



ST BONAVENTURE'S NEWSLETTER

OT Week 32
10th November
2019

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

As a Catholic community we are amazing at supporting charities, CAFOD stands out as the foremost of these. This fits in with the great British trend of incredible charitable giving, especially to overseas projects, I am always amazed at how much Comic Relief raises. It seems we are very willing to give to the deserving poor and maybe our desire to help children in Africa is tied in with a subtle post Empire/post colonial guilt. Maybe it's not, but it does appear we are particularly good at giving to the poor in developing Africa and countries in the east. I think our willingness to give becomes a little more reluctant when it comes to the seemingly less deserving poor.

In Britain there are high levels of poverty, we see the homeless lining our streets all the time and our sympathy for their plight rises at this time of year but yet it is hard to shake off the feeling that they have opportunities. There is a welfare system, if it works, the homeless have families. Many suffer from addiction issues, and I am sure many think like I sometimes can, that if they resolved those they would have a fighting chance of succeeding. It is less easy to feel sorry for them in the way we feel sorry for a helpless child in Africa. Therefore we are less inclined to give.

Even less deserving than the homeless are those in prison. If they are in prison they deserve to be there, don't they? They have committed a crime and we are safer with them off our streets. In some cases it might be fair to think this way but it would be irresponsible to lump all prisoners together. From my experience of going into prison and from working alongside the Bristol prisoner charity 'Sixty-One' I am aware of the poverty that leads people to take to a life and crime and sadly for many to stay in a life of crime.

Illiteracy rates among prisoners are obscene. Many did not succeed in school and unlike many of us they did not have parents who could motivate, inspire or help them. Maybe the opposite. Imagine having a parent with no education, a parent who could not help you with your homework, who was, maybe, violent towards you. Imagine you were kicked out of school and your only route to making any money was crime. It can be easy to judge criminals but I am not sure that many of us had their upbringings. It was poverty that pushed them towards a life of crime and it is that same poverty that can keep them there. Yet it is not that poverty that pulls on our heartstrings, even though it can have the biggest impact on our lives because we can be victims of crime. I am not excusing in any way the choice to commit a criminal act but some of the circumstances surrounding those who commit crime are not clear cut.

This weekend Tim Snowdon, the director of the Bristol based Ex-Offender charity, Sixty-One, will be coming to St Bon's to talk about his work and seek our ongoing financial support. I have invited Tim to come as I hope we can support this local charity which has an impact on Bristol based people and us. We are amazing at supporting CAFOD and many overseas causes but I hope that as a parish we will feel called to support and get involved with Sixty-One and help Ex-Offenders steer clear of a life of crime and help them become productive and useful members of our society. To my way of thinking that is an amazing project to be part of.

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

First Holy Communion: Thank you to all the families who have submitted an application, the window for this year's First Holy Communion intake has now closed.

Sixty One: At this weekend's Masses, Tim Snowdon the director of charity 'Sixty-One' will be joining us to share the work he does. Sixty-One enables ex-prisoners to live meaningful lives free from crime by inspiring, enabling and supporting the church and Christians to provide the relational support they need, and yet so often lack. To find out more visit www.sixty-one.org.

Quiz: The St Bons Community Quiz has been postponed until January due to unforeseen circumstances. Keep an eye out for the new date!

Parish Survey – Called to Serve: Pope Francis said, "The world tells us to seek success, power and money; God tells us to seek humility, service and love." So is our parish serving you, and are you serving the parish? To help us understand our parish community, in the coming weeks we will be organising a survey. This will be an opportunity for everyone to share and have a voice, and to help shape the vision and future for St Bons. It will start on the 18th November and run for 3 weeks. More details to follow.

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.

Help Required: If you are able to spare your time to help in the Children's Nativity please contact Neta at neta_pourhosseini@hotmail.com.

Help with Gospel Christmas Concert Flyers: The bundles of flyers sorted out by roads are available at the back of the church. After Mass please take a bundle of your road or one near to you & sign off for it so the helpers can keep a check on the roads covered so far. Many thanks.

