



# ST BONAVENTURE'S NEWSLETTER

OT Week 31  
4th November  
2018

A Community of Missionary  
Disciples With Contemplative Hearts

This week it has been suggested that I write about waiting. What was really being suggested was that I talk about patience. That's because I have been complaining about how long everything takes to get done, especially waiting for things beyond our control to happen. Last week I went to see my parents and I was complaining to my Dad about how long everything seems to take to get done and his partner suggested that I tend to be a little impatient. Ok, she is right, I am impatient but it still doesn't mean things have to take so long!

Let's take, for example, the hedge. We came up with the idea of lowering the hedge months ago but due to some law or custom about birds nesting we felt we couldn't begin cutting it down. Months later when we were able to begin the job it looks amazing, it has been well worth the wait. Good things come to those who wait.

The idea to have a mural was conceived months ago, it has taken a lot of planning and even when the work started the weather slowed things down for a couple of weeks. The end result is stunning, it has been well worth the wait. #bishopstonpeacedove

We are in a queue waiting to join the Divine Renovation Network: the programme of parish renewal that has transformed St Benedictus Parish in Halifax, Canada. It is really exciting and I just really want us to get on with it and start seeing if some of the good and innovative ideas they have will help us. But I need to be patient and wait!

Work has been continuing slowly upstairs with the rooms refurb. We are upgrading three of our semi-derelect rooms into two guest rooms with en-suite bathrooms. To date we are eight weeks in. My hope is it will not go beyond twelve. Even as I write this it doesn't sound that long but it has been 8 weeks of a lot of drilling, sawing and cutting. But like the hedge and mural the result will be amazing. Cold, derelect rooms will become warm and welcoming places for people to stay and bring life to our parish. As a by product a little bit of work has happened in my bathroom and I have the closest thing to a normal working shower since I arrived here 3 years ago, I am really really grateful, it has been worth eight weeks of drilling.

I know the answer, and you have probably been shouting it in your head for the last few minutes, I need to simply hand things over to the Lord and place everything in his hands. After all it is his parish before it is yours or mine. He will get things done in his time and in his way and he is probably having a right laugh at me. Maybe that is why he sent me here. They say make God laugh, tell him your plans!

There are so many wonderful things happening around here and I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who sacrifices their time and energy and works so hard to make them all happen, it makes me very proud to be here. After three years here I really feel I am beginning to call St Bon's and Bristol my home.

Fr Tom

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 @stbonsbristol  @stbonschurch  
 St. Bonaventure's Church Bristol  
 St Bons Bristol #frtomtalks

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

## OUR PARISH

**R.I.P:** Please remember Geoff Barrett in your prayers who died last week. His funeral will be Tuesday 6th November at 11am.

**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 this Sunday after the 9.30am Family Mass and it will run every Sunday until Christmas.

## OUR COMMUNITY

**Sixty One Project:** Christmas is approaching and this year we need at least six volunteers (**we've only had one so far!**) to help with packing the gift bags for the Sixty One Project. This is a fantastic project which enables prisoners to receive a gift bag at Christmas. St Bons has agreed to pack 135 bags. If you would like to take part and you are free from 3pm on the afternoon of Saturday 24 November contact the Parish office. Each of the packs costs around £5 and there will be a second collection on 8th and 9th December 2018.

**St Bons Brownies:** Our Parish Brownie Pack have once again been shortlisted for a community award for services to children in the local area. They will automatically get £200 just for being shortlisted but they may receive more money (up to £1000) if enough members of the public vote for them. UK residents can vote 10 times until 20<sup>th</sup> November. The web link is <https://community-fund.aviva.co.uk/voting/project/view/4-134>. Search for "179th St Bonaventures Brownie Pack".)

**Congratulations:** Angela Parry and Barbara Russell who have each been awarded long service awards by Girl Guiding Association. Angela has been leader of St Bon's Brownies for 30 years and Barbara has been her assistant for 20 years. The awards are being presented by Fr Tom at the annual Remembrance Day Mass.

