



ST BONAVENTURE'S NEWSLETTER

A Community of Missionary
Disciples With Contemplative Hearts

Lent Week 6
14th April
2019

This week I did something I haven't done for some months: I took some proper time off. It was a total revelation. I turned the notifications off on my email accounts, WhatsApp, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Asana, my text messages and actual phone. I sat for the most part in silence reading two books and reflecting. Making space this week taught me that I need to make more space. It is something I hardly ever write about, I often think that when I write or say something it should be about spirituality, about living in a field, or living a contemplative life, or making space to get away from it all. But, because I am not so good at it myself I can't really talk about it convincingly. I would highly recommend it. It gave me time to reflect on what it means to be a Priest in a changing church.

Being a Parish Priest (PP) is effectively being an administrator, a site manager and then a pastor. The traditional model of being a PP is helping a structure to run well. I could go to the Philippines and be a PP there and once I had got over some cultural difference I could probably slot in quite well. The church has designed a great global system where a PP, wherever you are fits into one big system that runs in more or less the same way wherever you are.

Jesus gave us a mandate to proclaim his message of love and salvation to the world and to follow him. Basically, he calls us to be missionaries and disciples. To coin a contemporary catholic phrase we are called to be 'missionary disciples'. Yet the church 'system' is not set up for this to happen. In my view most dioceses see themselves as the mission. Instead of helping us become missionary disciples most diocese expect us to serve their structures and demands. From personal experience, I think this can be evidenced in the countless meetings that seem to achieve very little and in the way our finances are run. The structure of the church should serve the mission but it seems that the structure has become the mission. It is this self serving structure that the last five popes, including Pope Francis, have been teaching us to over haul.

Each of the Popes since St John XXIII in the 1960's have been calling us to be missionaries but the church continues to be mired in self reflective arguments between left and right, traditional and liberal. These arguments are in my opinion a profligate indulgence, they keep us looking inwards focussed on ourselves rather than looking outwards to those who do not know the message of God's love. Those arguments keep us in a safe and comfortable zone rather than helping us to break out into the unfamiliar and challenging territory of sharing our faith. (PTO)

I feel we can transform St Bon's into something like a missionary hub. Rather than us keeping a parish running because it has always been 'that way', we can orient our structures to inviting others, especially non-believers, to encounter Jesus's love for them. This demands a cultural shift that has been asked for by our Popes for decades but which few parishes seem to have been able to achieve. We have come a long way over the last few years and have made great steps on that journey, now we have to turn that start into concrete action of bringing the message of God's love to the people who need to hear it.

Fr Tom

OUR PARISH

Fr Tom's Vlog: Fr Tom's latest vlog is now available on our YouTube page (St Bons Bristol). Fr Tom relives having a proud moment and discusses Adoration: <https://youtu.be/xSS61Z2E940>

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

Children's Stations of The Cross Service: Good Friday 11.00am 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.

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

OUR COMMUNITY

St James Priory: From Tuesday 7th May Abbot David Charlesworth OSB will be hearing Confessions at 12.30pm and Celebrating Mass at 1:05pm Tuesday to Saturday. He will also celebrate Sunday morning Mass at 8am.

Quiz Evening: A quiz evening in aid of Little Sisters of the Poor St Josephs home, Cotham Hill on Friday 26th April at 7.00pm. £5pp, teams of 6-8.

Quiz Evening: A quiz evening in aid of HCPT will be held at St Teresa's Social Centre on Saturday 11th May at 7.30pm. Burgers and Hot Dogs available. All welcome.

Arise, an evening of English Retreat and Healing Service: Held on Friday, 26th April from 6.00pm-9.00pm at St Joseph's Catholic Church, 232 Forest Road, Fishponds, Bristol, BS16 3QT. The evening will comprise of Holy Rosary, Praise and Worship, Word of God sharing, Holy Mass, Adoration and Healing Service.

PICTURE OF THE WEEK



Fr Tom's latest vlog is now out!

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.

PASSION SUNDAY

All of us have probably experienced roller coaster days which can cause us to go from a state of great joy into one of despair. As we recall the events of Jesus entering Jerusalem and all that followed on from that euphoric entry, we are invited into the suffering and death of Jesus, to focus on an experience which Jesus freely participated in. This does not mean that it was easy. Suffering by its very nature is painful, whether it be emotional, psychological or physical. One week on from today we will celebrate the resurrection of Jesus but during the week ahead we remember that Jesus continues to suffer in his body, that is in the people who are suffering today, victims of abuse, of injustice, of betrayal and of persecution. As we reflect on this let us pray for these victims that, they too, will rise with the Lord.

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



Following

I'll be at #StandingTogether rally tomorrow at 2pm in Trafalgar Square to speak up for young people, and to support families and communities affected by #knifecrime. Please join us.

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.

<u>EASTER SERVICE TIMES</u>		<u>LITURGY SCHEDULE</u>
Maundy Thursday	8:00pm	Lent Week 6 (Year C)
Good Friday		Sunday 14th April
Stations of the Cross	9:30am	Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
Children's Stations of the Cross	11:00am	9.30am Mass <i>Giuseppe & Rosa Coiro</i>
Soup Lunch		7.00pm Mass <i>Pro Pop</i>
Passion of the Lord	3:00pm	
Easter Saturday Vigil	9:00pm	Monday 15th April
Mass of the Resurrection		Monday of Holy Week
Easter Sunday Mass	9:30am & 7:00pm	9.00am Morning Prayer
		9.15am Mass <i>Lucy Shine</i>
<u>SAINT OF THE WEEK</u>		Tuesday 16th April
St. Catherine of Siena		Monday of Holy Week
St. Catherine of Siena was born during the outbreak of the plague in Siena, Italy on March 25, 1347.		No Mass
She chose to devote herself to God, against the will of her parents and joined the Sisters of the Penance of St. Dominic where she made her vows.		Wednesday 17th April
Catherine of Siena is known for the strong influence she had in the history of the papacy, such as the return of the Pope from Avignon to Rome.		Monday of Holy Week
She carried out many missions entrusted by the Pope, something quite rare for a woman in the Middle Ages. She is one of the most influential writers in Catholicism, to the point that she is one of only four women to be declared a doctor of the Church.		7.00pm Mass <i>Margaret & Daniel Oost-huizens</i>
		Thursday 18th April
		The Sacred Paschal Triduum
		Holy (Maundy) Thursday
		8:00pm Mass
		Friday 19th April
		Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday)
		9:30am Stations of Cross
		11.00am Children's Stations of Cross
		3:00pm Passion of the Lord
		Saturday 20th April
		Holy Saturday
		9.00pm Mass of the Resurrection <i>Pro Pop</i>
		Sacrament of Reconciliation:
		Saturday 5.00pm-5.40pm
		Adoration: Monday at 10am after Mass through to 8pm on Tuesday.