



ST BONAVENTURE'S NEWSLETTER

OT Week 25
22nd September
2019

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

It's great to be back! I really enjoyed being away but it has been lovely to come back home. I have had a varied few weeks, I went on a Catholic Youth Camp, then on retreat and then for a short family holiday to Paris. It was nice to do a variety of things, but because I wasn't too long in any particular place, it has been nice to get home! I love going away but I always love coming back.

At the end of August I often go to the Youth 2000 Festival in Walsingham, Norfolk. Walsingham is a Shrine of Our Lady and a national centre of Pilgrimage for Catholics. Youth 2000, a Catholic Youth movement has held an end of summer festival there for the last 20 years. I was around to help with the preparations for the first festival there in 1999. How time flies! This year's festival was marked by the number of strong, faith-filled, professional, young lay women who spoke about spirituality and prayer. It was awesome to hear their zeal, see their commitment to the faith and the church and to see what a big impact they were having on the young people present. It was a bit hot as there were only two options on the hottest bank holiday in living memory; sweltering tents or direct sunshine and by the fourth day I was done for! Fortunately the air con in my car cooled me down!

My annual retreat this year was very special. Usually I go to Austria for a silent 8 day retreat but I have been feeling that 8 days is a bit long for me so I went on a 5 day retreat and it was just what I needed. I went to the Carmelite retreat centre at Boars Hills near Oxford. If you haven't been I strongly encourage you to go, it is a special place with amazing countryside and views of Oxford. One of the resident priest's, Fr Liam, led me on an amazing few days of prayer. I was tempted to ask to stay! But the whole point of a retreat is to bring back the peace and presence of God to your everyday life! So I came back, with a lovely trip to Paris in-between.

We have so many exciting things to look forward to over the coming months, not least our Christmas Carol Service on December 13th, but also the completion of the second phase of the Business Centre which should double our capacity, that is exciting. Mixed in with all the wonderful things that are happening we do have some genuine challenges.

Over the last year we have been struggling financially. Our spending priorities along with the huge amount we send to the diocese (£37,000) and the £19,000 gas and electric bills we have paid this year have left us with little in our bank account. The income from the business centre which we hoped would go to improve our buildings has gone on our running costs. We are very blessed to have this income but it is frustrating that we are not yet able to allocate it to its original goal. This has put us under great pressure and we are often unable to immediately pay bills that come in. We are working very hard to change this situation. I am aware that we are not a business - far from it - and my main focus is our spiritual development as a parish community and our outreach to our local community. I really ask for your prayers for this coming year, I pray for us that as a community it will be a wonderful one and spiritual growth and renewal!

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

R.I.P. Please continue to pray for the repose of the soul of Roger Paynter whose Funeral Service will be on Friday 27th September at 2.00pm

Standing Order Donations: The way in which Standing Order donations are made to the parish is changing so they are paid directly to the Parish Bank Account. At the moment, they go to a diocesan account and then redistributed to the parish. The diocese will be writing to donors asking them to complete a new standing order, and cancel their existing one. They will need your current address. If you have moved since you made your standing order, contact the parish office. Your donations are greatly appreciated, thank you for your ongoing generosity.

OUR COMMUNITY

Girls just want to have fun! Girls - New school year – need a new challenge other than the homework? Come along to St Bon's Guides. If you are aged between 10 and 14 and are keen to meet new friends and have a go at new activities then why not join us. We run two separate groups either Thursday at 7-8.30pm or Tuesday from 7.15-8.45pm. You do not have to have been in the Rainbows or the Brownies, all welcome. Email karenanelson@blueyonder.co.uk

Vocations Discernment Retreat: A three-day Vocations Discernment Retreat, organised by Clifton Diocese and Downside Abbey for Catholics aged 18 to 35 years old, will be held at Downside from 18th-20th October 2019. The talks during the retreat will consider all vocations, including consecrated life, priesthood, and lay life. No one should feel unwelcome if they cannot meet these costs, so please get in touch. For info contact rinabird@outlook.com

Celebrate Conference 2019: Are you interested in exploring your Faith in a family friendly setting? We are holding a weekend conference at St Bede's Catholic College in Bristol on the 26th and 27th October. We have great speakers, worship and fellowship, and dedicated streams for the children and young people www.celebrateconference.org/bristol

CAFOD Climate Change Campaign: Climate change affects our homes, our health, our heritage and our beautiful landscapes. Climate change ruins the work we do to fight poverty and to live better lives. Come along to the 9.30am or 7pm mass here at St Bon's on September 29th and find out what you can do. For info contact Liz at Cafod ebaldwin@cafod.org.uk 01179428328

