



ST BONAVENTURE'S NEWSLETTER

A Community of Missionary
Disciples With Contemplative Hearts

OT Week 6
16th February

Celibacy. It's a serious word. It is heavy with meaning. For some it signifies authority, power and even oppression, for others it signifies sacrifice, offering, it is seen as a gift. It is a requirement of the church for priests that has come in for a hard time in the last sixty years but it would be almost impossible to imagine the Catholic Church without it. This week Pope Francis in his Post Synodal exhortation 'Querida Amazonia' (The Beloved Amazon) has left many surprised as he has not even mentioned the issue of celibacy. It was expected that he would allow married men to be ordained as priests. Not only did he not mention celibacy but a few days earlier he referred to it as a gift.

Celibacy is a gift, for the church and those who are called to live it. When a priest lives celibacy well there is nothing like it, some of the priests who have inspired me most have been spiritually alive and lived celibacy well. But when a priest doesn't live celibacy well it can be depressing to watch, some priests become middle-aged bachelors well before their time or become detached and desiccated in their relations with people. Lived well, celibacy is a gift. Celibacy means a priest is able to assist all manner of people in all manner of ways at all manner of times, it gives him a physical but more importantly, emotional freedom to serve the needs of those who come to him or call upon him. But above all, in my experience, celibacy is a gift because of the spiritual relationship it both necessitates and demands of the priest.

A priest does not act in his own person, he is acting for God and needs to know in any given moment how God wants him to act, this alone necessitates a deep life of prayer. If that is missing the priest will be skating on thin ice. Celibacy also demands a priest has a deep and lively relationship with God because without one, celibacy itself and priesthood make little sense. Why would you do it unless a deep relationship with God was supporting your vocation. For that depth to exist there has to be an exclusive offering of the heart to God, backed up by serious prayer, celibacy creates the emotional, psychological and physical space for prayer. That is why it is a gift for the priest but more importantly for the church. With celibacy the priest becomes a conduit between God and his church rather than being a functionary he is able to be a bridge between God and his people.

In my experience celibacy has been far from easy, it is something I have to grow into and work at everyday. In that sense it is like marriage, it is a relationship that is constantly changing and demanding more of you, there is no opportunity to sit back and be a passenger. I am constantly amazed when I talk with my married friends of the parallels between our lives. When they are with their families I am usually at prayer, when they are at work I am doing my 'work' of serving God's people. It is a profound privilege and I pray that the Church will continue to treasure this profound but often misunderstood gift.

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

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.

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 9th February, £398.51.

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

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.

OUR COMMUNITY

My Fair Lady: Get yourself to the church on time to buy tickets for St Bon's Drama Club's production of My Fair Lady. There will be three performances of this classic Lerner and Loewe musical in St Bon's School Hall on Friday 20th March 7.30pm, and Saturday 21st March at 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Tickets on sale Sunday 23rd February from Neta. Adults £5, Children £3. Proceeds to St Bon's Church and school.

livesimply Thought for the Week: This week let us remember Dorothy Stang, a US Sister of Notre Dame, martyr and defender of the poor and the environment in Brazil. May her memory motivate us to take care of our common home and the most vulnerable. Her witness is included in the documents prepared for the Amazon Synod last autumn. Watch out this week too for the release of the Pope's post Synodal statement 'Beloved Amazonia'.

Dowry of Mary: The Slipper Chapel statue of Our Lady of Walsingham will visit every English Catholic Diocese & Cathedral including Clifton Cathedral on 20th-22nd February. For further information click here: [Www.dowrytour.org.uk](http://www.dowrytour.org.uk)



YEAR OF COMMUNION

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

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

C.S. Lewis once said, *'Do the right thing even when no one is watching. It's called integrity!'* The importance of living a life of integrity is central to our liturgy today. As followers of Jesus we are challenged, not only to live fully according to the law of God, but to embrace its spirit. It asks of us to do more than follow laws and procedures. Being a Christian is not simply following the letter of the law. It is about going above and beyond the law to love. Love is more than just doing the bare minimum. It is not enough merely to follow the law by our actions; we need to let the Lord write the law on our hearts, that spiritual core where our intellect and will combine. When we do we enter into solidarity with one another and harmony with God, who loves us and provides the law for that purpose.

WHAT'S ON?

Quiz: The new date for the St Bons Community Quiz night is Friday 28th February. The quiz starts at 7.30pm. There will be a Bar, raffle and games. All welcome! Tickets are £10 per team (max 6 per team). Tickets are available via Neta on neta_pourhoseini@hotmail.com 07980175565.

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 for a drink and 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 3rd March 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. Prayer intentions most welcome. All welcome.

MASS TIME

It has been about a year and a half since we have been running the summer and winter time Sunday evening masses. Over that time I have received a number of comments asking for the mass to stay at 6pm throughout the year. Having considered these comments I believe it would be a better decision to make. It is a time friendlier to families, a lot more families have been coming than before. It also takes away confusion over mass time, people still miss mass at the change over. I would welcome your comments before I make a final decision. Fr Tom.

SAINT OF THE WEEK

St Peter Damian



St Peter Damian was born in Ravenna in 1007 and, having lost his parents when very young, was left in the charge of a brother in whose house he was treated more like a slave. Peter escaped poverty and the neglect of his own brother when his other brother, who was arch-priest of Ravenna, took him under his wing. His brother sent him to good schools and Peter became a professor. He on to become a Benedictine monk and cardinal in the circle of Pope Leo IX. His legacy lives on through his many letters and theological writings including 53 sermons and 7 vitae. Damian was declared a Doctor of the Church in 1828.

TWEET OF THE WEEK



Fr. Goyo
@FrGoyo

"Faith can move mountains. We just forget that we are the mountain."

7:30 pm · 13 Feb 2020 · [Twitter for iPhone](#)

141 Retweets 764 Likes

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Ordinary Time Week 6 (Year A)

Sunday 16th February

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
*(Sat Vigil 6.00pm Charlie Vassallo
R.I.P.)*

9.30am Mass *O'Gorman & McCarthy
Families*

6.00pm Mass *Pro Pop*

Monday 17th February

Weekday in Ordinary Time

9:00am Morning Prayer

9:15am Mass *Tabbicca Family*

Tuesday 18th February

Weekday in Ordinary Time

9:00am Morning Prayer

9:15am Mass *Private Intention*

Wednesday 19th February

Weekday in Ordinary Time

9:00am Morning Prayer

9:15am Mass *Henri Balkwill Int*

Thursday 20th February

Weekday in Ordinary Time

No Mass

Friday 21st February

Weekday in Ordinary Time

7.00pm Mass

7.30pm Holy Hour

Saturday 22nd February

**Feast of the Chair of St Peter the
Apostle**

5.00pm Confessions

6.00pm Mass *O'Gorman & McCarthy
Families*