



ST BONAVENTURE'S NEWSLETTER

OT Week 17
28th July
2019

A Community of Missionary
Disciples With Contemplative Hearts

Much of my thinking is coloured by social media. I say this because if you don't use social media or spend much time on the internet the things I say or comment on might sound ludicrous, or exaggerated. There are four main social media 'platforms', or four main computer programmes that act as socialising sites for people who want to share their 'media', that is images or videos etc.

The most well known of these is Facebook. Most people are on it or know someone on it. It's been around for 15 years and while I used to spend a lot of time on it, I don't anymore. I can't stand watching the highlights of other people's lives. I struggle living a life of gratitude as it is!

Maybe the next well known site is YouTube. YouTube is a bit of a purists site. You don't post your favourite snaps or write comments about your life, you make videos and put them up for everyone to see. Some people have a massive following on YouTube. I like YouTube and use it a lot. I often pray the rosary to a recording I like on YouTube. YouTube helped me put a radiator back on the wall once and helps millions of people with countless things every day.

Probably the most popular but maybe less well known social media site is Instagram. Instagram is fun and attracts fun people who want to share photos and short stories about themselves. It can be a bit like Facebook, it's owned by them, but is a nice way to see what's going on in people's lives. You can get lost for hours on it. I use it but it is not my true love.

Another well known site but not as popular as the others is Twitter. Yes, my beloved Twitter. I love Twitter but hate it at the same time. I love it because it's about words, comment, opinion, it can be great fun and plain nasty too. Because I spend time there I think it shapes my world view. Twitter can be very binary. It can be a place where people are cruel and express themselves in a way they could not in a day to day way.

You may be thinking, 'get off all that stuff Fr Tom and keep yourself in the real world'. But my response to you is that social media is as real as the real world. It exists in the real world. Social media is a neutral thing, it exists, it is neither good nor bad. But the way it is used can be good or bad. That is why I ardently believe that Christians need to be using social media to proclaim the message of the Gospel, of love, of peace because there are many on there who do not. Used well and sensibly, it can be great fun too.

We are making huge efforts in the parish to use Social Media to connect with people. If you would like to join us we would love to see you, look us up on the handles below. We are connecting with hundreds of people on our social media, don't forget to tell your family and friends where they can find us.

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

Confession: Ever wondered if confession is completely anonymous, even if a murder is confessed? Find out in the latest [#FrTomTalks](#) on Confession. Click here: <https://youtu.be/kJfco2GppSA>

Please pray for: Ray Gunning, who has been taken unwell and is receiving treatment at Southmead Hospital. Please pray for Ray and his family at this difficult time.

Current Standing Order Donations: To our parishioners who kindly donate by monthly Standing Order. You were informed in May that the Diocese was changing the way in which we process standing order donations due to our new online parish accounting system (OPAS). This was supposed to happen in June/July, but problems were found with the OPAS program. These problems have now been solved. To iterate, the new system enables parishioners to pay directly into the Parish bank account rather than through the main Clifton Diocese account. There is some internal work to be done but once completed the Diocese will be sending out letters to each of our current Standing Order Donors with a new form to be completed, signed and returned in the pre-paid envelope supplied. This change will benefit the parish as they will receive your donation directly each month without this processing delay. Your donation is extremely valuable to your parish and the Diocese, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing generosity and support.

Business Centre: We have now developed the plans for phase two of the Business Centre. Before we can start, we need to have a bit of a clear out. To achieve this we are asking for an adults only working party for Saturday 17th August from 9.00.am. We would hope to have it completed by lunchtime. Refreshments will be provided for our volunteers. Due to Health and Safety reasons we regret that we cannot have any “young” helpers no matter how willing they may be – so over 18’s only please. If you are able to help please email Tony Nelson c/o the Parish office.

OUR COMMUNITY

Livesimply Thought for the Week: Our pension savings could make a difference to the world by being invested in sustainable companies that benefit society, the environment and their workforce. Do you know where your money is being invested? Would you be happy to support companies promoting gambling or tobacco or manufacturing arms? The short video, [here](#), shows ordinary people asking themselves this question.

