

ST BONAVENTURE'S NEWSLETTER

OT Week 27
7th October
2018

A Community of Missionary
Disciples With Contemplative Hearts

Have you ever wondered how you can tell if a Parish community is alive? You may not have lost much sleep over it but you would not be surprised to know that me and my brother Priests spend time pondering this question. There are so many things by which you can judge a Parish and maybe it is a composite of those things that reveals whether your Parish has a heartbeat. But there is one thing in particular, that when all is said and done, really counts, in fact you might say that this thing is the one true sign that a Parish is alive.

How friendly and welcoming a community is counts for a lot and how deep a devotional life a Parish has matters very much. Are the buildings looked after? Is the collection healthy? All these things are important indicators of life but they are not deal breakers. The Priestly consensus is that the true sign that your Parish community is alive and well is whether people want to join you, whether they want what you've got. I don't mean that attracting new people for a Mass or two is the bell weather, what I mean is does your community make people want to become a Catholic Christian? Does your community welcome and receive converts? That is the sure proof sign that a Parish is alive and kicking.

So with that cleared up you might understand why I have been sweating a lot over the last few years. We have had no receptions into our Parish, none. It is a really alarming sign. If a community is not bearing new Christian spiritual life something is amiss. The lack of new converts and receptions here at St Bon's has really concerned me but I have stoically kept silent about it! But as I write this, I am feeling a lot more relaxed about the issue.

We currently have two people who are ready to enter into a deeper relationship with the Lord in the Catholic Church and two who come regularly and want to be received into the Church. Also this week we had an email from someone expressing a desire to receive Christ in Baptism. The first thing I want to say is how moving it is and secondly, well done everyone, you help make this community a place where people want to come and encounter Christ! You make a difference, your contribution matters. This weekend we will baptise and receive Mr Harold Peters into full Communion with the Catholic Church, what an occasion! I wish I was doing it every Sunday. Harold is a total legend, you may know him from years back as the proprietor of Gurkha Indian restaurant on Gloucester Rd. I hope you can be part of the celebrations on Sunday, in what I hope will be a common occurrence here at St Bon's. Fr Tom.

Breaking down Walls Hedges



As you may have noticed we have chopped down the hedge in the Parish garden. The reason for this is to show people that we are open and welcoming, and to show off our wonderful Friary building. The Berlin Wall style hedge seemed to say stay out, and turned Friary Road into a bit of a stab alley. I have been amazed at the difference the hedge cutting has made, it has really opened up the space. I would love to hear your thoughts. Thank you to Dominic and the gardening team for arranging for this to happen and for all their hard work throughout the year.

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 @stbonschurch
 St. Bonaventure's
Church Bristol

Parish Priest: Fr. Tom Smith
Parish Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday
& Friday 9:30am-12:30pm.
 St Bons Bristol

PARISH MATTERS

Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration: There is a permanent slot available on Mondays 11am-12pm. Please phone Cecilia Browne 07812569631 if you are able to make a commitment to adoration or would like further information about what is involved.

Church Repository: Karen Nelson and Neta Roylance-Smith will be resuming the church repository every first Sunday of the month after the 9.30am Family Mass. For the Christmas period it will be open weekly starting from November through December also after the 9.30am Family Mass.

Second Collection: CAFOD Harvest Fast Day.

OUR COMMUNITY

Vacancy: Fixed Term post for a Schools Project Officer. To support the Director and current officers in shaping the ever-changing educational landscape of Catholic education within Clifton diocese. Fixed term period of 2 years, term time only basis. Further details: www.cliftondiocese.com or via the Director, Colleen Collett 0117 9025593 colleen.collett@cliftondiocese.com

Vacancy: The Parishes of St Teresa's & St Vincent's in Bristol are looking to employ a Parish Administrator for 5 Hours per day, 3 days a week from 9:30am-2:30pm. The job will be based at St Teresa's and will involve day to day tasks in the running of the Parish office. Contact St Teresa's Presbytery bristol.stteresa@cliftondiocese.com 01179 833938. Closing date: Friday 2nd November.

Children's Liturgy of the Word: A wonderful opportunity for Children's Liturgy teams to come together for a short period of formation is to take place on Saturday 13 October in the Apostle Room, Clifton Cathedral, Pembroke Road, Bristol, from 10am to 1pm. See poster at the back of Church for further details.

Year of Prayer: On Saturday 10 November at St Brendan's College, Brislington, (10.15am to 3pm) with David Wells who will help us reflect upon 'Encounter the Lord'. The day at St Brendan's is set to prepare us for the coming Year of Prayer (beginning the first Sunday of Advent). All are welcome and it would be good if each Parish was represented, please let the Adult Education office know by 6th November. Participants will need to bring a packed lunch for this day. Also, on Tuesday 27 November at 7pm at the Cathedral, Bishop Declan invites our Parishes and communities to join him at a celebration of Evening Prayer during which he will present to each Parish, community and school the resources for the Year of Prayer starting the following weekend.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Veronica.

Geoff Barrett.

