



ST BONAVENTURE'S NEWSLETTER

OT Week 33
17th November
2019

A Community of Missionary
Disciples With Contemplative Hearts

On Thursday I drove to the gym for the first time in months. It was sleeting, grey and cold and after a cycle home a few weeks ago where I got drenched I decided there was nothing for it but to go in the warmth and comfort of my car. I made the decision to cycle regularly to the gym a few months ago after we had the CAFOD Creation Celebration Mass. I wanted to make a change to my lifestyle and cycling to the gym seemed like a positive change I could make. It made environmental sense but also it made sense fitness wise, why shouldn't I cycle, I am after all trying to get fit! Then I changed gym from one in Cotham to one in Bedminster so my cycle takes a bit longer now.

I used to cycle a lot as a boy, I loved going out on my bike, it gave me a sense of freedom and I could explore places further from home, my Dad cycled a lot, So it seemed normal. But cycling in Salisbury in the 1980's was very different to cycling in Bristol today. I feel that I am taking my life in my hands most of the time I go out. It can be a bit unnerving. I have got in to a bit of a rhythm on my cycle to the gym now and somehow cycling there seems to be a bit of a parable for life.

Life can be complex. There are many variables, sometimes it can seem easy and everything is going well and then it changes and there are struggles. My journey to Bedminster is mostly downhill, occasionally most of the lights are green and it is great, other times I have to stop at each light, seemingly for an eternity, and progress can seem slow. But it is still downhill, easy. The journey home is a little more challenging, nearly up hill the whole way and the closer to home I get, the steeper it becomes. Life can seem to have a number of uphill at time and never enough downhills.

No one said life would or should be easy, but for some reason I, and I am sure many of us, think it should be, for us anyway! But when we find that it is not we can become discouraged or even resentful. We might say 'Why is this happening to me?' 'I can't cope', or 'God doesn't care'. These are not constructive thoughts. St Padre Pio once said that 'Why?' Is the wrong question to ask because there is no answer to 'why'? He said we should ask, 'what'? 'What, Lord, do you want me to do in this situation'? 'How do you want me to respond'? Thinking that God doesn't care is ridiculous, look at what happened to his Son, he allowed the son he loved to the core to be crucified for you and me. If he allows us to experience hardships it does not mean that he is distant but that he is inviting us closer.

As the autumnal gloom intensifies, as the grey and cold continue and the political dark clouds hang over us as we head towards Christmas let us recognise that life is up and down, sometimes easy, sometimes hard, but our loving Father is with us every moment of the journey, inviting us to seek his will in each event. As followers of Jesus let us allow our lives to reflect the joy of the knowledge that our loving God is with us in every step of the way.

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

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.

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, we have organised 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.

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.

Liturgical diaries 2020: The new 2020 liturgical diaries are available to buy from the Parish office, at a cost of £6.50.

Bank Standing Orders: Many thanks to all who have responded to the letter from the diocese, and special thanks to those who have responded and who have increased their donations. If you have not yet replied to the diocese, it would be most helpful if you could please do so promptly. Any queries, please call the parish gift-aid secretary on Bristol 9427018.

OUR COMMUNITY

livesimply Thought for the Week: The World Day of the Poor is Sunday 17th November. In his message for this, Pope Francis reminds us that "the poor are not numbers, but people", to be assisted, accompanied, protected, defended and saved. Let us think how we can do this in our community – as well as supporting food banks, donating furniture to places like the SVP (Tel: 9624420).

Red Missio Box Holders: The 2020 calendar is now available for collection from the back of the church. Please help yourselves. If anyone would like their box emptied before the end of the year, then please hand it in before or after one of the masses so it can be put in a safe place. Please make sure it has your name on it. Many thanks for your continued generosity.

Women and Faith: Clifton Cathedral are hosting an *Interfaith* evening session on 27 November, at 7pm (refreshments from 6.30pm) in the Apostle Room focussing on 'Women and Faith', an exploration of the changing role of women in three religions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

St Bons School: The Governing Body of St Bonaventure's Catholic Primary School are consulting on their admission arrangements for the academic year 2021-22. Draft admissions arrangements are available on the School website http://www.st-bonaventures.bristol.sch.uk/web/admissions_202122/429837. You are invited to provide comments for consideration on by 9 December 2019. Final arrangements will be determined by 28 February 2020. Comments should be sent to Alexandra Casley clerk.st.bonaventures@bristol-schools.uk or St Bonaventure's Catholic Primary School, Egerton Road, Bishopston, Bristol BS7 8HP.

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 Cecilia



St. Cecilia was a Roman martyr of the 3rd century. According to Legend she was a Christian betrothed to a pagan but she vowed her virginity to God and refused to consummate the marriage. She is regarded as the patroness of music .

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.

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 3rd December 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.

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@oliverr.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

TWEET OF THE WEEK



Vatican News
@VaticanNews

#PopeFrancis meets with Anglican Archbishop Justin Welby of Canterbury and Archbishop Ian Ernest, the newly appointed Director of the Anglican Centre in Rome.



YEAR OF PRAYER

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

33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

All forms of media give us instant access to the horrors which can unfold around the world. Concerns about climate change, wars around the globe and increasing knife crime in our own country are all possible causes for us to feel anxious about the state of our world and concerned about the future. Yet our liturgy today has a very strong message which encourages us not to be afraid, but to trust in God. We are to hold firm in faith, bearing witness to the hope which our belief gives us. Christ dwells with us, we are not alone. Let us proclaim this for all who have no faith that they may see in us the trust we have in God's abundant love and care for us.

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Ordinary Time Week 33 (Year C)

Sunday 17th November
33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
9.30am Mass *Patsy McCarthy R.I.P.*
6:00pm Mass *Pro Pop*

Monday 18th November
Weekday in Ordinary Time
9.00am Morning Prayer
9.15am Mass

Tuesday 19th November
Memorial of St Hugh of Lincoln
9.00am Morning Prayer
9.15am Mass

Wednesday 20th November
Weekday in Ordinary Time
No Mass

Thursday 21st November
Memorial of the Presentation of Blessed Virgin Mary
No Mass

Friday 22nd November
Memorial of St Cecilia
6.00pm Mass
(No Holy Hour)

Saturday 23rd November
Weekday in Ordinary time
6.00pm Mass (Vigil)

Sacrament of Reconciliation:
Saturday 5.00pm-5.40pm

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