



# ST BONAVENTURE'S NEWSLETTER

OT Week 14

8th July 2018

A Community of Missionary  
Disciples With Contemplative Hearts

It's not usual to hear grown men cry on live TV, especially when they are ex-footballers, but that is what happened on Tuesday night when England won the penalty shoot-out against Colombia. I, myself, emitted a few screams of relief and joy. Decades of World Cup and penalty shoot out failure evaporated as Eric Dier's shot found the back of the net. As anyone who watched on Tuesday will know, it was a tense and long night, but truly remarkable. I am 40 and I struggle to remember England doing well, they have always looked tortured, like they are not enjoying playing football. Disappointment has accompanied English football, both players and fans, for years. Yet surprisingly, despite all this pain, the Football Association (FA) carried on doing the same things hoping for a better result. In fairness they tried different managers, to no effect, but essentially it was team after team of highly skilled and highly paid individual players who never seemed to gel as a team. England's recent appointment of Sam Allardyce was a depressing continuation of the same old. It seems that only a sense of desperation has led us to being where we are now.

Gareth Southgate was not the FA's first choice manager to replace Allardyce, there was just no one else. Gareth had worked with the Under-21 team and had great success with them. He had been speaking for years of developing a national style of play that would work for the national squad at all levels. He seemed to be ignored until he had some success and it was felt he should be given shot at the top job. As manager, he has brought the latest sports psychology to the team and has picked players to play as a team not to shine on their own. And surprise surprise it has worked so far (I'm writing this on Friday). With a young and inexperienced team he has achieved what no one before him has been able to do. I know, we have only won a knock out stage match, but we have won a penalty shoot out at the World Cup!

So why have I indulged in a history and analysis of the England team? The history of the England team is not dissimilar to the state of Parish life in the Catholic Church. We seem to do the same thing over and over again and get the same results. We run programmes for people who never come back, putting vast hours into it year in and year out. We spend little, if no time, on mission, trying to reach those who have never heard of Christ and thus we have few new members. The Catholic Church in the U.K. seems to suffer from mission paralysis with many Parishes counting the number of children for First Holy Communion or Mass goers rather than counting the thousands who never walk through the door. We seem to seek to be a benign presence in society rather than confidently and joyfully proclaiming the life changing message of Jesus Christ. I don't know how this has happened if but we continue to keep Christ for ourselves and not worry about those whose lives are not touched by him we will not change.

Have we made a big error, trusting in systems and structures rather than the message of life? Fundamentally an institution can never change a persons life. I know that because I became part of the institution of the Church before I encountered Christ. The Church gave me the security I sought but not the healing and joy I needed. An institution can let you down, as it has many, but Christ is our true security. My hope and prayer is that institutionally we will have an England moment where we see the way we are doing things does not bear the fruit the Gospel calls us to. My hope is that at St Bon's, in some small and imperfect way, we can begin to see our reason for existing not to be a familiar cosy club for ourselves but a place that can enable someone who has never heard of Christ to know him and have their life changed by his joy.

Fr Tom

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 @stbonschurch  
 St. Bonaventure's  
Church Bristol

Parish Priest: Fr. Tom Smith  
Parish Administrator: Caroline Evans  
Parish Office Hours (term time only): Tues  
12-3pm, Weds 9am –12pm, Fri 1-3pm

## PARISH MATTERS

### **Feast Day:**

**1. Flyers:** A massive thank you to all those parishioners who volunteered to deliver the Feast Day flyers to our neighbours: you have done a marvellous job! If you had insufficient Flyers to complete the roads you opted for & you have time to finish them please collect some flyers from the back of the Church as you leave Mass this weekend.

**2. Stalls:** If anyone can help out on a stall would they please contact Neta Roylance-Smith 07980175565 or neta\_pourhosseini@hotmail.com as these events can never happen without people's generosity of time.

**3. On the day helpers:** We are also looking for 3 people to help with the BBQ, 2 for the Bouncy Castle, 6 for Children's games, 2 facepainters, and 10 ground staff. Please contact Neta.

**4. Book and cake donations:** Home made cakes will need an ingredient list and bought ones should be brought in their packets. Please contact Neta for this also.

**5. Welcomers:** This will require a commitment on the day. Please contact Oliver at oliver@oliverrs.co.uk.

**Special Collection:** Apostleship of the Sea, the Church's official maritime welfare agency.

**Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration Summer Holiday Times:** Due to Adorers being on holiday in July and August, Adoration will now finish at 8pm on the Tuesday evening when the Blessed Sacrament is reposed.

**Lost phone:** A phone has been handed into the Parish Office, if it's yours please contact us!

## OUR COMMUNITY

**St. Bons School Governor:** St Bons School needs you! The governors are looking to recruit a Foundation governor to join its governing body. If you are a practising Catholic, and you are interested in getting closely involved in the running of the school, then please contact the Clerk, Alexandra Casley ([clerk.st.bonaventures@bristol-schools.uk](mailto:clerk.st.bonaventures@bristol-schools.uk)) for more information. We are particularly looking for management and HR experience, but all applicants welcome. If you would like to find out more about the role, please let our Clerk know, or visit <http://www.catholiceducation.org.uk/guidance-for-schools/governance/item/1003607-foundation-governor-infographic>

**Permanent Diaconate:** The Diocesan Diaconal Discernment process will begin in September. This is a good time for any men in our congregation to reflect on whether they feel called to serve God in this way. If you would like to find out more please speak to Fr Tom.

