



ST BONAVENTURE'S NEWSLETTER

OT Time Week 4
3rd Feb
2019

A Community of Missionary
Disciples With Contemplative Hearts

Have you ever wondered what the Church might be like in 2030? I guess it might not be something you have given much thought to but it is something which has been going around in my mind for a few months now. It all started during a conversation with a Priest friend. We were talking about the future of the Church and I said to him "there will always be old people at Church, there were old people when I was little and there are old people now, there will always be old people." His reply was "No, there won't be". I was shocked. What did he know that I didn't?

My friend's theory is that many of the retired plus people who populate our Churches now grew up in a particular type of Church, essentially a pre-1960's Church which was quite traditional and in which Catholic practice was pretty much prescribed. Many who grew up with this type of Catholicism lapsed but quite a number made their way back to Church later in life. That makes perfect sense to me. My friend's next point was the shocking one. Because of what happened in the Church and society during the 1960's, Catholic practice and how it was taught changed. Children were no longer taken to Mass each week, they did not grow up with a traditional, prescribed Catholicism which they could reject and return to later in life. The truth is that from about the 1960's, children were not taken to Mass regularly and did not learn their Catechism. In other words there has not been much for them to reject so they won't return because they were never there! It is a very interesting angle.

If you haven't thought what the Church might look like after 2030 it's worth thinking about it using your own family as an example. Can you see yourself at Church then, your parents, children or grandchildren? Thinking of my family there will be four less people at Mass and no one coming from a younger generation to replace them. While the pre-1960 Catholicism produced Catholics it seems to have created a culture where people do what the Church tells them or not. You either agree with it or disagree with it but it doesn't seem to have led people to engage with it or own it. It has not encouraged Catholics to take responsibility for their faith or their parish. That has led us to the situation we are in today where very few regular parishioners offer their time to their parish and where the non-attenders come back expecting sacraments but offer no commitment themselves. If now there are very few committed to contributing to their parish, what will it be like in ten years when there are very few retired people in Church at all. It is the retired members of the parish that have a little extra time to be able to give.

In 2 years' time in our Diocese there will only be 45 priests, there are currently 67. We have 107 parishes. The numbers just don't work and there is no clear solution to the situation. But what I do know is that if parishes are to be successful in the future, you and those around you will have to commit your time to your parish, and it will mean more than coming to Sunday Mass. The world is rapidly changing and community is breaking down, parishes will have to adapt but there is no replacement for the sacrifice of time and love that the Church urgently needs each of us to give, now and in the years ahead. St Bon's needs you, the Church needs you!

Fr Tom

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 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 continue to pray for the repose of Pat O'Brien's soul. Pat's funeral will take place on Friday 8th Feb. at 11.00am at St. Joseph's Home, 66 Cotham Hill, BS6 6JT.

Liturgy Readers: Calling all budding readers - St Bons needs you! The numbers of people who regularly read at Mass is dwindling and we could really do with some more volunteers. If this is something you think you would like to do please email the parish office.

Holy Land Prayer Intentions: Holy Land Prayer Intentions: If you have any prayers intentions that you would like to be offered during a Mass on the Parish Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, there will be a box available at the back of Church from this Saturday evening.

Lost Property: Lost property will be kept in the print room until the end of February 2019. After this any unclaimed items will go to charity.

Fr Tom's Vlog: Fr Tom's latest vlog is now available on our YouTube page (St Bons Bristol). Fr Tom discusses the topic of whether Catholics should do Alpha! Click here to watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=St-sUO3GaoU&t=38s>

OUR COMMUNITY

livesimply Thought for the Week: If you have a garden (or a window box and pots) add bee/butterfly friendly plants to your plans for this year's planting. Open flowers such as daffodils and tubular-shaped flowers like foxgloves and honey suckle are bee-favourites (see the Royal Horticultural Society website for further ideas www.rhs.org.uk).

