



# ST BONAVENTURE'S NEWSLETTER

Lent Week 5  
7th April  
2019

**A Community of Missionary  
Disciples With Contemplative Hearts**

This week I met with the 5 other Priests from our Bristol North West Deanery to discuss 'The future'. A Deanery is a geographical area of about 5/6 parishes which are grouped together so that the Priests can work closely in their locality. Our Deanery covers, Bishopston, Westbury-on-Trym, Henbury, Lawrence Weston, Patchway, Filton and Thornbury. We take responsibility for the Hospital Pager, for helping out when we can at St Bede's Secondary School and the Prison.

The reason we got together is because Bishop Declan has told us we are likely to lose a Priest in the next year or two and he wants us to see how we can take on the extra work that this will demand. He believes that we have too many Masses in our parishes and he would like us to look at reducing our provision. Our meeting included this but we also discussed how we would respond to the extra Baptisms, Weddings and funerals we would have to do. Because Bishop Declan has only indicated the general direction of travel, rather than any specific change, we were unable to formulate more concrete plans.

At the moment in our deanery we have ten churches and six Priests. St Anthony's in Henbury is now run from Sacred Heart's, St Vincent's is run from St Teresa's, and St Bernard's and Our Lady of the Rosary are run together. If we lose a Priest in the next year or two that will mean ten churches and five Priests. Fr Colin at Sacred Heart and I already cover an area that forty years ago was covered by eight or so Priests and at least two communities of nuns. Now it is just the two of us with no deacons either. To see where we can find extra slack in the 'system' is not easy.

There are various solutions to this problem. One is to bring in Priests from abroad. This is perfectly sensible. When Bristol's churches were heavily populated with the Irish community, as St Bon's was, they were served by the numbers of Priests who had come over from Ireland. It would seem that now our churches are populated by communities from India and the Philippines and therefore it would be sensible to invite some Priests to come from those countries to help out but this does not seem to be a solution Bishop Declan is pursuing. Another option is to close churches. This makes total sense as we are currently trying to keep a structure that depended on hundreds of Priests running on fifty, it is not possible. Again this is not a solution favoured by Bishop Declan.

Until we know which Priests will be moved out of our Deanery we cannot make concrete plans. But what is definite is that we will have to expect to have less choice of Masses to go to and my greatest sadness is there will be less contact between Priests and their people as there will be fewer Priests 'doing all the stuff' rather than having time to be with their communities.

Please pray for Bishop Declan as he has some very difficult decisions to make over the coming years. Please pray for your Priests that we keep our eyes focussed on the Lord. The next few years will probably be challenging for us all but we must remember that at the heart of everything we are called to love God and to make him known to our neighbour!

Fr Tom

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 St Bons Bristol #frtomtalks

Parish Priest: Fr. Tom Smith  
Parish Office Hours: Monday  
& Friday 9:30am-12:30pm.  
Wednesday 11am-1pm.

## OUR PARISH

**Farewell:** This week we say a very sad farewell to Anne Rose who has been working in the office since the end of September. Anne has done a fantastic job, working tirelessly to make sure everyone's requests are answered. She has brought a sense of joy and humour to the office and will be greatly missed. I am very grateful for all she has done. We welcome Joan Apperley to the office as our new Administrator, I hope you give Joan a warm welcome when you see her.

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

**Red Missio Box Holders:** The 2018 Red Box results have now been sent to each parish. You will be delighted to know that £1,379,13 was raised by St. Bon's last year which contributed to the £2,893,696 raised throughout the country. Many, many thanks once again for your wonderful generosity and continued support. The results from each parish in the Clifton Diocese are now on display in the porch.

**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 or see her after Sunday 9.30am Mass.

**Second Collection:** 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 offset carbon emissions and mark 'Earth Day', which takes place on 22nd April, in our parish.

**Forthcoming Second Collections:** Good Friday for the Holy Places and 28<sup>th</sup> April Clifton Children's Society Adoption.

## OUR COMMUNITY

**Friday 12 April:** The Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has designated the Friday of the Fifth Week of Lent as a day of prayer for the Victims and survivors of abuse in the Church.

**livesimply Thought for the Week:** Action by Christians against Torture runs an Easter Greetings campaign and publishes a list of individuals many of whom have been imprisoned because of their faith. Let's show our solidarity by sending a card. The list includes addresses and tips about the type of card and greeting to include: [https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/5562d5\\_96b5e976f5984444bf7510283a8e8a92.pdf](https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/5562d5_96b5e976f5984444bf7510283a8e8a92.pdf)

**Fully escorted Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine, Ireland:** 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2019 from Bristol. £649.00 pp sharing. Price includes flight with 10kg hand luggage, transfers, 4 nights' in Knock House Hotel with FULL BOARD. Contact Patricia on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email [knock-pilgrimages@gmail.com](mailto:knock-pilgrimages@gmail.com).

## PICTURES OF THE WEEK School Mass!



## 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 LENT**

We live in a world where the desire to punish those who offend us is ever more prevalent. If rules and laws are broken people must be called to account. Even if we are not directly affected, we may find ourselves promoting and supporting this way of thinking. Today, we learn from Jesus that the God we believe in is a loving and forgiving God, a God who is merciful and keeps on forgiving. How easy do we find it to forgive? If we can see how much we need forgiveness, it might make us more ready to forgive others. Is there someone in my life who needs forgiving? Can I reach out in forgiveness to them 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.

**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.

**SAVE THE DATE!** St. Bonaventure's Feast Day 2019 will be Sunday 14th July with Mass at 11.00am.

## TWEET OF THE WEEK



CAFOD  
@CAFOD

Following

Thanks to your generosity in Lent 2018, in Zimbabwe so far we have:

🚜 Taught 1,403 people how to adapt to a changing climate

👩‍⚕️ Trained 27 nurses and health workers to spot malnutrition

🥕 Identified 17 sites for community vegetable gardens

🍊 Planted 233 fruit trees in schools

## 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.

## SAINT OF THE WEEK

### **St. Stanislaus**

Born in Szczepanow near Kraków on July 26, 1030, St. Stanislaus was ordained a Priest after being educated in the Cathedral schools of Gniezno, then capital of Poland. He was appointed preacher and archdeacon to



the Bishop of Kraków, where his eloquence and example brought about real conversion. He was martyred for denouncing political and social corruption. He was canonized by Pope Innocent IV in 1253 and is the principle patron of Kraków.

## LITURGY SCHEDULE

### Lent Week 5 (Year C)

#### **Sunday 7th April**

#### **Fifth Sunday of Lent**

9.30am Mass *Ciss Honeyfield R.I.P.*

7.00pm Mass *Mass for all our Social Media followers*

#### **Monday 8th April**

#### **Weekday of Lent**

12.00pm Mass followed by Confession

#### **Tuesday 9th April**

#### **Weekday of Lent**

12.00pm Mass followed by Confession

#### **Wednesday 10th April**

#### **Weekday of Lent**

12.00pm Mass followed by Confession

#### **Thursday 11th April**

#### **Weekday of Lent**

No Mass

#### **Friday 12th April**

#### **Weekday of Lent**

6.15pm Stations of Cross

7.00pm Mass *Coiro Family*

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

#### **Weekday of Lent**

6.00pm Mass *Terry Boyd R.I.P.*

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

Saturday 5.00pm-5.40pm

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