



# ST BONAVENTURE'S NEWSLETTER

Lent Week 4  
31st March  
2019

A Community of Missionary  
Disciples With Contemplative Hearts

I feel compelled to focus on the cheery topic of Christian persecution, particularly in the West. A number of 'incidents' have highlighted that we are entering a new phase of interaction between Western Secular Culture (WSC) and the Christians who inhabit countries in which WSC is predominant. With the political climate tense in a number of Western countries, (USA, UK and France to name a few) social discourse have become increasingly aggressive and this aggression seems to be turning to Christianity too. There is no doubt that the moral norms of Biblical Christianity are no longer welcome within a WSC. Society has become so 'tolerant' of many mores that it is becoming intolerant to traditional Christian teaching. This was highlighted this week when I read that in Scotland the Catholic teaching on both Homosexuality and Abortion may be classed as a hate crime.

Classifying our teachings as a hate crime is only a logical consequence of a society which cannot tolerate an opposing view or a view which might be viewed as offensive. Recently the Catholic Journalist Caroline Farrow was questioned by Surrey police for apparently 'mis-gendering' someone's son on Twitter. We live in a country of free speech but so powerful has the Transgender lobby become that police time is now taken up investigating tweets. In Australia last week a Pro-Life March was heckled and abused by a crowd shouting something along the lines of 'Go to Hell and take with you Cardinal Pell'. I have never heard that level of hatred expressed towards Catholics in public. It also seems to show the how the Sex Abuse crisis and its mis-handling has angered so many, they feel let down and angry at a Church which still does not appear apologetic.

You may be forgiven for not knowing that a number of Catholic Churches in Paris have been vandalised, with their Organs destroyed, stained glass windows smashed, in one Church the Statue of Our Lady was beheaded. This news does not appear to have featured much over here. Why is that? Is it because it is persecution towards Christians or Catholics in particular or because it is believed that the vandalism is being carried out by immigrant populations? There appears to be an increasing position of Anti-Christianity in WSC and we are no longer being 'tolerated', which is hard to equate with the tolerant culture we live in.

The perfect storm of aggressive political discourse, a divergence in sexual mores between Christian and WSC and anger at the abuse crisis means we have arrived in a new place in society and for us as Christians it is not a comfortable one to be in. I have heard for decades that future Christians would be persecuted in a way that those of the past decades have not, maybe, just maybe, that persecution is now beginning. The ante has stepped up and it poses each of us a fundamental question: Am I prepared to suffer public humiliation for my faith? It makes us ask if we believe in the Gospel and the Church's teaching enough to be denounced in public for it. Our response to this can only be prayer and trust in the love of our merciful God, who sent his Son Jesus to die for us. He was prepared to be denounced for love of us!

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

**Second Collection:** CAFOD 2<sup>nd</sup> collection this weekend for victims of Cyclone Idai in Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi.

**Fr Tom's Vlog:** Fr Tom's latest vlog is now available on our YouTube page (St Bons Bristol). Fr Tom discusses what Lent can be for us: [https://youtu.be/KF\\_8pHSjm\\_A](https://youtu.be/KF_8pHSjm_A)

**Change of Mass Time:** Please be aware of the Summer Mass time change: Sunday 6.00pm to 7.00pm from this weekend.

**Alpha:** Our next Alpha Course is beginning Weds 1st May at 7:30pm. If you have never been on one before and if you're interested in learning more about your faith, we'd love to see you.

**Children's Stations of The Cross Service:** Good Friday 11am followed by soup and hot cross buns. If you have any children who would like to read in this service contact Neta Roylance-Smith: 07980175565, [neta\\_pourhosseini@hotmail.com](mailto:neta_pourhosseini@hotmail.com) or see her after Sunday 9.30am Mass.

**Collection next Sunday:** There will be a second collection to raise money to plant trees in Palestine. One of our parishioners came up with the fantastic idea of combining supporting Palestinians and celebrating Earth Day in one go! We would like to provide as many Olive and Fruit trees as possible to Palestinian farmers to support their livelihood and at the same time off set carbon emissions and mark 'Earth Day', which takes place on 22nd April, in our parish.

## OUR COMMUNITY

**livesimply Thought for the Week:** We can do our bit to improve our local environment by taking part in the Great Bristol Spring Clean between 22nd March and 23rd April. Why not ask a group of friends and family to join you, order a litter picking kit (see <https://www.bristolwastecompany.co.uk/whats-happening/great-bristol-spring-clean/>) and get out in the sunshine to tidy up your neighbourhood.