Young Catholic Adults Weekend: During the weekend of the 25-27 October 2018, Young Catholic Adults will be running a retreat at Douai Abbey, it will feature author and associate editor of the Catholic Herald Prof Stephen Bullivant, Fr. Stewart Foster, Canon Poucin, Dom Jonathan Rollinson and Dom. Christopher Greener. The weekend will be full-board. More information: <http://www.youngcatholicadults.co.uk/>

TWEET OF THE WEEK



Cardinal Nichols
@CardinalNichols

Today I invite you to pray especially for Christians who are persecuted for their faith in so many parts of the world. Even if we cannot reach out to comfort them, we can hold them in our prayers so that they may know they are not forgotten. #Lourdes2019 bit.ly/2J0szOZ



YEAR OF PRAYER

As we prepare to journey into the diocesan *Year of Prayer*, the Diocese's Department for Adult Education and Evangelisation share these reflections.

17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

In response to their request, Jesus teaches his disciples to pray. Three important verbs lie at the heart of his teaching: "Ask...seek...knock...". They emphasise the insistence of the call to prayer and the assurance of being heard if we persevere. "You will receive, you will find, it shall be opened to you". How many of us struggle to remain faithful to our prayer, becoming discouraged when it seems our prayers are not answered? Perhaps we lose faith in our prayer because God does not seem to hear us. Jesus assures us that our prayers are heard but it is not for us to dictate to God, trying to impose our will, if we do that we will lose heart. Instead we are encouraged to be open to God's will for us. God will never deliver evil upon us. In whatever way our prayers are answered it will be for our greater good. All we need to do is trust and God will do the rest.

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 board games, puzzles etc, have a drink and a chat.

Friday Soup Lunch: The Friday Soup Group are having a break over the summer and will recommence on Friday 6th September. Thanks to all who come and enjoy the social gathering, lunch and raising money both for the Parish and for local charities.

Praying the Rosary: The monthly Parish Rosary Revival Prayer Group will meet on Tuesday 6th August 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 07771161259.

Alpha: Our next Alpha Course is beginning in September. If you have never been on one before and if you're interested in learning more about Jesus and your faith, we'd love to see you.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Veronica.
Maria Alfano.
Anna McGinn.
Nachtter Kaur.
Kathleen Ward.
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 it can be recorded.

PICTURE OF THE WEEK

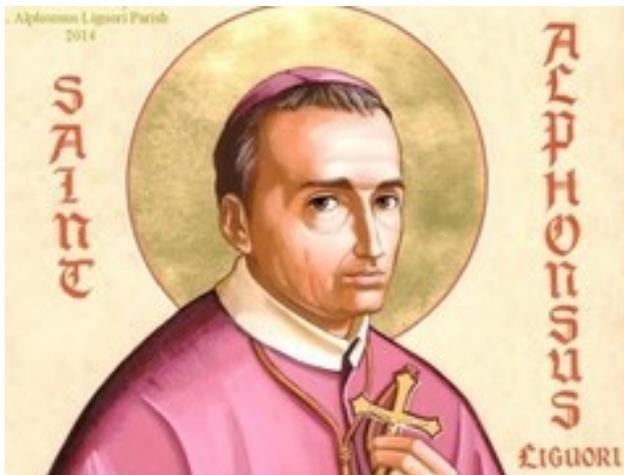


Party night as Alpha 2 comes to a close. Thanks for the fun, food, friendship, films and faith. Alpha is doing great things in this parish. Our next Alpha course starts in September, contact the office for more info.

Photo: A Parry

SAINT OF THE WEEK

St. Alphonsus Liguori



Born in 1696 near Naples, St. Alphonsus was a Bishop, spiritual writer, composer, musician, artist, poet, lawyer, scholastic philosopher, and theologian.

He received his doctorate at the age of 16. In 1723, whilst visiting the local Hospital for the Incurables, he had a vision and was told to consecrate his life solely to God.

St. Alphonsus is remembered as one of the most widely read Catholic authors and for being the Patron Saint of confessors.

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Ordinary Time Week 17 (Year C)

Sunday 28th July

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9.30am Mass *Pro Pop*

7:00pm Mass *Gerlando Caci & Family*

Monday 29th July

Memorial of St Martha

9.00am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass *Ray Gunning*

Tuesday 30th July

Weekday in Ordinary Time

9.00am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass

Wednesday 31st July

Memorial of St Ignatius of Loyola

11:00am Funeral *Vittorio Parinello*

Thursday 1st August

Memorial of St Alphonsus Mary Liguori

No Mass

Friday 2nd August

Weekday in Ordinary Time

No Mass

Saturday 3rd August

Weekday in Ordinary Time

6.00pm Mass

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday 5.00pm-5.40pm

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