



ST BONAVENTURE'S NEWSLETTER

OT Week 27
6th October
2019

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

It seems that globally and even nationally we could be at a moment of rebirth; political, economic, environmental and social rebirth. Our political system seems to be collapsing, the economy feels broken, the sustained effect of our consumerism is putting eco-systems in peril and society is more divided than any of us have ever experienced. That these systems are broken points to a need for a rebirth. Few people point to a loss of Christianity as the reason for this crisis. The dishonesty in politics, the greed in the economy and consumerism and the anger and hatred consuming our society all point to an absence of truth, temperance, contentedness, love and kindness that a Christian life and society should engender. Each of us finds ourselves in a new, uncertain and confusing place. Therefore, the church finds herself in a new and confusing place in the West. It seems that both the laity and the leadership of the church are struggling to adapt to this new chaotic situation.

It appears that for some of the laity there is a temptation to lament the current situation and turn back to a seemingly simpler and more secure past with an emphasis on liturgical and doctrinal purity. Or in others to seek a deeper concession to secular culture abandoning doctrinal truth to make that concession. This in itself creates division, we see this being played out in the church today. But what is a truly creative response to the situation in which we find ourselves? Many of the churches leaders appear not to know what to do and seem to double down on running a system that is no longer fit for purpose. I believe the doctrines and teaching of the church lead us to the truth, the way we communicate them can sometimes be terrible. But as a parish priest my greatest struggle is to accept that we are running parishes in the same way we have for centuries. Maybe it is because the same model has survived so long that many in the church do not question why parishes exist or how they run.

The running of our institutions seems to be our focus, rather than, as Jesus calls us, the making of new disciples. If we look to new blood and new ways, we will lose the established way that has served us over the centuries. Catholics today behave very differently to the way they did 40 or 100 years ago, yet we want to run the system as if nothing had changed. This system cannot continue but nor should it. We are in an exciting time, but we must be open to the opportunities that are available. I think we are doing that here at St Bon's. We are looking to build a community based on relationships. The most important relationship is of course our relationship with God. Then with the parish itself and that includes our relationship with each other. We are really working hard through Alpha and prayer partners to build up our relationships with each other, to create a strong parish. By doing that we can change lives, we can invite people to come and encounter the life changing grace of God. By doing that we will be renewed, and we can offer the gift of life to many who at this time of social upheaval are looking for truth and goodness in our world!

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 pray for the repose of the soul of Maria Alfano who died this week and also keep her family in your prayers. The funeral will be Tuesday 8th October at 10:30.

Arrangements for Tuesday morning: Due to Maria's funeral starting at 10.30. there will be no Morning Prayer and Adoration will start at 10am as usual but in the Dining Room. It will transfer back into the Church at 1pm.

Cause for Optimism & Thanksgiving: Ray Gunning has been discharged from Southmead Hospital. He is settling in to a Rehab Facility which offers OT, Physiotherapy & Psychology sessions. His mobility is much better. Thank you for your prayers, please continue to keep them up!

Roger Paynter: A huge thank you from Nedra to Fr. Tom and all the people who came to Roger's Funeral and gave so much support - it has been such a help.

ALPHA: Our next Alpha will be starting on 15 January 2020. We would like to thank everyone who has been involved with our first two Alphas, which have been a blessing for us to offer to those who attended, and for which we have received some beautiful and heartfelt feedback. A review meeting for everyone who has been involved with helping run Alpha will be announced shortly, but if anyone would like to offer any feedback, or simply find out more about why we are running Alpha, please contact Oliver 07879 023 709 oliver@oliverr.co.uk.

First Holy Communion: As a Parish Community we have been evolving our ethos over the last few years. We are seeking to be a more welcoming community. It has become apparent over this period of time that building relationships is an important aspect of being a welcoming community. We have been looking at how we celebrate the sacraments in the context of relationship. Our FHC programme this coming year will be focussing on your relationship with God and the parish. This year we will be meeting with each family to get to know you, to see where you are in your faith journey and your relationship with the parish. Together we can see if now is the right time to go forward with FHC. We want to invite you to be part of a lovely community of faith where your life can be changed by the grace of God. Applications for first Holy Communion need to be submitted before the end of half term. You will be invited to an informal meeting with Fr Tom and a member of the team to get to know you and your family.

