



ST BONAVENTURE'S NEWSLETTER

A Community of Missionary
Disciples With Contemplative Hearts

OT Week 30
27th October
2019

'To thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this vale of tears.' This is a line from the Marian hymn the 'Salve Regina'. It is a line I have often struggled with. My issue with it is that it seems to portray life as bleak, that we are perpetually struggling in the midst of suffering. My argument is that life is not totally bleak as much as it is not totally exciting and amazing. I feel that if I accepted this line as true I would be accepting that life is a painful episode to be endured, albeit with heavenly assistance, rather than a blessing to be accepted gratefully. I am aware though that the line does express a reality and it does not deny that life can be joyful but highlights that true joy will not be ours until we reach our heavenly home.

But lately I have been feeling that this line is quite apt for life at the moment. The torrid rain coupled with a national feeling of Brexit fatigue, shorter days, and experiencing some difficult to resolve issues have made me think that life can be as much a vale of tears as it is a gift to be grateful for. I find it easy to forget that I am one of the most privileged people in the world and sadly it took a lorry full of 39 frozen immigrants to remind me of that.

For many people on our planet life is a tragedy to be endured. Poverty is one of the greatest results of and contributors to injustice. When you are poor you are easily manipulated, you are desperate and more likely to turn to well paid or rewarded criminal activities than accept the difficulty of your situation. Or if you are a poor young woman from a poor country you are more likely to accept the dream of a new and exciting life in the wealthy west even if that means giving up your passport to your 'boyfriend' to achieve your dream. Poverty leads you to get into the back of refrigerated lorry, trusting you will arrive safely at your destination having parted with \$1000's for the opportunity. Poverty leads to lack of education, hunger, crime, abuse and leaves millions of people vulnerable. When you live with that poverty you are living in a vale of tears. There is no earthly justice that will save you, it is in heavenly assistance that you trust.

When you live a very privileged life like me and many of us, it can be hard to imagine what life is like for many of the world's poorest. We have our struggles, some very serious, like family tragedy or the long term sickness of a loved one, or long term personal ill health. But it can also be easy to turn lesser problems in to personal disasters when in fact they are far from it. It is only when the lives of the worlds poorest and the worlds richest intersect that we are made aware of the banality of some of our problems. It is deeply tragic that that intersection has to be in the back of a refrigerated lorry in Essex, not a meeting of equals but of the dead poor with those who have inhabited their dreams of a better life. Quite rightly do we 'send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this vale of tears.'

Fr Tom

Egerton Road, Bishopston, Bristol BS7 8HP
Tel: 0117 942 4448
bristol.stbonaventure@cliftondiocese.com
<https://stbonsbristol.co.uk/>

@stbonsbristol @stbonsbristol
 www.facebook.com/stbonsbristol
 St Bons Bristol #frtomtalks

Parish Priest: Fr. Tom Smith
Parish Office Hours: Monday
& Friday 9:30am-12:30pm.
Wednesday 11am-1pm.

OUR PARISH

Winter Mass Time Change: Sunday night Mass from the 27th October (when the clocks change) will change from 7.00pm to 6.00pm.

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

livesimply Thought for the Week: A staggering 300,000 tons of clothes are sent to British land-fill sites each year. Our consumption levels of fashion are the highest in Europe. We need to think before we buy. Alternative options include using what we have, borrowing, swapping, buying pre-loved items, restyling and making. Buying new items should be seen as the final choice, once all other options have been considered.

200 Club: Thank you to all parishioners who have renewed their membership for the 200 Club. Profits raised from the club go to our parish HCPT group, enabling children with special needs to visit Lourdes. For those members who haven't renewed yet, or for parishioners who wish to join, please leave a cheque for £24.00 (made payable to St Bonaventure's 200 Club) with your name and address in an envelope in the Presbytery, clearly marked FAO Angela Parry 200 Club. For electronic payments: the bank details are: Lloyds bank Sort code 30-99-38, Account number 02893963, Account name St Bonaventures 200 Club. Please ensure you use your name for reference so we can keep track of who has paid. Thank you for your support.

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.

PICTURE OF THE WEEK



Certificate of thanks received by St Bons for the planting of 100 olive trees for farmers in Palestine.

WHAT'S ON?

Art Club: The Art Club continues on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month 10-11:30am. All welcome 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 meet on the first Tuesday of every month and our next meeting will be on Tuesday 5th November 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.

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 10.30am followed by the Annual Blessing of the Cemetery.

Praying the Rosary: The monthly Parish Rosary Revival Prayer Group meet on the first Tuesday of every month and our next meeting will be on Tuesday 5th November.

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

St Bons Community Quiz: November 22nd 2019, at St Bons School from 7.30pm. Contact Neta neta_pourhosseini@hotmail.com

Sunday 8th December: 2.00pm Mass with the Anointing of the Sick followed by the Christmas Tea for Senior Citizens.

Christmas Gospel Concert: Friday 13th December at 7.00pm with the Renewal Gospel Choir, with drinks and refreshments.

Children's Nativity: December 21st 2.00pm. Children to come dressed as nativity characters! Followed by children party/mulled wine and minced pies in presbytery. All welcome.

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

ST BONAVENTURE'S CHURCH AND THE
RENEWAL GOSPEL CHOIR INVITE YOU TO
CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS

*Joyful
Joyful!*

FRIDAY 13TH DECEMBER 2019 7:00 P.M.
ST BONS CHURCH, EGERTON ROAD, BS7 8HP

GOSPEL CONCERT
WITH DRINKS & REFRESHMENTS, ALL WELCOME!

renewal
STBONSBRISTOL.CO.UK RENEWALCHOIR.ORG

TWEET OF THE WEEK



Carmelite Nuns GB
@carmelnunsgb

St Edith Stein:

"Religion is not something to be relegated to a quiet corner or for a few festive hours, but rather, it must be the root and basis of all life: and that, not merely for a few chosen ones, but for every true Christian."

YEAR OF PRAYER

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

30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

During this Diocesan Year of Prayer, we have been seeking new ways of deepening our relationship with the Lord, especially through our prayer. Our Gospel today, provides a real contrast in the way we might come to prayer and offers us an opportunity to perhaps reflect on the attitude we bring to our time with God. Am I like the Pharisee, proud of all my virtues and keen to thank God for how good I am, or am I more like the tax collector, aware of my sinfulness and need of the mercy of God? Perhaps, at different times, we can be both arrogant and humble. What we learn today is that when we come to God in humility, we leave with a sense of being at one with God. Our God is always loving and merciful and when we come to God in our need, God will always be generous in his response to us.

SAINT OF THE WEEK

St Simon & St Jude, Apostles



St Jude preached with St Simon in Persia, and suffered martyrdom with him.

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Ordinary Time Week 30 (Year C)

Sunday 27th October

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9.30am Mass *Alfredo Pereira R.I.P.*

6:00pm Mass *Pro Pop*

Monday 28th October

Feast of Sts Simon & Jude

9.00am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass *Louise McGarvey R.I.P.*

Tuesday 29th October

Weekday in Ordinary Time

9.00am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass *Bob & Anne James*

Wednesday 30th October

Weekday in Ordinary Time

No Mass

Thursday 31st October

Weekday in Ordinary time

7.00pm Mass *Pro Pop*

Friday 1st November

Solemnity of All Saints

9.15am Mass *Tom & Irene Loftus R.I.P.*

7.00pm Mass

No Holy Hour

Saturday 2nd November

Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day)

10.30am Mass All Souls

Followed by Blessing of Cemetery

6.00pm Mass *Robert & Margaret Bennett*

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday 5.00pm-5.40pm

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