

ST BONAVENTURE'S NEWSLETTER

OT Time Week 5
10th Feb
2019

A Community of Missionary
Disciples With Contemplative Hearts

As I write this I am at the Divine Renovation (DR) conference in Birmingham, West Bromwich, to be precise. You may have heard me talk about DR before at Mass and in the newsletter. Divine Renovation is the name given to a Parish renewal movement that was developed by Fr James Mallon and his team of Parishioners at St Benedict's Parish in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. There are 3 core aspects to DR: 1. Everything is about evangelisation, 2. Developing Exceptional Parish leadership and 3. Relying on the Holy Spirit for Parish renewal. Fr James initially wrote a book with the title Divine Renovation, he had not expected a global movement to spring from it, the Holy Spirit does work in miraculous ways!





What drew me originally to DR was frustration. I have always had a desire for Parish renewal and for our communities to become missionary, evangelising hubs. In my early years as a Priest I thought this would come through excellent Catechesis, if people knew their faith then they would love God and then share their faith well with others. While that was well intentioned and we ran pretty amazing Catechesis, it was misguided. The Bishop of Portsmouth, Bishop Egan, often says that we Catechise people well but we do not evangelise them! He's right. If you haven't encountered God, all the learning in the world will not make up for it. Having an experience of the love of God is the essential aspect of having a relationship with him.

This experience of God's love is essential at a Parish level. It is my firm belief that Catholic Parish culture has to change, radically. Catholicism of the last century has left us with a church where many people were taught the importance of the Sunday obligation, not the love of God. This has created a church where many come and go to Mass but do not enter into a deeper and meaningful relationship with God. We have created a culture where it's about coming to Mass, not letting God touch our hearts. If belonging to a Parish is about a loving relationship with God, then we will make big sacrifices for him. If we come out of obligation we often do the bare minimum, because meeting an hour a week obligation is really the bare minimum. Would a couple in love be happy if you said 'you can only meet an hour a week?' They would tell you to get lost and let them get on with their weekends together!

DR is about forming people in Parishes, mainly through The Alpha programme, to encounter God's love through the power of the Holy Spirit. When people's hearts are touched by the Holy Spirit, they are ready to take on positions of leadership within their Parish community. This is my dream for St Bon's, that we become a community where we are alive with the love of God through the Holy Spirit, where we want to serve God in our Parish, not because we have to but because we can't help ourselves! It's my prayer that by prioritising evangelisation, leadership and an experience of the Holy Spirit our community will be transformed and the lives of many will be changed!

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

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.

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.

Second Collection: Racial Justice Sunday. Next weekend 17th February marks Racial Justice Sunday, which focuses on the experiences of ethnic communities in England and Wales. It is a day on which we all called to earnestly pray for an end to racism and racial inequality in our country. The theme this year is Dignity of Work, looking at how all people must not be exploited or face discrimination and hatred in their work.

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 drive to Mass could you give a neighbour a lift to church or arrange to share lifts if they drive too?

HCPT 200 Club: Congratulations to the winners of the February draw. £60 Margaret Tucker 86. £25 Maria Hanley 138. £15 Tony and Karen Nelson 178.

Foundation Governors: There are currently 3 vacancies for Foundation Governors at St Bernard's Catholic Primary School, Shirehampton, Bristol, BS11 9TU. If you would like further information please contact the Clerk to Governors at e-mail clerk@stbernardsprimary.co.uk or contact the school on 0117 9030352.

Clifton Renewal Prayer and Praise evening: Friday 22nd February 7.30 – 9pm University Chaplaincy Bristol, BS8 1LL. Fr Rupert celebrates Mass at 6.15 pm which all are welcome to attend and the prayer and praise will start at 7.30. We will have a speaker and we will finish at 9.00 pm with a social time. There is limited car parking at the Chaplaincy and we can also use the lower car park at the Cathedral which is a five minute walk away. All welcome. For more information please contact renewal@cliftondiocese.com.

St Patrick's Day Ceilidh: Saturday 16th March 2019 7-11pm at St Joseph's Church Hall, Fishponds, Bristol BS16 3QT. The evening will start off with having a meal and The Electric Lobster band will be providing the music for the Ceilidh as well as the calling. Adult £15 (plus £1.76 booking fee. Email: stpatricksdaysceilidh2019@hotmail.com

PICTURE OF THE WEEK



Adoration. Photo: Gary Aldwell

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.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

There is always a risk in following Jesus, in being a disciple of his. At times he can ask us to do things which almost seem foolish and incomprehensible. 'Put out into deep'. A carpenter is telling a fisherman how to fish! But risk goes hand-in-hand with a certain trust... and that's what Peter has to do; he has to learn to trust where Christ is leading him and where Christ is calling him. As we come before the Lord who calls us, forms us and gifts us to be his disciples, we are called on his terms and to be disciples as he needs us to be, so we appreciate how much in need of him we are. He calls us in spite of our weakness and our inadequacies and his choice of us might seem foolish at times... but he calls us to know him, to come close to him and then draw others to us, 'catching' them, for him. Let's pray to trust him... he knows what he is about.

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;

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 [ce-ciliabrowne1@gmail.com](mailto:cecilabrowne1@gmail.com)).

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.

TWEET OF THE WEEK



UAE Embassy UK
@UAEEmbassyUK

Follow

Today the Pope touches down in the UAE for the very first time, bringing together the Catholic and Islamic worlds, two of the UK's largest religious minority groups. A great occasion to demonstrate and enhance the friendship between our two communities.'



11:00 am - 3 Feb 2019

SAINT OF THE WEEK

Sts. Cyril & Methodius



Cyril & Methodius were brothers and often called the apostles of the Slavs. Born in Thessalonica in Greece they both became Priests. They conducted liturgical services in Slavonic and developed a special Slavonic alphabet to translate some of the Scriptures and the Liturgy.

For 5 years they worked steadily to establish Christian worship for the Moravian people. They clashed with the German missionaries, who were committed to the Latin form of Christianity. The two brothers were invited to Rome in 868 by Pope Nicholas I to explain their work. The Pope was so impressed by their success that he made them both Bishops and, contrary to expectation, authorized them to carry on their ministry in Slavic. Cyril and Methodius were great advocates in the importance of being able to celebrate liturgy in your own language.

LITURGY SCHEDULE

OT Time Week 5 (Year C)

Sunday 10th February

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9.30am Mass *Sheelagh Green*

6.00pm Mass *Annie Regula Yates*

Monday 11th February

Weekday in Ordinary Time

9.00am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass *Benefactors of the Parish*

Tuesday 12th February

Weekday in Ordinary Time

No Mass

Wednesday 13th February

Weekday in Ordinary Time

9.00am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass *Peggy Loftus R.I.P.*

Thursday 14th February

Feasts of Saints Cyril & Methodius, Patrons of Europe

No Mass

Friday 15th February

Weekday in Ordinary Time

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

Saturday 16th February

Weekday in Ordinary Time

6.00pm Mass *O'Gorman & McCarthy Families & Friends*

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday 5.00pm-5.40pm

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