



ST BONAVENTURE'S NEWSLETTER

A Community of Missionary
Disciples With Contemplative Hearts

OT Time Week 6
17th Feb
2019

Have you ever been to the Holy Land? If you have you will know what a life changing experience it is. I say life changing, it is more faith changing and as faith is such an important part of our lives it becomes life changing. It's having the ability to be physically present at the places where our Lord manifested his power, where he changed peoples lives, where he stood, lived and breathed, it can be mind blowing. I think there are two things that put people off going: cost and security. I knew going to the Holy Land was a special thing and that it cost a lot so I thought I would be going much later in life. But a few years ago I was offered the opportunity to go and I said yes. I am so grateful for that invitation because it helped me encounter what has become my favourite place in the world. On average it costs a British person £1500.00 to go on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. It is a lot but no more than a good holiday abroad for the same time period, yet it seems we are more inclined to go to some sunny and exotic destination rather than make a trip to walk in the footsteps of our Lord. I know this amount is beyond some people's price point but not everyone's. If you spend that much on a holiday each year I really urge you to consider going to the Holy Land, you will not regret it. If you can afford it, then you may consider is it safe?

The answer to that is a resounding yes. You probably couldn't be anywhere safer. When you get there you see the security in place and it can be very disturbing. There are many disturbing elements regarding the security situation over there. One is seeing Israeli teenagers, on national service, toting machine guns! And the other is at the river Jordan when you go to the site of Jesus' baptism and there is a soldier with a machine gun, it seems totally incongruous. The reason there is a soldier is because the river Jordan is the border between Jordan and Israel. It wouldn't take much to wade across the river although I don't fancy trying! While being an inspiring adventure, visiting the Holy Land can be disturbing. There is so much division between the three main world religions of Christianity, Judaism and Islam. Christians are so divided among themselves that a Muslim holds the key to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre to save us fighting, it is so sad. Jews and Muslims are divided not just religiously but politically. As you try to map out a solution in your head, you realise why no one else has done so, it seems pretty impossible. For every argument there is always a counter argument. It has to be seen to be believed and I think we have a responsibility to see first hand what is so easy to judge from the arm chair at home. A visit to the Holy Land broadens your understanding of world politics.

As a small group of us embark on our pilgrimage, I want you to know that we are very much taking you with us. Maybe you thought the trip wasn't for you or you have budgeted for other trips this year or you just can't afford it, I want you to know we take you with us. This is a parish pilgrimage and I will be taking you in my heart and presenting you to the Lord in places that have such meaning and resonance for us. My greatest excitement is going with those who have not been before, knowing their minds will be blown away and their hearts breaking with the enormity of the experience! See you next week. Fr Tom.

PICTURE OF THE WEEK: Divine Renovation



TWEET OF THE WEEK



St Bonaventure's
@StBonsPrimary

Following

St Bon's PTFA is raising money for a modern well-equipped new playground for Foundation Stage – vote for us in Henleaze Waitrose!

7:36 am - 6 Feb 2019

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 St Bons Bristol #frtomtalks

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

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Sunday 17th February
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
9.30am Mass *Pro Pop*
6.00pm Mass *Judy Tooze R.I.P*

Monday 18th February
Weekday in Ordinary Time
No Mass

Tuesday 19th February
Weekday in Ordinary Time
No Mass

Wednesday 20th February
Weekday in Ordinary Time
No Mass

Thursday 21st February
Weekday in Ordinary Time
No Mass

Friday 22nd February
Feast of the Chair of St. Peter the Apostle
No Mass

Saturday 23rd February
Memorial of St. Polycarp, Bishop
6.00pm Mass *Bridie Hearn*

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sat 5.-5.40pm

VACANCY

Are you a confident decision maker who enjoys working with people? Do you want to make a difference to a community? St. Bonaventure's Church Parish Office is looking for an experienced office administrator to join their team 12 hours a week starting early April. In this varied role, you will be responsible for managing correspondence, rotas and appointments, and maintaining sensitive records, as well as taking care of the organisation of meetings and occasional events. To be successful you will need to have a strong telephone manner and excellent written, IT and digital skills. Previous office experience is essential.

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, 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.

Praying the Rosary: The monthly Parish Rosary Revival Prayer Group will meet on Tuesday 5th March at 2pm in the Dining Room in the Presbytery. We will pray and discuss the rosary and have a cup of tea. Contact Chris Searle **07771161259**. All welcome.

OUR PARISH

R.I.P. Peggy Bricknell, who has recently passed away. We keep her family and friends in our prayers.

Second Collection: Racial Justice Sunday.

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.

Mass & Confession this Week: This week while Fr Tom is away 3 Priests will cover for him. It is becoming increasingly difficult to find Priests for supply, one of the Priests is coming from North Wales and another from Bath. Fr Tom is extremely grateful to them for coming and giving you the opportunity to go to Mass and him the chance to go on pilgrimage. Please make them very welcome.

Newsletter: Whilst we are having printer problems, we are unable to print many newsletters. The newsletter is always available digitally on our website, socials or via email.