Laura Panzica has come on board as our Communications Coordinator in the Parish. Over the months ahead we will be looking at ways of extending our outreach on social media, while still using paper for those who need it! We have an exciting challenge and one that is essential to the future of the church in our country.

Fr Tom

## Tweet of the Week



**Pope Francis**   
@Pontifex



When we are full of self-importance,  
we leave no space for God. So let us  
ask the Lord for a conversion of heart.

21/04/2018, 13:00

**12K** Retweets **52K** Likes

YEAR OF MISSION  
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

There's a closeness spoken of in this Sunday's gospel, a closeness that comes from opening oneself to Christ. Christ wants us to be at home with him and to make of ourselves his dwelling place. And that can be the challenging thing!

We have to be comfortable with him as our guest and we have to be comfortable with having him at the centre of our lives. It may not be an easy thing to make room for Christ and to let him in. When he does make himself at home there is a certain pruning that has to be done. As the divine gardener, Christ prunes us – not to hurt us – but to remove what is dead in us only so that with him at home within us others come to encounter his nearness through us, through our witness, through our love, through our care and compassion...because it is Christ in us reaching out to them.

## News and Events

### PARISH MATTERS

**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. Fr Paul from Pilgrimage People will be coming on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm to give a talk about the itinerary and take questions in the Dining Room of the Presbytery.

**St Bon's Cricket XI:** St Bon's Cricket XI welcomes new players, young and old, experienced or newcomers, male or female to add their squad this season. We play 20:20 fixtures, weekly, on various nights over the Summer and are always on the look out for new talent. Come along and try, you only have to commit to one game at a time! FFI please contact John Hickey: [jjhickey55@gmail.com](mailto:jjhickey55@gmail.com)

**Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration Celebration:** There will be a First Year celebratory get-together and thank-you on Sunday 13th May for all Adorers and other parishioners who may be interested in joining the Adoration group. A short adoration from 4.00pm until 4.30pm will be followed by tea and cake in the presbytery. The Adoration group was started on St. George's Day in 2017 and it has proved to be an inspiration and comfort to many of the participants. Do come along and celebrate with us to find out more about this wonderful experience. The Adoration Leaders.

**New St. Bon's Social Media Pages:** Keep up to date with all the St. Bon's Church news on our new social media pages on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram (links at the top of page!).

**Healing Mass:** Father Fernando Suarez will hold a healing Mass at St. Bonaventures on Monday 25th June at 7pm.

### COMMUNITY MATTERS

**CYMFed Flame 2019:** The biggest Catholic Youth event in England & Wales is back! Young people across the Clifton Diocese (14-25) are invited to join Bishop Declan at Flame in Wembley Arena Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2019. Clifton Diocese Youth Ministry are offering ticket, travel & Diocesan scarf all for just £50 per person. Go to [cliftondiocese.com](http://cliftondiocese.com).

**CELEBRATE Bristol:** 27th - 28th Oct 2018. A Conference for the whole family! A non-residential weekend for all ages of children and young adults. There will be speakers, workshops, seminars, praise and worship, prayer ministry, Holy Mass, and Confession. The event is hosted at St Bede's College.

**Malnutrition in Zimbabwe & Zambia:** Thank you for your support to the CAFOD Lent Fast Day appeal. Donations until 12 May will be doubled by the UK Government. We have planned a £5 million programme to combat malnutrition - and we hope to be able to reach 245,000 people. But we need the full amount to make it happen. To donate please go to [cafod.org.uk/lent](http://cafod.org.uk/lent)

**Mass for the Newly Baptised and Received:** Bishop Declan is celebrating Mass on Sat 19 May at 10.30am in our cathedral with those who were baptised this Easter, those received into full communion with the Church along with sponsors or godparents. There will be refreshments in the Apostle Room afterwards.

**CHAS (Bristol):** Require a Treasurer to join their board of trustees. See [www.chasbristol.co.uk](http://www.chasbristol.co.uk).

## Mass Times

**Sunday 29th April**

Fifth Sunday of Easter

9.30am Mass *Alfred Pereira R.I.P.*

7pm Mass Pro Pop

**Monday 30th April**

Weekday of Easter

9am Morning Prayer  
9.15am Mass *Evelyn D'Souza R.I.P.*

**Tuesday 1st May**

Weekday of Easter  
9am Morning Prayer  
9.15am Mass *Kay & Pat Lemon R.I.P.*

**Wednesday 2nd May**

Memorial of St. Athanasius, Bishop  
9am Morning Prayer  
9.15am Mass *Jon Hanley R.I.P.*  
9:45am Holy Hour

**Thursday 3rd May**

Feasts of St Philip & St James, Apostles  
No Mass

**Friday 4th May**

Feast of the English Martyrs  
7.00pm Mass *Mick Flynn*  
7.30pm Holy Hour

**Saturday 5th May**

Sixth Sunday of Easter  
7.00pm (Vigil) *Kevin Spong R.I.P.*

*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:** 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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