### PLEASE PRAY FOR

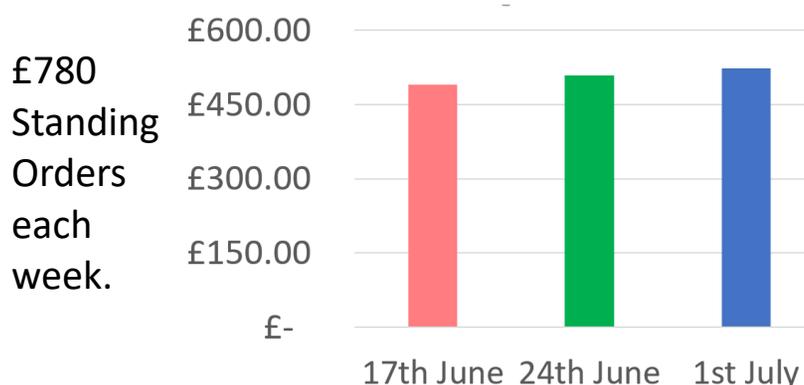
Veronica.

If you would like to be named in the Newsletter, we will need you to either email or telephone the Parish Office to give your consent so that it can be recorded.

### FINANCE & FABRIC

Thank you for your generosity!

Offertory total for the w/e 1st July £523.04





**St. Bonaventure's Feast Day 2018**

SUNDAY 15TH JULY 11AM-3PM  
ST. BON'S SCHOOL PLAYGROUND, EGERTON RD, BS7 8HP

BBQ BOUNCY CASTLE  
JAZZ MUSIC VEGAN FOOD  
FACEPAINTING CAKES

11AM MASS  
12PM BBQ STARTS  
JAZZ BAND 'LAZY RIVER'

PLEASE JOIN US CELEBRATING THIS DAY!

### OTHER NEWS

**Live Simply Thought for the Week:** Ways to reduce the amount of “stuff” in your life – and put what you don’t need to good use: Use Freecycle to give & get unwanted stuff for free, pass household goods on eg via the SOFA Project and support charity shops.

**Shelter 365:** A homeless shelter in town risks closure after Christmas if they don't get some new volunteers. Shifts start at 10pm, you open up and welcome up to 15 guests and then you usually are able to get some sleep between 12 and 6am before waking the guests, tidying up and finishing no later than 8am. Even if you can only spare 1 night a month you would be doing a wonderful thing. <https://caringinbristol.co.uk/project/the-365-shelter/>

**Come and SEE program in Newent:** Deacon Tim Meadows will be speaking about his journey with God which he has entitled ‘Open Doors’. Thursday 2nd August at 7.30pm at Our Lady of Lourdes, Ross Road, Newent 01531 821647.

### TWEET OF THE WEEK



Pope Francis is to meet with leaders of Orthodox, Catholic and other Christian communities from throughout the Middle East in Bari, Italy this weekend to pray for peace and show solidarity with persecuted Christians in the Middle East.

### YEAR OF MISSION

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



### **FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Jesus finds himself rejected in this Sunday’s Gospel... not by strangers but by those close to him and by those who know him. Maybe it’s because Jesus is too familiar to them; maybe he’s too ordinary for them and they were expecting something different. If the mission of Jesus is our mission too, if we look out onto our world with the eyes and mind of the Lord, then surely rejection is something we will face. How can God work through *you*? Why would God choose *you*? Because God does and he chooses the ordinary and the familiar to speak to us and to reach out to us. Paul recognises not just his own weaknesses but he recognises the insults and the persecutions that come when preaching the Gospel. We may find ourselves dismissed by others because of the choices we make, because of the things we do, because of the way we live. Our way of thinking and loving and living may rub against the grain but we live and love as we do so that we might be faithful to the Gospel. God’s grace is at work within us. May that grace give us the strength this week to persevere in all we do for the Lord.

**PHOTO OF THE WEEK**



Did you spy our beautiful garden basking in the sun in this month's Bishopston Matters?

**SAINT OF THE WEEK**

**NOVENA TO ST. BONAVENTURE**



Dear St. Bonaventure Cardinal, Bishop and Doctor of the Church, you chose a life that embraced mortification and great humiliation. Choosing to serve those individuals who were rejected and sick you risked illness for yourself. You made your life a continuous prayer and spent hours meditating on the wounds of Christ. Please pray for us that we may have a sincere and humble heart. Pray that we may not lose sight of Jesus' wounds and thus walk on the straight path to eternal salvation. May we take a great many souls with us to Our Heavenly Father.

St. Bonaventure you were known to say "One should carefully beware of decreasing, even in the slightest, the honour that is due to Mary." May we strive as you did to Love our Blessed Mother and be carriers of her peace in this world. Please place our petitions in the loving hands of Our Blessed Mother as we know they will be warmly received by her Son.

Amen.

**LITURGY SCHEDULE**

**Ordinary Time Week 14 (Year B)**

**Sunday 8th July**

**14th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

9.30am Mass

7.00pm Mass

**Monday 9th July**

**Weekday in Ordinary Time**

9.00am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass

**Tuesday 10th July**

**Weekday in Ordinary Time**

9.00am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass

**Wednesday 11th July**

**Feast of St. Benedict, Abbot**

9.00am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass

9:45am Holy Hour

**Thursday 12th July**

**Weekday in Ordinary Time**

No Mass

**Friday 13th July**

**Weekday in Ordinary Time**

9.15am Mass—School Feast Day Mass

No Evening Mass

**Saturday 14th July**

**Weekday in Ordinary Time**

7.00pm Mass *Jim Grealley R.I.P.*

**NB SUNDAY 15th July—Feast Day Mass at 11am**

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:**

Saturday 6.00pm-6.40pm

**N.B. Saturday Evening Mass will change time from 7.00pm to 6.00pm from Saturday 21st July.**