**Year of Prayer:** Ahead of the Year of Prayer, on Saturday 10 November at St Brendan's College, Brislington, (10.15am to 3pm) David Wells 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.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR

Veronica.

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 28th Oct £364.18.



## OTHER NEWS

**Live Simply Thought of the Week:** Unplug the phone charger. According to O2 only 5% of the energy used by the UK's mobile phone chargers is actually used to charge phones. The other 50,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions just go into the atmosphere.

**CAFOD Mass of Remembrance:** Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2018 7pm at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Gloucester GL3 1HU. We remember and hold in our prayers all deceased CAFOD supporters from our diocese. If you would like to remember a loved one (even if you cannot attend the Mass), contact [clifton@cafod.org.uk](mailto:clifton@cafod.org.uk) or 0117 942 8328 by 9<sup>th</sup> November.

## TWEET OF THE WEEK

 **Bristol Spaceworks**  
@BSSpaceworks

Following

It's 1 year today that we opened the doors of St Bon's Business Centre. Delighted to be working with Fr Tom and his team at [@stbonschurch](https://twitter.com/stbonschurch) 😊

9:03 am - 30 Oct 2018

2 Retweets 4 Likes



## SAINT OF THE WEEK



**St Leo the Great**

Elected Pope in 440, Leo consolidated the organisation of the Church and the government from Rome at a time of disorder. He is quoted as saying "No one is beyond the help of the prayer of Christ."

## WHAT'S ON?

**Book of Remembrance:** Throughout November, this is available for us to record the names of those who have died whom we hold dear.

**St Bons Community 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. Contact the Parish office to book your team. Last few places remaining!

**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:** Friday 14th December at 7pm, followed by Mince pies in the Presbytery. More details to follow.

**Children's Christmas Nativity:** 22nd December at 2pm followed by a children's party afterwards.

**January:** From the beginning of next year, we will be running our first Alpha course. More details to follow.

## PICTURE OF THE WEEK



We are so pleased to show off 'Bishopston Peace Dove'. Have you seen us in Bristol247 this week?

## 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:



### **31ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Love is at the heart of the Gospel, at the heart of the Kingdom, at the heart of God's outreach towards us and at the very heart of mission. Our discipleship has to be about revealing and making known the very love of God in all we do. But if there is no love then it seems the mission is somewhat empty. You notice in today's Gospel that once again Jesus takes his listeners back to the Law of Moses. He's not reinventing anything, he doesn't seem to be teaching anything new – he simply restates, refocuses and draws his audience into an understanding of what we are called to be – loved and to love. Jesus puts love at the centre and at the heart of everything – love of God, love of neighbour, love of oneself. Take anything away from that and, as disciples, we limp along. We are invited to listen... to listen to God's word of love spoken in Jesus and to echo that love this week in the way we love.

## LITURGY SCHEDULE

### **Ordinary Time Week 31 (Year B)**

**Sunday 4th November**  
**31st Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
9.30am Mass *Pro Pop*  
6.00pm Mass *Edward Counsell & Family*

**Monday 5th November**  
**Weekday in Ordinary Time**  
12.00pm Mass *Ciaran Murphy R.I.P.*

**Tuesday 6th November**  
**Weekday in Ordinary Time**  
11.00am Requiem Mass *Geoff Barrett*

**Wednesday 7th November**  
**Weekday in Ordinary Time**  
12.00pm Mass *Colin Gardner & Anne Edwards R.I.P.*

**Thursday 8th November**  
**Weekday in Ordinary Time**  
No Mass

**Friday 9th November**  
**Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica**  
7.00pm Mass *Rosina & Alfred Wood R.I.P.*

**Saturday 10th November**  
**Memorial of St Leo the Great, Pope**  
6.00pm Mass *Peggy Loftus R.I.P.*

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:**  
Saturday 5.00pm-5.40pm

**Please be aware of the Winter Mass time change: Sunday 7.00pm to 6.00pm.**