

ST BONAVENTURE'S NEWSLETTER

Easter Week 2
28th April
2019

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

The highlight of my year so far has been the Easter Triduum. I found the liturgies so moving and meaningful and as a community we entered into them with an attitude of respect and reverence. The weather helped but the huge effort put in by so many made our services and celebrations wonderful. A lot goes in to making a good liturgy. There is the behind the scenes work of the sacristans, brass polishers, linen washers and cleaners. Then there is the hard work and dedication of all those who read and play music. Music is, I believe, one of the most important things in any parish community because it makes or breaks the liturgy, we are very blessed to have a number of dedicated musicians who helped make our liturgies both solemn and joyful.

The two highlights of the Easter Triduum for me were the Easter Vigil and then Easter Sunday morning Mass. The Vigil is the most powerful liturgy of the year, it is a Mass in four parts which involves a bonfire and dousing people in Holy Water, I love it. This year at my fourth attempt here at St Bon's it went without a glitch and that meant an awful lot to me. I think those who attended the vigil came away on a real high, I know I did. It set me up perfectly for the morning Mass where I baptised 4 children, that was amazing.

Helping to bring Christ to the lives of Ellie, Jess, Miya and Max was a total privilege and was the culmination of their own desire, the encouragement of their parents, families and teachers. Each of them will go on to make their First Holy Communion in June. I can't describe what it feels like as a Priest to do baptisms of those who choose themselves to become Catholic Christians, it is sooo special and in conjunction with the Easter Vigil has been the highlight of the year so far. The new music at that Mass was amazing, it made such a joyful atmosphere in which to welcome the families of the children. Another highlight was the huge number of blessings that people received on Easter Sunday morning. It was a joy to have so many new people to Mass with us and to make them feel welcome.

One of my dreams for our parish is that we can become a community which particularly welcomes those of little faith or none. It is something I have been passionate about since the age of sixteen when I had a number of non-religious friends who I really liked, and I used to think, why doesn't the church reach out to them? It seems that we are good at sharing the message of salvation with ourselves but we don't seem to think about the thousands of people out there who would love to meet Jesus too, just like we have! I hope that is something we can excel at at St Bon's. As well as being disciples of Jesus we are called by him to share his message of salvation with others, not to keep it to ourselves. He calls us to be missionaries.

Easter has set us up for the rest of the year and we have lots of work to do to become more welcoming, to grow closer to Jesus and to share his message with others. Our Parish Feast Day is coming up on 14th July. Last year was amazing, please save the date. We hope this year will be bigger and better. One of our aims is to make it a real community event, for our neighbourhood, parish and school. It is a joy and privilege to be the Priest here, I pray that this year will be one of excitement and growth for each of us and our community as a whole.

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

Fr Tom's Vlog: Fr Tom's latest vlog is now available on YouTube. Fr Tom talks to Linda from the welfare group and discusses why it's important for a parish to have a welfare group and do the work of Jesus. Click here to view: <https://youtu.be/BMftc86NpQc>



Help with Catering: We are looking for people to help with the catering on our St Bon's Alpha course. We are putting together a rota and it would mean a commitment of catering about every 4-6 weeks depending on numbers. Actual numbers to be catered for will be known once the course is up and running. Ideally you would prepare the food and then attend the Alpha evening to serve and then clear away. This would be a great opportunity for you to be part of the Alpha team. Your help would be greatly appreciated. If you would like to volunteer, contact Angela 07974778753 arb_carruthers@hotmail.com.

Accountancy: We are looking for a management (not financial) accountant to help us with some strategic planning. We are hoping you can help. If there is anyone with management accountancy experience please get in touch with Fr Tom, he would love to hear from you.

St. George's Day Service: 1st Bishopston Scout Group will be marking St George's Day with a parade from their HQ on Kings Drive to St Bon's church on Sunday 28th April. All are welcome to come along and join in the celebration. The parade is due to start at 2.30pm from 1st Bishopston hut with the service starting at about 2.45pm in the church. There will be an opportunity for tea and cakes afterwards at the scout hut.