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Veronica.
Maria Alfano.
Nachtter Kaur.
Reenie Slattery.
Pat Kissane.

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.

OFFERTORY

Thank you for your generosity!
Offertory total for last week TBC



TWEET OF THE WEEK



Pope Francis ✓
@Pontifex

I thank God for having given us the opportunity to share these days together and to experience once more this World Youth Day. My thanks go to all those who have supported us with their prayers, and who have helped by their efforts and hard work!

[#Panama2019](#)

YEAR OF PRAYER

As we prepare to journey into the diocesan *Year of Prayer*, Fr Christopher from the Diocese's Department for Adult Education and Evangelisation shares these reflections with us.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Good News proclaimed to the poor, to the prisoner, to the blind, to the downcast, and to everyone, is obviously not well received. The Good News is not just for the few but for all who are open to receive it... even the outsider, the foreigner and the stranger. In our prayer we are invited to be open to that same Good News which our second reading calls us to consider as love – God's love given freely to us so that we might radiate that love to others in the way we live. We are appointed as 'prophets' and proclaimers of God's love, not simply within the security of our own parish communities, but to our world. We proclaim Good News through patience, forgiveness, compassion, gentleness, understanding, kindness and through being the love Paul reflects upon – that same love with which God loves us.

WHAT'S ON?

Art Club: The Art Club continues on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month 10-11:30am. All are very welcome to either come and do some art or play some board games, puzzles etc. and have a drink and a chat.

Friday Soup Lunch: All are very welcome to come for a chat and to share a simple lunch. Fridays 12pm in the St Bon's Presbytery. A donation is made to charity;

PARISH AGM: An update to Parishioners on what's happening at St Bons. Sunday 3rd Feb 4pm in the Parish Hall. We would like as many Parish groups as possible to be included. If you would like to take part or for information then please contact the Office.

Adoration Meeting: Sunday 10th Feb 3pm. A whole group adoration in the church for half an hour, followed by a discussion in the presbytery about the plans to extend adoration and to share ideas on how people spend their time during adoration. We will then have time for tea, cake and chat. The meeting is for all people currently involved in adoration, but we would warmly welcome anyone who would like to find out more about this wonderful practice. Any questions contact Cecilia Browne (07812569631 or ciliabrowne1@gmail.com).

PICTURE OF THE WEEK



SAINT OF THE WEEK

St Josephine Bakhita



St Josephine Margaret Bakhita was born around 1869 in the Darfur region of Sudan. Historians believe that sometime in February 1877, Josephine was kidnapped by Arab slave traders. As a slave, her experiences varied from fair treatment to extremely cruel.

Eventually she was bought to Italy, where while serving as a Nanny, she was sent to live with the Canossian Sisters in Venice. There, she was baptized and granted her freedom by Italian law. She also received the sacraments of her First Holy Communion and Confirmation on the same day. The Archbishop who gave her the sacraments was none other than Giuseppe Sarto who would later become Pope Pius X.

LITURGY SCHEDULE

OT Time Week 4 (Year C)

Sunday 3rd February
4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9.30 am *Pro Pop*
6.00 pm *Joy Rigg*

Monday 4th February
Weekday in Ordinary Time
No Mass

Tuesday 5th February
Memorial of St Agatha, Virgin, Martyr
9.00am Morning Prayer
9.15 am *Trevor Schoorl R.I.P.*

Wednesday 6th February
Memorial of Saint Paul Miki and
Companions, Martyrs
9.00am Morning Prayer
9.15 am *Geoff Barrett R.I.P.*

Thursday 7th February
Weekday in Ordinary Time
No Mass

Friday 8th February
Weekday in Ordinary Time
No Mass

Saturday 9th February
Weekday in Ordinary Time
6.00 pm *Pro Pop*

Sacrament of Reconciliation:
Saturday 5.00pm-5.40pm

Adoration: Monday at 10am after Mass
through to 8pm on Tuesday.