



ST BONAVENTURE'S NEWSLETTER

OT Time Week 8
3rd March
2019

A Community of Missionary
Disciples With Contemplative Hearts

The camera never lies, a photo speaks a thousand words. True, except when photos don't tell the whole story! The amazing photos we shared of our pilgrimage to the Holy Land speak of an incredible adventure, but they don't tell the whole story. Maybe by trying to show how amazing the Holy Land is, we did the experience of pilgrimage a disservice. Despite having amazing pilgrims in our group, this was the most challenging trip to the Holy Land I have made. It has probably been more rewarding because of this, but it was definitely a pilgrimage. A pilgrimage differs from a holiday in that it is a journey to a place to encounter God, not simply to experience the culture or indulge in local cuisine. In encountering God there is always hardship because when God became man in Jesus, his life involved hardship. Any serious journey with God involves hardship alongside delight. A group pilgrimage is where people come together in service and sacrifice to help each other experience the joy of God's love.

We had an amazing time and for me the highlight was being with the pilgrims experiencing the Holy sites for the first time. At each 'site' or place where an event in Jesus's life took place different graces were given, insights were received. To see people experiencing this for the first time is a privilege. I will never tire of seeing or hearing of someone having a 'wow' moment. We also had some amazing fun. Swimming in the Dead Sea was a highlight for me, that was a fun day set up beautifully in the morning by our renewal of baptismal promises in the river Jordan. Many pilgrims would recall the rain storm on the Sea of Galilee as a poignant moment. There were countless moments like that but I would also like to give you a few of the behind the scenes moments that made our journey to the Holy Land a pilgrimage not a holiday!

I went out with a cold which I thought was slightly improving but with a 14 hour door to door journey with not a proper meal and a 5 hour flight my cold seemed somehow to get worse and as it gradually got better over the week the rest of the group seemed to catch it. This led to trips to the pharmacy and some very tired pilgrims, sorry guys! Add to this the unseasonably cold weather which meant that the clothes some of us took were not warm enough, too cold or too hot hotel rooms, lots of rain (again unseasonal) things were not plain sailing. We had a tour guide who seemed to rush us, especially at spiritual moments and then there were the crowds. It seems that with the defeat of Isis and the prolonged 'peace' in Israel over the last few years more pilgrims are flocking to the Holy Land. This meant that for the tomb of Jesus we had to queue for over 2 hours to spend a minute or so reverencing such a Holy place. I have realised that I find queueing exhausting, I think some members of the group would agree!

We had an amazing time and it was a joy to bring you with us on Social Media, I think many of the group will remember this pilgrimage for the rest of their lives. It was a challenging but profoundly rewarding journey to the Land of our Lords' birth, life, death and resurrection. I am sure that any of the pilgrims would be delighted to share their experiences with you! Fr Tom.

Egerton Road, Bishopston, Bristol BS7 8HP
Tel: 0117 942 4448
bristol.stbonaventure@cliftondiocese.com
<https://stbonsbristol.co.uk/>

 @stbonsbristol  @stbonsbristol
 www.facebook.com/stbonsbristol
 St Bons Bristol #frtomtalks

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

OUR PARISH

R.I.P. Shaun Birrane, son of Michael and Pauline Birrane, former St Bon's Parishioners, who died recently in Sydney, Australia. Please remember Shaun and his family in your prayers.

R.I.P. Please remember Peggy Bricknell whose funeral takes place at St Bons on the 15th March at 10:30am.

R.I.P. Please remember Maria Mosley whose funeral takes place at Canford on the 19th March at 3:45pm.

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. Contact the Parish Office.

Fr Tom's Vlog: Fr Tom's latest vlog is now available on our YouTube page (St Bons Bristol). Fr Tom discusses the visiting the Holy Land. Click here to watch:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AlxanJPMF4Y&t=28s>

Thank You: A special thank you to Angela Parry for her time and effort in taking photographs throughout the Parish Pilgrimage to the Holy Land so we could all share the journey.

OUR COMMUNITY

livesimply Thought for the Week: This is Fairtrade Fortnight. Buying Fairtrade products is a way of supporting some of the poorest workers in the world. Cocoa growers are having a difficult time at the moment as the world price of the raw product plummets.

INCLUSION FOR ALL: AN INVITATION TO ALL LGBT+ CATHOLICS. Bishop Declan wishes to express pastoral care and concern for our Catholic LGBT+ community and so has asked St Nicholas of Tolentino Church (Lawford's Gate, Bristol BS5 0RE) to celebrate a series of Masses for this community and their friends and family and all who wish to take part. The intention is not to isolate, but rather to ensure a warm welcome and to integrate this community into Church. The first Mass launching this ministry will be on March 17th at 3.00pm - all are welcome.

PICTURE OF THE WEEK



Asbestos Removal!

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.

EIGHTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

An unfortunate trait of the human condition is our capacity to quickly make judgements about others. Seeing the faults of others seems to be much easier than seeing the faults within ourselves. My desire for status can lead me to diminish others, to want to correct them or highlight another person's flaws.

Jesus doesn't deny that people have failings, but he invites me to look to my own blind spots first. This week, each of us is being invited to acknowledge our own weakness first and then see others with greater compassion and love.

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;

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.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Veronica
Maria Alfano
Anna McGinn
Nachter Kaur
Kathleen Ward
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



Vatican News
@VaticanNews

Following

[#PopeFrancis](#) [#MessageForLent](#)
[#HolySeePressOffice](#) [@CardinalTurkson](#): The sense of [#fasting](#): refraining from certain things for the good of others. We must exercise this discernment in order to understand what others may benefit from.

SAINT OF THE WEEK

St Frances of Rome



Frances was born in Rome to a wealthy but pious family. When she was 11, she wanted to be a nun, but her parents forced her to marry Lorenzo Ponziani, commander of the papal troops of Rome. Although the marriage had been arranged, it was a happy one. Frances devoted her time to the poor of Rome and founded the Olivetan Oblates of Mary, a confraternity of pious women.

In 1925, Pope Pius XI declared her the patron saint of automobile drivers because of a legend that an angel used to light the road before her with a lantern when she travelled, keeping her safe. She is also a patron saint of widows.

LITURGY SCHEDULE

OT Time Week 8 (Year C)

Sunday 3rd March

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9.30am Mass *Peggy Loftus R.I.P.*

6.00pm Mass *For all our social media followers*

Monday 4th March

Weekday in Ordinary Time

9.00am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass *Rassa Louis R.I.P.*

Tuesday 5th March

Weekday in Ordinary Time

9.00am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass *Alan Taylor R.I.P.*

Wednesday 6th March

Ash Wednesday

9.00am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass

Thursday 7th March

Thursday after Ash Wednesday

No Mass

Friday 8th March

Friday after Ash Wednesday

7.00pm Mass

Saturday 9th March

Saturday after Ash Wednesday

6.00pm Mass *Pro Pop*

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday 5.00pm-5.40pm

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