Donations to the Parish by bank Standing Order: Thanks to all for your continued donations and for your patience in awaiting the promised change. On 4th November, the diocese wrote to all those donors on their list. You should have received a letter from the diocese asking you to adjust your donation details. If you have not received such a letter, please let the parish gift aid secretary know - email ga.bristol.stbonaventure@cliftdiocese.com or telephone Bristol 9427018. Many thanks.

OUR COMMUNITY

livesimply Thought for the Week: Palm oil is widely used but expanding plantations threaten some of the world's most important habitats, particularly rainforests; boycotting palm oil is not the answer. Instead let's support those companies undertaking actions for a more sustainable palm oil industry contributing to a long-lasting and transparent solution. See which [products contain palm oil](#) and look out for the RSPO or Green Palm label that indicate more sustainable choices.

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!



SAINT OF THE WEEK

St Edmund of Abingdon

St Edmund was a merchant and then became a monk and also the treasurer of Salisbury Cathedral. Teaching Arts at Oxford University he was the first Oxford master to be officially canonised. He died in France on the way to see the Pope.



TWEET OF THE WEEK



#PopeFrancis invites us to ask the Holy Spirit to help us inculcate the Gospel, and to build bridges towards those who do not know Christ. #GeneralAudience

WHAT'S ON?

Art Club: The Art Club continues on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month 10-11:30am. All welcome to 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.

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

Remembrance Mass: Jesus said "I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though they die, they will live and whoever lives and believes in me will never die." (Jn 11:25-26.) **Come and join us this Friday 15th November at 7.00pm** to pray for all those who have died since Nov. 2018 and light a candle for your loved ones.

Mass with the Anointing of the Sick: Sunday 8th December 2.00pm, 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 mince pies in presbytery. All welcome.

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

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Gospel Concert
with the Renewal Gospel Choir
Friday 13th December, 7.00pm

Children's Nativity followed by Christmas Party
Saturday 21st December, 2.00pm

Christmas Eve Mass
Tuesday 24th December, 6.00pm

Midnight Mass
Wednesday 25th December, 12.00am

Mass of Christmas Morning
Wednesday 25th December, 9.30am

YEAR OF PRAYER

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

32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

November is traditionally the month when the Church reflects on the significance of people we have loved and who have died. Specifically, this weekend, we remember all those who have died in war. It can be a painful time for anyone who has experienced the death of someone close to them. Fundamental to our Christian belief is that Jesus rose from the dead. Alongside this we believe and trust that after our own death we will rise again. The Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection and so tried to ridicule belief in it. Jesus cuts through their question highlighting that God is a God of the living not of the dead. This is a certainty of faith which gives meaning to our own life and enables to trust that we will meet again those we love and have lost, not on this earth, but in the fullness of life with God.

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Ordinary Time Week 32 (Year C)

Sunday 10th November
32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
9.30am Mass *Fatima Perreira*
6:00pm Mass *Pro Pop*

Monday 11th November
Memorial of St Martin of Tours
9.00am Morning Prayer
9.15am Mass *Repose of the Souls of Teresa & Cliff Hinchey*

Tuesday 12th November
Memorial of St Josaphat
9.00am Morning Prayer
9.15am Mass *Barbara Davis R.I.P.*

Wednesday 13th November
Weekday in Ordinary Time
9.00am Morning Prayer
9.15am Mass *Deceased Members of the Bevan Family*

Thursday 14th November
Memorial of the Beatified Martyrs of the Diocese
No Mass

Friday 15th November
Weekday in Ordinary time
7.00pm Mass *Remembrance Mass*
Holy Hour

Saturday 16th November
Memorial of St Edmund of Abingdon
6.00pm Mass (Vigil) *Willmer/Virgil Families*

Sacrament of Reconciliation:
Saturday 5.00pm-5.40pm

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