



ST BONAVENTURE'S NEWSLETTER

A Community of Missionary
Disciples With Contemplative Hearts

OT Week 5
9th February 2020

This week I have had a number of conversations with people about spirituality. Spirituality in a Catholic Christian context is about connecting with God or the things of God which lie hidden from our senses but which are visible to the eyes of our soul. I believe this is the battle of our times, the struggle to 'see' the spiritual in a materialistic world where increasing value is placed on our status, our houses, our cars, our jobs, our politics etc. We can become very wrapped up in these things and have little time or energy to devote to the spiritual. But it is the spiritual which gives true meaning to our lives. Even more so it is the spiritual which gives meaning to our religious practice. It can be easy for us to come to church and still miss the spiritual nature of things. For us as Catholics I believe this goes to the heart of the battle.

I hope, pray and dream that St Bon's can be a place where each person who comes here will be alive with their faith. That means that each person is excited about their faith, that believing in Jesus brings a joy to their hearts that is evident for all to see. The challenge each one of us has is to see the spiritual in the religious, that is not always as easy as it may sound. The sacraments are encounters with God. When we receive the Eucharist we are receiving Jesus, crucified and risen for us. But what state of grace I am in, whether I am holding on to resentments or anger, where my emotions are that given Sunday, whether I am replaying events of the past week or looking to the week ahead all determine to what level I will encounter Jesus spiritually in the Eucharist. Sadly we can receive the Eucharist or any sacrament and it might not necessarily be a spiritual experience for us, there might be too much clutter on our side. Mass itself might not be a spiritual experience for some people. For those for whom the sacraments are a deep encounter with the presence of God the question is; how can you go deeper? How can you share that presence more powerfully with the world around you? How can we make St Bon's stand out as a community with Catholic spirituality at its heart, how can we move from being like many parishes where we 'do' religion to living our faith in an alive and joyful way.

I think we do a number of things already like Eucharistic Adoration and Alpha but there are large numbers of people in our community who go to neither and while the affect of both is felt by the wider community, my dream is that each member of our community will be alive with their faith that it will not be a once a week thing but an every day encounter with the living God, that is my priority for our community. I think the church has undersold many Catholics, not intentionally, but by setting the minimum requirement for our faith as attendance at Sunday mass. It does not set an exciting vision of what a life of faith is, saying you have to do a minimum does not really help you achieve the fullness of what God has planned for you. That is where it gets exciting; what plan does God have for you and your family and loved ones? What is the fullness he calls you to? That is what I hope we will excel at here at St Bon's. Then we will be a community alive with the love of God.

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

Requiem Mass: The funeral of Rosaleen McMahon will take place on Monday 17th February at 11.00am. Please continue to pray for the repose of her soul and keep her family in your prayers.

Requiem Mass: The funeral of Rose Marie Mc Ginn will take place at St. Teresa'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.

Help Wanted: We are looking for volunteers to help provide food for our Alpha course. A meal is one of the three key components of each Alpha session, and we are looking for anyone who could prepare a simple meal which can be served on a Wednesday evening at 7.30pm. You do not have to commit to being available on the evening to help heat/serve, and any prepared food can be left in the presbytery on the day, or earlier. You will also be reimbursed for the cost of the food. If you enjoy cooking and would like to help, please contact Angela Carruthers on 07974 778753 or email at arb_carruthers@hotmail.com

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.

Offertory: Week ending 2nd February, £434.47.

Carpark Barriers: On Thursday 20th February the carpark will be out of use whilst the barriers are repaired.

OUR COMMUNITY

livesimply Thought for the Week: What links the Vatican and the Amazon, how do you deal with the feelings evoked by the climate crisis, why reforest Avon? You'll find some answers to these questions at St Nicks Parish Hall on February, 8, at the National Justice and Peace Open Meeting hosted by Clifton J&P Commission. Everyone is welcome. For more details see the poster in the porch or <https://cliftondiocese.com/events/>.