Thank You: To you all so much for your kindness and generosity in the Easter collection. I am amazed at how thoughtful everyone is especially when things are still difficult for so many on a day to day basis. It means a lot to know that I am valued. I love being here and I hope and pray that we can go from strength to strength, as a community over the next year. Fr Tom

OUR COMMUNITY

livesimply Thought for the Week: Now spring is here you can help reduce food waste and save money by growing your own salads. For the price of a bag of mixed leaves in the supermarket you can buy a pack of mixed salad leaf seeds that sown in succession will keep you going all summer. They can easily be grown in containers if you haven't got a garden - just remember to water regularly.

Borderlands Fundraising Concert with Joachim Schwander: This year's Spring fundraiser for Bristol's charity supporting refugees and asylum seekers will be held at Clifton Cathedral on Saturday 4th May at 7.30pm. Accomplished organist Joachim Schwander will lead an exciting musical journey with a recital entitled 'From the Bachs to the Archers'. Tickets are free but you will be asked for a donation on the door. Please reserve your place in advance on [EventBrite](#)

PICTURE OF THE WEEK



Easter celebrations. Photo: Angela Parry

GIVING

Since last year (2017 to 2018), our costs of running have increased by 8.3% (this just includes costs of council tax, heating, lighting, rubbish, gardening, cleaning & admin). We'd greatly appreciate it if your giving could reflect that.

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.

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

From the joy of last week's resurrection, fear and anxiety have taken over. The disciples huddle together not knowing what to expect now that the authorities know that Jesus has 'disappeared'. Jesus enters, bringing peace and consolation and once more they rejoice. Then there is Thomas, poor doubting Thomas who will only believe when he can physically experience the holes in the hands and feet of Jesus. Where is the hope and faith of last week? This is a reality for many of us. We believe, we have faith and then something happens in our life and we forget or lose hope and our equilibrium is disturbed. Jesus offers us peace, the deep peace of knowing that however difficult life might be we are safe, we are loved and we will never be abandoned.

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 God's call in your life, we'd love to see you.

TWEET OF THE WEEK



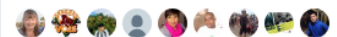
Pope Francis ✓
@Pontifex

Following

The resurrection of Christ is the true hope of the world. Happy #Easter!

4:00 am - 21 Apr 2019

20,387 Retweets 87,231 Likes



1.6K 20K 87K

PLEASE PRAY FOR

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

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.

St. Bonaventure's Feast Day 2019

SUNDAY 14TH JULY 11AM-2PM
ST BONS SCHOOL PLAYGROUND, EGERTON RD, BS7 8HP



DETAILS
COMING
SOON!

SAINT OF THE WEEK

St George, Patron of England



Martyred in around 303, George was thought to be a Roman soldier of Greek descent. Legend says that George attacked the dragon, telling the people that he would rid them of this monster if they would believe in Jesus Christ and be baptised. 15,000 people were baptised. George was seen to personify the ideas of Christian chivalry and King Richard I of England placed his crusading army under his protection.

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Easter Week 2 (Year C)

Sunday 28th April

Divine Mercy Sunday

9.30am Mass *Pro Pop*

2:00pm Scouts/Guides Service

7.00pm Mass *Olga Henning Barry*

Monday 29th April

Feast of St. Catherine of Siena

No Mass

Tuesday 30th April

Solemnity of St George, Patron of England

No Mass

Wednesday 1st May

Weekday of Easter

No Mass

Thursday 2nd May

Memorial of St Athanasius, Bishop

No Mass

Friday 3rd May

Feast of Sts Philip and James, Apostles

No Mass

Saturday 4th May

Feasts of the English Martyrs

6.00pm Mass *Shaun Birrane R.I.P.*

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday 5.00pm-5.40pm

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