EU Citizens: A message from Rev Richard McKay from the Migrant Forum of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. All EU citizens (those holding EU passports, including their children born in UK and those married to UK citizens) after 'Brexit' must apply for residency in UK. It is important that those concerned (including from Latin America holding Spanish passports and from Angola, East Timor etc holding Portuguese passports) understand the steps they need to take to remain in UK after 31st December 2020 www.gov.uk/eu-settled-status

Students: Welcome to Bristol! The University Catholic Chaplaincy at 103 Queens Road (next to UoB Students' Union) serves all staff and students of the UoB and UWE. We have Mass Sundays at 6pm in our chapel, followed by supper in the bar. There are opportunities for worship, formation, social events and so much more. Come and join us! www.brisccathchap.org.uk

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Ray Gunning. Anne James.
Bob James. Veronica.
Maria Alfano. Anna McGinn.
Nachtter Kaur. Kathleen Ward.
Pat Kissane. Reena James.

If you would like to be named in the Newsletter, please contact the Parish Office to give your consent so it can be recorded.

YEAR OF PRAYER

The Diocese's Department for Adult Education and Evangelisation share these reflections.

25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

It would be easy for us to get caught up with the justices or injustices of today's Gospel. At the heart of it is, however, a simple question which the Lord is asking us: What have we done with the many things and people that God has entrusted to us? In an ever-growing need for us to be accountable in our work, with our finances, in our families and parishes, we might forget that ultimately we are accountable to God for the many good things which we have been given – our gifts and talents and our material goods.

How do we use these? Do we hide them, or do we use them for the greater good of our families, our communities – the whole world? If we are intent on building the Kingdom of God, then we will want to share what we have. Stewardship at its very best is when we care enough about others that we want them to share what we have, with whoever has a need for what we have.

WHAT'S ON?

Shrine to St Therese: I feel inspired to put a shrine to St Therese of Lisieux the 'Little Flower' in the church. St Bon's has had a long association with St Therese and the Chapel in the basement is dedicated to her. I would like us to establish a shrine to her to increase our prayer to her and her intercession in our parish. This could take the form of a statue or image and I have identified two possible places in the church. If you are interested in being involved in this project I invite you to an informal meeting in the church on Friday 27th Sept at 6.30pm, before the evening mass. Fr Tom.

SAVE THE DATE: Our Christmas Carol Service will be held on 13th December. It's going to be special, watch this space!

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: 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 next meeting will be on Tuesday 1st October 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.

TWEET OF THE WEEK



Thangam girly swot Debbonaire ✓
@ThangamMP

I'm so proud that so many children, parents and staff from St Bonaventure's Primary came out to demand action on climate change. I've got lots of messages to take back to Parliament - great start to [#schoolstrike4climate](#) day!

PICTURE OF THE WEEK



“CLIMATE CHANGE IS NOT A LIE, DO NOT LET OUR PLANET DIE!” sang out by the St Bons school children and parents on Gloucester Road Friday morning
#YouthStrike4Climate

ST BON'S SCHOOL

**St Bonaventure's school and Community production of
Mary Poppins:**

This production is for adults (and children) who would like to have a go at treading the boards. All proceeds from this production will go to St Bonaventure's. The final rehearsals and performances will be in St Bonaventure's parish hall during the week of 14th – 21st March 2020. Auditions will take place on the following dates; Monday 30th September and Tuesday 1st October 4.30 – 6pm or Sunday 6th October 5.30pm - 7pm at St Bonaventure's school hall. Email Kate McGrath stbonsdrama@outlook.com or call 0117 3532830 (in school hours) to get involved on stage or backstage.

OCTOBER, MONTH OF MARY

Month of Mary, October, along with May, is a month traditionally dedicated to devotion to Our Blessed Lady. At St Bons we will be reciting the Rosary after every weekday mass throughout October. If you are unable to be at weekday mass why not say a decade of the rosary or a rosary at home each day in October. I often use a pray along to Rosary on YouTube, it is short and I am easily able to fit it into my day, why not give it a go! <https://www.youtube.com/user/MoreWeVlog>

Fr Tom

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Ordinary Time Week 24 (Year C)

Sunday 22nd September
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9.30am Mass

7:00pm Mass *Pro Pop*

Monday 23rd September
Memorial of St Pius of Pietrelcina

9.00am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass *Deceased of Loftus & Grittoes families*

Tuesday 24th September
Memorial of Our Lady of Walsingham

9.00am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass *Kay & Pat Letmon*

Wednesday 25th September
Weekday in Ordinary Time
9.00am Morning Prayer
9.15am Mass *Ruth Ellen Bodey R.I.P.*

Thursday 26th September
Weekday in Ordinary Time
No Mass

Friday 27th September
Memorial of St Vincent de Paul
7.00pm Mass *Ken Lapsley R.I.P.*

Saturday 28th September
Weekday in Ordinary Time
6.00pm Mass *Tom & Irene Loftus R.I.P.*

Sacrament of Reconciliation:
Saturday 5.00pm-5.40pm

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