



ST BONAVENTURE'S NEWSLETTER

A Community of Missionary
Disciples With Contemplative Hearts

OT Week 3
26th January 2020

There is an insightful German saying, almost proverb like in its accuracy, that goes; 'where the light shines there is darkness too'. What it means is that where the light shines there is always a shadow cast. I love it because it is so true, often geniuses and prodigious talents have dark sides, they shine great light but there is also a lot of darkness. Maybe we know and love people of who this is true. Many wonderful people also have their shadows, often it is the very things that casts the light that also casts out darkness too. A great talent combined with pride, arrogance and a big ego are a recipe for disaster. We only have to look at the news to see the truth of this saying. Megan Markle, seen by many as a bright light, bringing relevance to the Royal Family, was found out for her hypocrisy of campaigning for the environment while borrowing private jets, she did not like the criticism. Emmanuel Macron who, at his election, was seen as the hope of Europe and a radical reformer lost his cool on a visit to Jerusalem, not horrific but certainly unstatesmanlike and unlike him, he cracked, a chink of darkness appeared in his light. The luminaries of our world also cast shadows. Yet it doesn't have to be this way.

There is one group of people for who this German proverb does not hold true; the saints. Saints emit great light and in that light there is no darkness. Some saints achieve great things but all that flows from them light. That is not because there is no darkness in them, there is darkness of varying degrees in everyone, but because they entrust that darkness to God who is light and his light sanctifies that darkness turning it bright. It is when we hold on to the darkness it's toxic poison seeps out and affects those in the world around us. Ask any addict in recovery for their addiction. Their harmful addictive behaviour caused so much harm to them and others but when they hand them over to God or as they would say, their 'higher power', their harmful behaviours are taken away. This is the message of the gospel, God frees us from our sins if we allow him to, it is on offer to all of us.

If we invite Jesus into our lives, he will illumine all things, he transforms the darkness into light. That is holiness, it is free and he offers it in abundance. We love characters and celebrities, we can pore over magazines and media sites giving gory details of their broken relationships and outrageous actions but what really matters, but is not exciting to watch, is when someone hands over their struggles, their vices, their darkness to God for him to sanctify it, for him to transform it. That is a victory for the kingdom of God, almost invisible, maybe imperceptible to others but no less of a victory. We can get caught up in the darkness, fascinated by it even, but it is the gentle light of Grace that brings Gods transforming light and in turn joy and peace. If you have not done so already; why not hand over your darkness to him who draws all sin to Himself and let his light shine through your whole being? I love that German phrase, but with God it is proven wrong!

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

R.I.P. Please pray for the repose of the soul of Rosaleen McMahon who died on Thursday and keep her family in your prayers. The funeral details will follow in due course.

Requiem Mass: The funeral of Rose Marie Mc Ginn will take place at St. Tersesa's church on Friday 14th February at 11.30am with the burial at Canford cemetery to follow. Also there will be the opportunity for a get together at St. Teresa's Parish club.

Funeral: The funeral of Marge Bonehill will take place on Wednesday 29th January at 11.00am at St Bons.

Flowers: The flower ladies want to thank the gardeners for giving up their time and coming to help them with the Christmas decorations. Also a big thank you to Mr & Mrs Hickey for their holly. If anyone would like to join the flower group please speak to Fr. Tom.

Adoration Group: Perpetual adoration of the Blessed Holy Eucharist takes place at St. Bonaventures' Parish on Mondays 10 am until 10 pm and Tuesdays 10 am until 8 pm. A permanent hour has become available to cover on Tuesdays 12 pm to 1pm should anyone be interested to cover this time. Alternatively please feel welcome to drop into the church during the adoration times, to experience the peace, grace and serenity to be received from this very blessed practice. It is a wonderful opportunity for prayer and contemplation in our busy lives. For more information or if you are able to offer cover please contact the parish office or Cecilia Browne ceciliabrowne1@gmail.com or 07812569631.

OUR COMMUNITY

livesimply thought for the week: There is a **retiring collection this week** for CAFOD 's urgent appeal for millions of families facing hunger in Zimbabwe and Zambia. Crippling drought as a result of climate change and spiralling food prices mean that millions of families have greeted the new year facing hunger. Please donate what you can, there are gift aid forms to add 25% to your gift if you are a taxpayer.