Clifton Diocese Pilgrimage 'In the footsteps of St Ignatius': Bishop Declan is leading this year's diocesan pilgrimage to Northern Spain. It will be 22-29 October and will be a celebration of the forthcoming 500th Anniversary (2022) of St Ignatius at Manresa. Info: <https://cliftondiocese.com/spain/> adult.education@cliftondiocese.com or 01732886666.

YEAR OF COMMUNION

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

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Most of us understand the importance of salt. We like salt because it adds flavour to our food even though too much can be dangerous to our health. In the same way we like the light. It uplifts us and seems to be very good at offering us a sense of hope. Darkness, especially at night-time gives us the opportunity to rest and recover from the day's activities. Too much darkness, however, can overwhelm us and make us feel gloomy. Whilst we may need to curb any excess of either, without salt or light our lives would be very dull indeed. Jesus knows the metaphorical power of salt and light. He tells us that we are to be salt and we are to be light. In other words, as his followers, we are called, by the way we live our lives, to shine his light into the dark corners of our world where people lack hope or are discouraged. We are called to be salt, to offer to others a taste of the goodness of God. If we look around our own community, where are the dark corners? Can we offer hope? Where are people feeling that life has become bland and tasteless? What, as a community, might we do to help alleviate this?

WHAT'S ON?

Tea & Coffee with the School: The Year 6 students will be coming in next week on Wednesday after Mass, to make tea and coffee for everyone.

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.

Quiz: The new date for the St Bons Community Quiz night is Friday 28th February. The quiz starts at 7.30pm. Bar. Raffle. Games. Tickets: £10 per team (max 6 per team). Limited Space, no tickets on the door. Tickets available via Neta on neta_pourhoseini@hotmail.com 07980175565.

TWEET OF THE WEEK



St. Bede's, Bristol
@STB_Bristol

Pasteur pupils visited [@StBonsPrimary](#) to discuss the positives and negatives of Social Media. Mr Harrison from St. Bon's told us that the pupils appreciated having "online safety messages come from older children." An important reminder to make us all 'Think before you Type'.

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

Sts. Cyril & Methodius



Cyril & Methodius were brothers and often called the apostles of the Slavs. Born in Thessalonica in Greece they both became priests. They conducted liturgical services in Slavonic and developed a special Slavonic alphabet to translate some of the Scriptures and the Liturgy.

For 5 years they worked steadily to establish Christian worship for the Moravian people. They clashed with the German missionaries, who were committed to the Latin form of Christianity. The two brothers were invited to Rome in 868 by Pope Nicholas I to explain their work. The Pope was so impressed by their success that he made them both bishops and, contrary to expectation, authorized them to carry on their ministry in Slavic. Cyril and Methodius were great advocates in the importance of being able to celebrate liturgy in your own language.

PICTURE OF THE WEEK



New vlogs coming soon [#frtomtalks](https://www.instagram.com/frtomtalks)

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Ordinary Time Week 5 (Year A)

Sunday 9th February
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
(Sat Vigil 6.00pm Patrick Galvin R.I.P.)
9.30am Mass *Pro Pop*
6.00pm Mass *David Mathieson R.I.P.*

Monday 10th February
Memorial of St Scholastica
9:00am Morning Prayer
9:15am Mass

Tuesday 11th February
Our Lady of Lourdes
9:00am Morning Prayer
9:15am Mass

Wednesday 12th February
Weekday in Ordinary Time
9:00am Morning Prayer
9:15am Mass
Tea & Coffee after Mass with Year 6

Thursday 13th February
Weekday in Ordinary Time
No Mass

Friday 14th February
Feast of Sts Cyril and Methodius
7.00pm Mass *Jim Donlan R.I.P.*
7.30pm Holy Hour

Saturday 15th February
Weekday in Ordinary Time
5.00pm Confessions
6.00pm Mass *Charlie Vassallo R.I.P.*