OUR COMMUNITY

200 Club: Many thanks to all who support the club, thus raising valuable funds for our parish HCPT group enabling children with special needs to visit Lourdes. There is one more draw in the current 200 Club year. Club Representatives will be at all Masses on 12/13 and 19/20 Oct to collect subscriptions for the new year. Alternatively leave a cheque in the presbytery for £24, payable to St Bonaventures 200 Club, FAO Angela Parry. New members are welcome.

Vacancy at St Bons School: The governors and Headteacher at St Bons Catholic Primary school are seeking to appoint an exceptional, dedicated and committed Caretaker. Closing date for your CV or letter of interest is Friday 18th October. Contact st.bonaventures.p@bristol-schools.uk or 0117 353 2830.

TWEET OF THE WEEK



One small act of kindness can go a long way in making someone's day ❤️ #WorldSmileDay #FamilyFastDay



YEAR OF PRAYER

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

27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"If I just had more faith...." many of us may have struggled with this at some point in our lives. If I just had more faith, I wouldn't have so many questions or doubts. If I just had more faith God would answer my prayers. If I just had more faith he wouldn't have died; she would have recovered. Even the disciples feel the need for more faith as if it is a 'thing', a 'size' or 'quantity'. This is a natural, human desire. What we learn from Jesus, however, is that faith is none of these. Rather it is about how our relationship with him is one of trust and love, expressed in the way that we live in our daily lives. Faith will not change the circumstances of our lives, rather it changes us and enables us to face and deal with the situations we find ourselves in, positive and negative. It is something to be practiced day after day in the nitty gritty of ordinary life. The question is not how much faith we have but, rather, how are we living the faith we do have? How is our faith, our relationship with Jesus, changing our lives, our relationships, the lives of others? If it is not, more of the same will surely make no difference. We live by faith not because we have enough faith but because we have faith, any faith, even mustard seed sized faith. That is all we need. The mustard seed of faith is already planted within us. It is Christ himself.

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: 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.

Welfare Group: The next meeting for the Welfare Group will take place on Wednesday 16th October (11.00am - 12 noon) when the team will be discussing arrangements for the Friday November 15th 7.00pm Remembrance Mass and the Sunday December 8th 2.00pm Anointing of the Sick Mass followed by the Senior Citizens' Christmas Tea in the Presbytery.

Book of Remembrance: From the 1st November this will be made available for us to record the names of those who have died whom we hold dear.

All Souls Mass: Saturday 2nd November 7.00pm followed by the Annual Blessing of the Cemetery

Remembrance Mass: Friday 15th November 7.00pm. For all those who have died since November 2018.

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

Alpha: Our next Alpha will start on 15th January 2020, please contact Oliver Roy-lance-Smith on 07879023709 or email at oliver@oliverrrs.co.uk for more information.

PICTURE OF THE WEEK



Supper after the Creation Celebration Mass to discuss what we can do about Climate Change.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Ray Gunning. Anne James.

Bob James. Veronica.

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.

SAINT OF THE WEEK

St John XXIII

St John XXIII was born near Bergamo, Northern Italy in 1881 named Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli. He was elected Pope at the age of 77.

He changed the culture in the Vatican. At Christmas, 1958, he resumed the papal practice of making visits to the community within the official

Diocese of Rome. He visited the sick, the poor, and prisoners. On June 3, 1963, Pope John XXIII died in his bed at age 81.



LITURGY SCHEDULE

Ordinary Time Week 27 (Year C)

Sunday 6th October

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9.30am Mass *Aisling Reilly*

7:00pm Mass *Pro Pop*

Monday 7th October

Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary

9.00am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass *Private Intention R.I.P.*

Tuesday 8th October

Weekday in Ordinary Time

10:30am Funeral *Maria Alfano*

Wednesday 9th October

Weekday in Ordinary Time

9.00am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass *Nick Heron R.I.P. & Giles Heron (sick)*

Thursday 10th October

Weekday in Ordinary Time

No Mass

Friday 11th October

Weekday in Ordinary Time

7.00pm Mass

Saturday 12th October

Weekday in Ordinary Time

6.00pm Mass *Pro Pop*

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday 5.00pm-5.40pm

Adoration: Monday at 10.00am-10.00pm and Tuesday 10.00am-8.00pm

(see Parish notices)