



ST BONAVENTURE'S NEWSLETTER

Lent Week 1
10th March
2019

A Community of Missionary
Disciples With Contemplative Hearts

In the last month I have had three big faith 'moments'. I am craving some normality to be able to process all the graces I have received. At the Divine Renovation conference in Birmingham I, and I know others, had a powerful experience of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Land was a very powerful experience of the global Church and the reality of the earthly life of Jesus. Last week at 'Flame' I had my eyes opened to the reality of the Church here in the UK, I believe 'renewal' is coming to the somewhat stayed and sleepy Catholic Church in Britain.



For me, Flame was a gift. I was invited to go and when three young women from our Alpha course booked to go as well it made for the best day ever, we had great fun on the long journey to Wembley arena and back. Flame is a youth congress run by CYMFED (Catholic Youth Ministry Federation). It runs every other year. This year somehow they got the recipe right and in my opinion it was the best yet. Flame features Christian music and Christian speakers, it is an event for catholic teenagers with musicians and speakers from around the world.

What struck me this year was that the two most enthusiastically received speakers were Black and not catholic. Both Guvna B, who hails from east London, and Robert Madu, from Dallas, Texas, are evangelical Christians. The Catholic speakers who were fantastic were older and White. I have felt for the last few decades that the Catholic Church in the UK is essentially middle class and white, it's Priests and Bishops are anyhow. At Flame it seems that a number of the eight thousand young people were from ethnic backgrounds. Maybe white middle class does not speak to their culture and background, maybe a white middle class, staid, small 'c' conservative church does not reflect their faith. Whatever the case the young people loved Guvna B and Robert Madu and it made me realise that the church is changing fast.

If either Guvna B or Robert Madu turned up at St Bon's on a Sunday morning what sort of reception would they get? My guess is not as an enthusiastic one as they got at Wembley. That would be because we like our church to run for those who already come to it. We do not arrange our liturgy for those whom don't come. This is a fundamental and shortsighted mistake. We look after the hundreds who come through our doors not the thousands who don't. I am convinced that we do that at our peril and can no longer live in the complacent comfort of what we know, it is my challenge to you to think about your attitude. Do you want Mass to be about what you want or do you want our parish to be about the lost sheep who don't yet know Jesus? What do we need to do to be vibrant enough to make them want to walk through our doors?

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

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

Fr Tom's Vlog: Fr Tom's latest vlog is now available on our YouTube page (St Bons Bristol). Fr Tom discusses Divine Renovation. Click here to watch: <https://youtu.be/XllcRjd7NyM>

Special collection: CAFOD Lent Fast Day Collection 16th and 17th March.

OUR COMMUNITY

livesimply Thought for the Week: Looking for ideas for Lent? Choose a current issue that is close to your heart, whether homelessness, climate change or the fate of Christians in the Middle East. Find out about your chosen issue and the organisations working on it. Donate money you save during Lent eg in walking rather than catching a bus/driving, or in reducing your consumption of meat, to one of those organisations; and pray for those involved.

Arise: An evening of English Retreat and Healing Service. Friday 22nd March from 6pm - 8:30pm at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 28 Grange Court Road, Westbury on Trym, Bristol, BS9 4DR. The evening will comprise of Praise and Worship, Word of God sharing and Adoration. We will have Fr Dominic Findlay-Wilson, parish Priest from English Martyrs Church from Chard and Assistant Vocations Director of Clifton Diocese.

Lenten Liturgy of Reconciliations: Bishop Declan is to celebrate Liturgies of Reconciliation during the Season of Lent at five venues across the diocese. He is once again inviting our diocesan community to gather with him in celebration of God's merciful love as part of our Lenten journey and this Year of Prayer. Each Liturgy will start at 7pm. Wednesday 13 March - St Bernadette, Whitchurch. Thurs 21 March - St Osmund, Salisbury. Thurs 28 March - St Gregory, Cheltenham. Thurs 4 April - Holy Family, Swindon. Thurs 11 April - St George, Taunton.

Caring for the Earth: Christians in Science lecture on sustainable energy, nuclear, fracking etc. Friday 15 March. 7 for 7.30, Redland Church Hall, Redland Green Rd.

PICTURE OF THE WEEK



Did you spy Fr Tom on TV this week?

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.

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.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Jesus was brought out of the ordinary into a place where he was tempted off course. Three temptations...to comfort, power, wealth. Three ways that can take us over. Money, power and comfort can lead us astray. Wanting wealth, is understandable, we believe it will bring us security. Being powerful can help us to feel in control and the deep desire for comfort will surely release us from any fear. Jesus, however, in the face of such challenges, draws upon scripture. He knows his scripture well and it gives him the confidence to turn away from the temptations in front of him. Perhaps this Lent we can give a bit of extra time to reflecting on the daily readings, absorb them and allow them to guide us to be closer to God and strengthened in faith.

Stations of the Cross & Confessions

Stations of the Cross will be every Friday at 6.15pm during Lent.

Confession will be immediately after every weekday Mass during Lent.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Veronica
Maria Alfano
Anna McGinn
Nachtter 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



Pope Francis
@Pontifex

Following

The Lenten journey begins today, Ash Wednesday. I invite each of you to live this time in an authentic spirit of penance and conversion, like a return to the Father, who awaits us all with open arms.

4:30 am - 6 Mar 2019

11,638 Retweets 46,522 Likes



1.1K 12K 47K

SAINT OF THE WEEK

Sts. Perpetua & Felicity



Sts. Perpetua and Felicity were Christian martyrs who lived during the early persecution of the Church in Africa by the Emperor Severus. Perpetua, a young mother of nobility and Felicity, a slave girl were Christians. They were put to death because of their Christian faith.

They are the patron saints of mothers, expectant mothers, ranchers and butchers.

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Lent Week 1 (Year C)

Sunday 10th March

First Sunday of Lent

9.30am Mass *Bob Honeyfield R.I.P.*
6.00pm Mass *Marjorie Williams R.I.P.*

Monday 11th March

Weekday of Lent

9.00am Morning Prayer
9.15am Mass *Maria Mosely R.I.P.*

Tuesday 12th March

Weekday of Lent

9.00am Morning Prayer
9.15am Mass *Tony Virgin R.I.P.*

Wednesday 13th March

Weekday of Lent

9.00am Morning Prayer
9.15am Mass

Thursday 14th March

Weekday of Lent

No Mass

Friday 15th March

Weekday of Lent

7.00pm Mass

Saturday 16th March

Weekday of Lent

6.00pm Mass *Pat O'Brien R.I.P.*

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday 5.00pm-5.40pm

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