

# ST BONAVENTURE'S NEWSLETTER

OT Week 34  
24th November  
2019

A Community of Missionary  
Disciples With Contemplative Hearts





On Thursday my world was rocked. I was at my mum's and Tipping Point was coming to an end, I was just getting settled in for the Chase when the preview for the next show announced that it was not the Chase that would come on but a new programme called 'Cash Strapped'. Forlorn and gutted I decided to give this new programme a chance and after my first watch I cannot say I was hooked. I dare not think how long the chase has been in the background of my life but it seems that it has been there at 5pm on ITV forever, at just the time I prepare my dinner and switch from afternoon to evening. I am sure many of you have watched the Chase but for those of you who have not it was a quiz show with banal banter between the contestant and the Chaser. There was a chance for a group of people to win lots of money if everything fell into place for them. Obviously my world was not 'rocked' but it seemed strange that something that had run for years and showed no sign of ending had gone, no longer part of my 5pm, no longer part of my daily life.

Although I may not sound like it, I don't usually struggle with change, I like change but I do like familiarity and am unsettled when the familiar is taken away. There is nothing more challenging for us than the illness of a loved one or their death. When someone so familiar is taken from us it can feel like a fatal wrench. Maybe at times the loss of a loved one may come without warning and be more cruel for it but even when we are expecting it there is little that can prepare us for what we will feel. Death is the most brutal loss of the familiar in our lives and it can take us a long time to adjust, if we ever do. Death is cruel and it is important that we understand that God did not create death, he did not plan it. Death came into the world through the sin of Adam and Eve. God sent his Son Jesus to undo death and bring us eternal life, God wanted to rectify our mistake and he suffered our death to bring us his life. In a Christian sense death is a gift, it is now an invitation from God into his eternal kingdom.

On a stark level death holds a message for us, it says - 'there is something more'. Some people interpret it as saying there is nothing more but seldom have I met people who did not have some hope for the wellbeing of their loved one after death. I think most people harbour the hope that the people they love are safe in the next life, whatever their understanding of that life may be. At this time of the year the church's liturgical calendar focuses our attention on the theme of judgement. Many people feel uncomfortable with the idea that there is judgement after death, but that is how divine justice is dispensed and we know that God's justice will be laced with mercy. His mercy is not a let off or an excuse for us to not try. We have to always give the best account of our faith in how we live it. As we approach the time where we celebrate the coming of God as man let us live our faith in the knowledge and hope of the life to come. This world with all its distractions will pass away- even the Chase is not forever!

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

**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. To complete, click here: <http://bit.do/St-Bons-Survey>

**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:** We have a responsibility to exercise our vote in the fast-approaching general election and to show solidarity with all our brothers and sisters rather than just looking for what is good for us. Spend some time in prayer to discern the best way to use your voice before you vote. If you aren't registered to vote, don't leave it until the last minute (the deadline is 11:59pm on Tuesday 26 November). [Registering](#) is straightforward and can be done anywhere within minutes using your computer, tablet or phone. For paper forms ring 0117 922 3400. If you're registered but unable to get to your polling station on 12 December, the deadline for [applying for a postal vote](#) is 5pm on Tuesday 26 November.

**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](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](mailto:clerk.st.bonaventures@bristol-schools.uk) or St Bonaventure's Catholic Primary School, Egerton Road, Bishopston, Bristol BS7 8HP.

**CAFOD World Gifts:** Whether it's teaching someone to read, or giving enough seeds to grow a year's worth of food in a vegetable garden, World Gifts has a perfect gift for everyone. This year, you can change lives around the world and celebrate the true meaning of Christmas giving with World Gifts. This year there are new gifts highlighting the work CAFOD does with women and girls. Catalogues are available at the back of church or via CAFOD's website.

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!



### TWEET OF THE WEEK



Angela Parry  
@AngelaMParry

Today is the feast of Saint Cecilia, patron saint of music. Happy feast day to all musicians and all Cecilia's. A special word of thanks to all those who support the music ministry @stbonsbristol 🎵🎶🎸🎹🎺🎻

### SAINT OF THE WEEK

#### St Andrew



St. Andrew, like his brother Simon Peter, was a fisherman. He became a disciple of John the Baptist. St. Andrew is the patron saint of fishermen and singers. He is also the patron saint to Scotland, Romania, Russia, Ukraine and Patras.

### 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](mailto:oliver@oliverr.co.uk) for more information.



## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

**Christmas Gospel Concert**  
*with the Renewal Gospel Choir*  
Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December, 7.00pm

**Children's Nativity followed by Christmas Party**  
Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2.00pm

**Christmas Eve Mass**  
Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December, 6.00pm

**Midnight Mass**  
Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December, 12.00am

**Mass of Christmas Morning**  
Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December, 9.30am

## YEAR OF PRAYER

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

### **FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING**

Today our Church gives a special focus to the young people of our parishes. It is National Youth Sunday and the theme for their day comes from 'Christus Vivit' The Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis to young people, '*For him, you have worth; you are not insignificant. You are important to him, for you are the work of his hands. That is why he is concerned about you and looks to you with affection*' (CV115). When Jesus is nailed to the Cross two criminals hanging by him, respond in different ways. One taunts him telling him to save himself if he is a king. Jesus is not interested. He is not concerned with power – he lived and died for the world because he could see the worth in every human being. To Jesus everyone is significant. The second criminal sees and understands this. He seeks mercy from the Lord, and it is immediately given. So many young people, today, do not feel that they have any worth but the more they come to know that they are loved by Jesus, the greater the possibility that their sense of worth will grow. Perhaps today we can make a commitment to building up our young people, seeing their worth and assuring them of our love, as Jesus himself offers.

## LITURGY SCHEDULE

### Ordinary Time Week 34 (Year C)

**Sunday 24th November**  
**Solemnity of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
King of the Universe**  
9.30am Mass  
6:00pm Mass *Pro Pop*

**Monday 25th November**  
**Weekday in Ordinary Time**  
9.00am Morning Prayer  
9.15am Mass

**Tuesday 26th November**  
**Weekday in Ordinary Time**  
9.00am Morning Prayer  
9.15am Mass

**Wednesday 27th November**  
**Weekday in Ordinary Time**  
9.00am Morning Prayer  
9.15am Mass *Neil Gallagher R.I.P.*

**Thursday 28th November**  
**Weekday in Ordinary Time**  
No Mass

**Friday 29th November**  
**Weekday in Ordinary Time**  
6.00pm Mass *Patsy McCarthy R.I.P.*  
Holy Hour

**Saturday 30th November**  
**Feast of St Andrew, Apostle**  
6.00pm Mass (Vigil) *Pro Pop*

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:**  
Saturday 5.00pm-5.40pm

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