Penny Brohn: All welcome to an Interactive Dementia Friendly Day at Penny Brohn UK (Pill) on Sat 1st Feb, 10.30-3.30pm. Refreshments, talks, arts & crafts, animal interaction, music and more. For info see notice on board or contact Veronica Swann 9427018.

Catechists' Formation Course 2020 - Salisbury: The next round of catechists' formation starts next week and is designed for the formation of the catechists of our diocese. The course is aimed at forming new catechists as well as supporting and refreshing existing and "well-seasoned" catechists. This series is to be hosted in St Osmunds, Salisbury. The course will run on a Wednesday evening, once a month through the year. Starting Wednesday 29 January. For further information click here: <https://cliftondiocese.com/departments/adult-education/evangelisation-and-formation/catechists-formation/>

YEAR OF COMMUNION

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

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Today is a special day in the life of the Church. On the day that we began our 'Year of the Word' – 'The God who Speaks', Pope Francis announced that the Third Sunday of Ordinary Time would be dedicated as 'Word of God' Sunday. He announced this in a decree entitled "Aperuit Illis" within which he said, "The relationship between the Risen Lord, the community of believers and sacred Scripture is essential to our identity as Christians... Without the Lord who opens our minds to them, it is impossible to understand the Scriptures in depth. Yet the contrary is equally true: without the Scriptures, the events of the mission of Jesus and of his Church in this world would remain incomprehensible." As we reflect today on the significance of the Scriptures, we might want to do a little soul searching. Do we give time on a regular basis for praying the Scriptures? Do we allow ourselves the time to meditate on them? Do they impact on the way we live our lives? If our Bible is simply gathering dust on the book shelf, maybe today is the day to take it down and commit ourselves to reading just a few lines each day so that in nourishing our knowledge and love of the Lord we grow in that relationship which matters above all others. As communities, in our diocesan 'Year of Communion', we might consider forming small Bible study groups or Lectio Divina groups and sharing the Word with one another.

WHAT'S ON?

Art Club: The Art Club continues on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month 10-11:30am. All welcome to anyone who enjoys drawing or painting and to 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 at 12.00pm 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 4th February 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. Prayer intentions most welcome.

TWEET OF THE WEEK

 You Retweeted



U.S. Catholic Bishops ✓
@USCCB

What are you grateful for today?

4:40 pm · 20 Jan 2020 · Sprout Social

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Ray Gunning. Anne James. Bob James. Veronica. Anna McGinn. Nachtter Kaur. Kathleen Ward. Pat Kissane. Desmond Anglin.
Reena James. Mike Crowley.

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. Angela Merici



St. Angela was the founder of Ursuline nuns. Born near Lake Garda, she was an orphan. She became a Franciscan tertiary and devoted herself with several companions to the education of poor girls. She is the patron saint of sickness, disabled and physically challenged people, and those grieving the loss of parents. Her feast day is celebrated on January 27.

PICTURE OF THE WEEK

This week at Alpha, after sharing a meal together, we discussed the big question "Who is Jesus?".



LITURGY SCHEDULE

Ordinary Time Week 2 (Year A)

Sunday 26th January
Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
(Sat Vigil 6.00pm
Victor & Joan Tucker R.I.P.)
9.30am Mass *Tom Millar R.I.P.*
6.00pm Mass *Pro Pop*

Monday 27th January
Weekday in Ordinary Time
9:00am Morning Prayer
9:15am Mass *Marge Bonehill R.I.P.*

Tuesday 28th January
Memorial of St Thomas Aquinas
9:00am Morning Prayer
9:15am Mass *Irene Loftus*

Wednesday 29th January
Weekday in Ordinary Time
11.00am Funeral of Marge Bonehill

Thursday 30th January
Weekday in Ordinary Time
No Mass

Friday 31st January
Memorial of St John Bosco
7.00pm Mass *Kathleen McCaffery*
7.30pm Holy Hour

Saturday 1st February
Feast of the Conversion of St Paul
5.00pm Confessions
6.00pm Mass *Rose Marie McGinn R.I.P.*