



# ST BONAVENTURE'S NEWSLETTER

Lent Week 2  
8th March 2020

A Community of Missionary  
Disciples With Contemplative Hearts

In his encyclical 'The Joy of the Gospel' Pope Francis describes how he dreams of a "missionary option", that is a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church's customs, ways of doing things, time and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channelled for the evangelisation of today's world rather than for her self preservation' EG 27. I too have this dream. Since 1975 the popes have been calling in different ways for this 'missionary impulse.' Pope Francis is the first to have a vision for it in parish life. He dreams that the parish can be a centre of 'constant missionary outreach' ' in all its activities the parish encourages and trains its members to be evangelisers'. EG 28. This vision is totally radical, radical because it seems that despite 45yrs of papal teaching on the subject parishes are almost the last places where you might find missionary outreach. Even vibrant parishes might not be places of mission. I believe that we have become so used to the routine of parish life that we find it hard to re-imagine it, to conceive how it could be any different. I think many Catholics might feel uncomfortable at the prospect of a parish being something other than what they are used to and nervous that they might be called to proclaim the Gospel to people on the outside. But that is exactly what Pope Francis calls for.

I really believe we need to rip up the rule book. Parishes, especially in Western Europe, are far from Pope Francis' dream and I do not believe tinkering around the edges will change much. At the heart of what he dreams is that each of us has a faith which is on fire, which is alive! When we know Jesus and his saving love for us personally, we then want others to experience it. If we have not encountered Jesus, it is impossible for us to share him with others. That is at the heart of Pope Francis dream, we need to be alive in Christ, not cultural Catholics who hold the structures of the church more sacred than the Lord who founded the church.

At Bon's there are a number of people who are passionate about Pope Francis's dream for a missionary church and helped and inspired by those people I believe that we can do something very different here, that we can rip up the rule book. I have a dream that St Bon's can be a parish which lives out Pope Francis's wishes and becomes a missionary community. To that end I dream that we are a community where people come to mass here because they want to be missionaries. As the Parish Priest I would like each mass to serve our community, and enable us to become 'missionary disciples'. To that end the Sunday evening mass will move to 6pm permanently. This will enable more families from our community to attend and stop the inconsistency that two mass times during the year has caused. If we can live Pope Francis dream each person who comes here will do so because they wish our parish to be a centre of 'constant missionary outreach', not because it's the last mass in the city. We can have a much bigger dream for our parish community than simply being a service provider, but in moving towards that dream we will all begin to learn what Pope Francis' radical dream means for us as a Parish.

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

**Stations of the Cross:** Every Friday during Lent there will be Stations of the Cross at 6.15pm. The Stations follow the saving journey Jesus made to the Cross for our redemption. Praying the Stations is a powerful way of entering into the suffering of Jesus and keeping him company on his painful journey to the cross.

**Confessions:** In addition to Saturday evenings, confessions will be available Tuesdays and Fridays after mass during Lent. The Sacrament of Reconciliation or Penance is a powerful encounter with the mercy of God and enables us to live more spiritually fruitful lives, Why not come and open your heart more to God's Grace!

**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.

**Second Collection:** 8<sup>th</sup> March for CAFOD Lent Fast Day.

**R.I.P.** Emily Hyde who died suddenly, we keep her family very much in our prayers at this time.

## OUR COMMUNITY

**livesimply Thought for the Week:** This Lent, let's take a break from electronic entertainment - TV, computer use, mobile phones. Pay attention to the people in front of you and the natural scenes around you instead. Try to grow comfortable with quiet and stillness.

**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.

**A Morning for the Separated, Divorced and Remarried:** A morning for the separated, divorced and remarried of the diocese to meet for 'Coffee, Cake and Conversation'. Tuesday 17 March at 11am at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, South Parade, Bath. All welcome for friendship, support and the opportunity to explore how the Church can meet the needs of Catholics who have experienced separation, divorce or remarriage.

**Liturgies of Reconciliation:** Bishop Declan invites you to join him during this season of Lent to celebrate the abundant mercy of God through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Our nearest church for the reconciliation is St. Patricks, Redfield, Bristol on 12<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm.

## SAINT OF THE WEEK

### St Frances of Rome



Frances was born in Rome to a wealthy but pious family. When she was 11, she wanted to be a nun, but her parents forced her to marry Lorenzo Ponziani, commander of the papal troops of Rome. Although the marriage had been arranged, it was a happy one. Frances devoted her time to the poor of Rome and founded the Olivetan Oblates of Mary, a confraternity of pious women.

In 1925, Pope Pius XI declared her the patron saint of automobile drivers because of a legend that an angel used to light the road before her with a lantern when she travelled, keeping her safe. She is also a patron saint of widows.

## FR TOM TALKS

In the latest [#FrTomTalks](https://youtu.be/53RXd2XwSlS) vlog Fr Tom discusses how to choose Godparents for your children. Click here to view: <https://youtu.be/53RXd2XwSlS>



## 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 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.

**Save the Date:** Feast Day of St Bonaventure, Sunday 12th July 2020.

## PICTURES OF THE WEEK



The second phase of the Business Centre at St Bons is now open. The business centre now offers 15 affordable office spaces for local small businesses, 12 of which are already occupied.

## YEAR OF COMMUNION

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

### **2ND SUNDAY OF LENT**

People who climb mountains often describe the majesty of what they see and the awesome views. It can be a breath-taking experience which speaks to the climber of wonder and majesty. It is easy to want to hold onto the moment. There is something of this in Peter's experience too, and so, not surprising, he wants to stay on the mountain, to treasure the moment and hold on to it. But this journey to the mountain top is only a preamble to the more difficult journey that they are about to make with Jesus, the journey that ultimately will culminate in his death. Jesus gives them an experience that they will not forget but will hopefully sustain them when they are struggling. Visions or transfigurations are not everyday experiences. Rather it is the smaller, seemingly inconsequential acts of kindness shown to us when we least expect it, which encourage and strengthen us when the journey is tough. May our journey through Lent encourage us to 'be kind', to do small things with great love, that through our acts Christ may be revealed in all his glory.

## TWEET OF THE WEEK



**GUVNA B** ✓  
@GuvnaB

May God guide and bless us with love, gratitude, joy and good vibes this week 🙏

## LITURGY SCHEDULE

### **Lent Week 2 (Year A)**

#### **Sunday 8th March**

##### **Second Sunday of Lent**

*(Sat Vigil 6.00pm Bernadette Baldwin R.I.P.)*

9.30am Mass *Marge Bonehill R.I.P.*

6.00pm Mass *Pro Pop*

#### **Monday 9th March**

##### **Weekday of Lent**

9:00am Morning Prayer

9:15am Mass *Roy Cook R.I.P.*

#### **Tuesday 10th March**

##### **Weekday of Lent**

9:00am Morning Prayer

9:15am Mass *Marjorie Williams R.I.P.*

Confessions After Mass

#### **Wednesday 11th March**

##### **Weekday of Lent**

9:00am Morning Prayer

9:15am Mass *Isabella King R.I.P.*

#### **Thursday 12th March**

##### **Weekday of Lent**

No Mass

#### **Friday 13th March**

##### **Weekday of Lent**

6.15pm Stations of the Cross

7.00pm Mass

7:30pm Holy Hour

Confessions After Mass

#### **Saturday 14th March**

##### **Weekday of Lent**

5.00pm Confessions

6.00pm Mass *Bryan Cambridge R.I.P.*