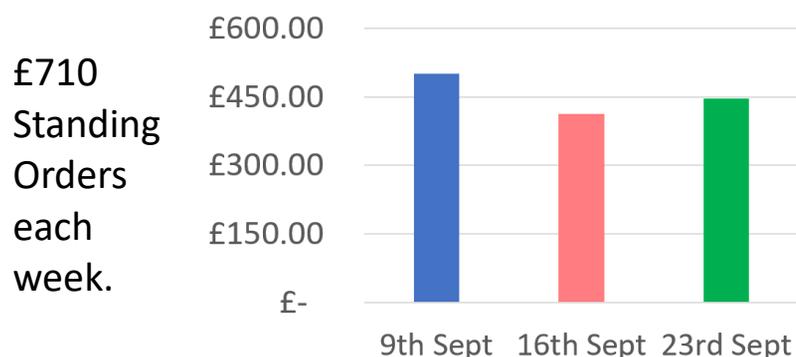
Maria Alfano.

If you would like to be named in the Newsletter, please contact 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 30th Sept TBC.



TWEET OF THE WEEK



Catholic News Service
@CatholicNewsSvc

Following

#PopeFrancis tells #Synod2018 fathers to remember their love & passion for Jesus. "A memory that can rekindle & renew in us the capacity to dream & hope" so that "we, who are adults or elderly, can dream & be infectious in sharing those dreams & hopes" with today's youth

SAINT OF THE WEEK



St Edward the Confessor

Edward became King of England in 1042. His reign was peaceful and characterised by his good rule and remission of taxes. He endowed the construction of Westminster Abbey where he is buried.

OTHER NEWS

Live Simply Thought for the Week: Palm oil is widely consumed but expanding plantations threaten some of the world's most important habitats. Find out which [products contain palm oil](#) and look out for the RSPO or Green Palm label that indicate more sustainable choices.

Youth Synod: During October, Pope Francis is holding a Synod in Rome on Youth, Faith & Vocational Discernment. For the week of 15-21st October, our diocese is entering into a time of focus and prayer for young people. Prayers for each day are available along with many more resources for young people, catechists and Parishes from your Parish and from www.cliftondiocese.com. You can follow our Social media journey to the Synod each day using @cliftonyouth

PICTURE OF THE WEEK



Fr Tom's second vlog is now live on our YouTube page where he shares some very exciting news!

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:



27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

It seems that loneliness is one of society's contemporary diseases. More and more people around us today are feeling lonely and alone. The blessing of creation was companionship and Eve was created to be a constant reminder to Adam of the presence of God who is always near to help, to love and to support. And the blessing of the Lord is given, in the gospel, to the little ones – there is no one excluded from God's nearness or his closeness; no one too insignificant to be touched by the Good News of God's love. To receive a blessing, though, is a challenge to become a blessing for others. Maybe this week sees us being that blessing, that sign of God's nearness to those who are in need. It is not good that we are alone. Others can know God is close to them... through us.

WHAT'S ON?

October Month of Our Lady: October is dedicated to the remembrance of the Blessed Virgin Mary 'Our Lady of the Rosary'. We will be saying the Rosary after Mass each weekday.

Welfare Group Meeting: Weds 10th October 11.00am in the Presbytery Sitting Room.

Book of Remembrance: From the 1st November this will be made available for us to record the names of those who have died whom we hold dear.

All Souls Mass: Friday 2nd November 7.00pm.

St Bons Quiz Night: November 16th 7:30pm at St Bons Primary School. Why not come along and join us for our annual Quiz Night full of fun and laughter! There will be a bar and snacks for your refreshment. Teams of no more than 6 people at £10 per team.

Remembrance Mass: Friday 23rd November 7.00pm. For all those who have died since November 2017.

Mass & Annual Blessing of the Cemetery: Wednesday 28th November 9.15am.

Mass with the Anointing of the Sick: Sunday 2nd December - 2.00pm followed by **Senior Citizens' Christmas Party** in the Presbytery.

Christmas Carol Service: Date for your Diary! Friday 14th December at 7pm, followed by Mince pies in the Presbytery. More details to follow.

Children's Christmas Nativity: 22nd December 3pm.

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Ordinary Time Week 27 (Year B)

Sunday 7th October

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9.30am Mass *Gabriela Coutts R.I.P.*

7.00pm Mass *Calogera Mercato R.I.P.*

Monday 8th October

Weekday in Ordinary Time

9.00am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass

Tuesday 9th October

Weekday in Ordinary Time

9.00am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass *Kathleen Holbinson*

Wednesday 10th October

Weekday in Ordinary Time

9.00am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass *Nick Heron R.I.P.*

9:45am Holy Hour

(6GW Coming to Mass)

Thursday 11th October

Weekday in Ordinary Time

No Mass

Friday 12th October

Weekday in Ordinary Time

7.00pm Mass *Rosa Riccio R.I.P.*

Saturday 13th October

Weekday in Ordinary Time

6.00pm Mass *Beth Devery R.I.P.*

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday 5.00pm-5.40pm

Please be aware of the
Winter Mass time change:
Sunday 28th October (when the clocks
change) from 7.00pm to 6.00pm.