**Mothers Day Cake Sale:** After Sunday 9:30am Mass to raise money for Action Against Hunger.

**Vacancy:** Book Keeper required for St James Priory Project Charity in Central Bristol. Qualification and experience in finance is essential. Please phone 0117 9299100 for more information or send a CV to [info@stjamespriory.org.uk](mailto:info@stjamespriory.org.uk) [www.stjamespriory.org.uk](http://www.stjamespriory.org.uk)

**CAFOD Climate Pilgrimage:** As people of faith, we're determined to speak up for our common home, and on 26 June we'll come together in London with over 100 like-minded organisations to speak to our politicians and make our voices heard. Sign up here <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-time-is-now-climate-lobby-and-pilgrimage-tickets-54923178706>

**Pilgrimage to Lindisfarne for young Adults (20s and 30s):** 24th- 28th April 2019. A time to walk along part of St.Cuthbert's way, reflect and pray with other young adults and spend time on the beautiful island of Lindisfarne. Cost - £85 to cover food and accommodation. For more information email [lynnefcj@hotmail.com](mailto:lynnefcj@hotmail.com) or find us on facebook (FCJ Young Adult Network).

## PICTURE OF THE WEEK



Sunshine at St Bons

## 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 LENT**

The parable of the Prodigal Son is so well-known to us that it would be easy for us believe that we don't need to listen because we've heard it so many times before! We know it! But do we? There is a beautiful and profound message of the immense, limitless love of God in this story. A love which God wishes each one of us to experience. As we listen to this Gospel Jesus wants us to know that whatever mistakes we may have made in life, we are not beyond redemption. We are worth far more than the worst thing we have ever done in life. God is waiting for us to come home. God's love has no limits. God does not have favourites or a list of exclusions as to who is entitled to that love. As we move through Lent, let us have the confidence to turn to God in his loving mercy and allow his tender embrace to heal us and restore us to a newness of life 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 2nd April at 2pm in the Dining Room in St Bonaventure's Presbytery. We will pray and discuss the rosary and have a cup of tea. Contact Chris Searle 07771161259. All welcome.

**SAVE THE DATE!** St. Bonaventure's Feast Day 2019 will be Sunday 14th July.

## TWEET OF THE WEEK



DEC  
@decappeal

Follow

"When I woke last week to the news that [#Cycloneldai](#) had devastated my mother's native Zimbabwe & neighbouring Malawi and Mozambique, my heart sank." - [@thandinewton](#) in [@thetimes](#)

## PLEASE PRAY FOR

Veronica. Maria Alfano. Anna McGinn. Nachtter Kaur. Kathleen Ward. Reenie Slattery. Pat Kissane. Reena James.

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.

### EASTER SERVICE TIMES

<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	8:00pm
<b>Good Friday</b>	
Stations of the Cross	9:30am
Children's Stations of the Cross	11:00am
Soup Lunch	
Passion of the Lord	3:00pm
<b>Easter Saturday Vigil</b>	9:00pm
Mass of the Resurrection	
<b>Easter Sunday Mass</b>	9:30am & 7:00pm

### 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 (apart from Weds 3rd April).

### SAINT OF THE WEEK

#### **St. Francis of Paola**



Francis was born in Paola, Italy and was educated at the Franciscan friary of San Marco. When he was 15 he became a hermit near Paola. In

1436, he and two companions began a community that is considered the foundation of the Minim Friars. He emphasised penance, charity, humility and abstinence from meat.

He is considered to be a patron saint of boatmen, mariners and naval officers.. In 1963, Pope John XXIII designated him as the patron saint of Calabria.

### LITURGY SCHEDULE

#### Lent Week 4 (Year C)

#### **Sunday 31st March**

#### **Fourth Sunday of Lent**

9.30am Mass *Mario Roque R.I.P.*  
7.00pm Mass *William Raymond R.I.P.*

#### **Monday 1st April**

#### **Weekday of Lent**

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

#### **Tuesday 2nd April**

#### **Weekday of Lent**

9.00am Morning Prayer  
9.15am Mass *Mrs Caci Intention*

#### **Wednesday 3rd April**

#### **Weekday of Lent**

9.00am Morning Prayer  
9.15am Mass  
*School Mass*

#### **Thursday 4th April**

#### **Weekday of Lent**

No Mass

#### **Friday 5th April**

#### **Weekday of Lent**

6.15pm Stations of Cross  
7.00pm Mass

#### **Saturday 6th April**

#### **Weekday of Lent**

6.00pm Mass *Pro Pop*

#### **Sacrament of Reconciliation:**

Saturday 5.00pm-5.40pm

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