



ST BONAVENTURE'S NEWSLETTER

Lent Week 3
15th March 2020

A Community of Missionary
Disciples With Contemplative Hearts

I am going to invite you to stretch your imagination, just a little bit. Imagine in this moment now that you had no TV, no radio, no newspaper, computer or smartphone. Just imagine. Now without any of the above ask, would you know anything about or even have heard of the corona virus? The most you may have heard would be that in a part of China or in the north of Italy there was a flu that caused pneumonia in older people. That might be it. Life would go on as normal and eventually you might hear of a few people in England with it. But if we stop imagining and we add back the TV, the radio, the newspaper, our computers and smartphone we have wall to wall coverage of the virus and it's subsequent disease, all day every day. Not only do we have ceaseless coverage but we have scary graphics of big red ugly virus cells, death counts and the increasing numbers of the sick. Without media we have no panic, with wall to wall coverage, panic has set in.

Please do not think for a moment that I am a Corona Virus denier, I am far from it. I actually can't get enough of the coverage. The Prime minister has declared it the biggest public health crisis in a generation. It is like a 'real world' live disaster movie or virus computer game, but just more captivating because we don't know what will happen next. Three weeks ago I went out panic buying, I bought extra cat food, a leg of lamb and a joint of beef. No dried pasta or baked beans for me. I reason I could live off of a leg of lamb for a week if the apocalypse arrives. Fortunately I had just bulk ordered a box of environmentally friendly, bamboo loo roll so that was one item off of my panic list. While the situation is very serious for the elderly and those with 'underlying medical conditions' like my parents I can't help feel that the panic and fear that has arisen is worse than the actual virus and it's subsequent disease. Of course we don't know how it will develop and it could be really bad but at the moment things do not seem as bad as the panic would suggest.

What appears to be the most significant dis-ease is that of a human race which has forgotten both its creator and its mortality. This virus is one of the few serious things we cannot control. Through economics we have arrived at some semblance of a world better (not necessarily fairer) than it used to be. We have eradicated many diseases known to man and have conquered the skies and even space. It seems that modern man has been feeling invincible. But of course we are not. Far from it. Maybe the Corona Virus Disease gives us a small insight into how vulnerable every generation of humanity has felt until a century ago with a sense that you could die any moment. If you lived in a world where that seemed true then a healthy acceptance of death and a firm faith would be par for the course. We seem to live in a culture that cannot talk about death nor one that has much use for God. I pray this virus and it's subsequent disease does not cause significant harm but so far the dis-ease seems to be more our own fear of a death from something we cannot control. Maybe Covid19 is an invitation to us all to grow in faith and prepare well for our death, for whenever and however it may occur. 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.

R.I.P. Emily Hyde who died suddenly, we keep her family very much in our prayers at this time. Her funeral will be Wednesday 1st April at 11.00am.

R.I.P. Please pray for the repose of the soul of Ignazia Ruffino. Her funeral will be Tuesday 31st March at 11.00am.

OUR COMMUNITY

Cake Sale: There will be a cake sale on Mother's Day 22nd March after 9.30 am Mass to raise money for CAFOD. Contributions of cakes welcomed.

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 onsale from Neta. Adults £5, Children £3. Proceeds to St Bon's Church and school.

Vacancy: A part-time (15 hrs per week) contract for a Parish Administrator is required for the Parish of Holy Family Parish, Patchway. The successful applicant would need to have good communication skills, office management and organisation, and computer skills, to work in the Parish Office. A knowledge of Office 365, GDPR and booklet printing would be beneficial. Email bristol.holyfamily@cliftondiocese.com or contact Fr Eugene Campbell for more information 0117 9081247 Closing date for applications is 21st March 2020 .

Vacancy: Qualified Finance Manager – 3 days per week in Alexander House If you would like to know more about the role, please contact Lyn Murray, Chief Operating Officer, on 0117 902 5598 or Lyn.Murray@cliftondiocese.com

SAINT OF THE WEEK

St Joseph



Joseph was foster father of Jesus and husband of Mary. He was betrothed to Mary at the time of the Virgin Birth. When he discovered Mary was pregnant, he knew the child was not his but was unaware that she was carrying the Son of God. An angel came to Joseph in a dream and told him to not be afraid of taking Mary as his wife because what was conceived in her was from the Holy Spirit.

Joseph is the patron saint of families, fathers, expectant mothers, travellers, immigrants, house sellers and buyers, craftsmen, engineers, and working people.

EASTER VIGIL

The Easter Vigil is the Mass of all Masses, it is the church's high point of the year, yet so few Catholics seem to know how amazing it really is. I would like to invite you all to come this year and help make it a fantastic celebration.

The Easter Vigil will take place this year at 9.00pm on Saturday 11th April.

WHAT'S ON?

Welfare Group: Members of the Welfare Group will meet in the Dining Room from **11.00am - 12noon on Wednesday 15th April** where we aim to arrange visits to parishioners who may be housebound or sick but would welcome a friendly visitor who can keep them up to date with Parish News and enjoy a general chat. **Arrangements can also be made for them to receive Holy Communion at home where requested.** We know that many of you are already involved with helping out your neighbours and fellow parishioners but if you know of someone who lives alone and would welcome a Parish Visitor - we can link them up. To arrange this please contact Linda Spong via the Parish Office.

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.

St Bon's Coronavirus Community Support Team

If you are a parishioner of St Bon's and are elderly, alone or vulnerable or know any parishioners of St Bon's who are in this situation, please be aware that the parish is coordinating a support effort. If the government suggest that people isolate as a matter of course we will endeavour to support those people as best we can by ensuring they have food and phone contact with the parish. If you know anyone who may be in this situation should advice recommend isolation please let us know now so we can prepare. Please contact our support effort coordinator, Dominic O'Dwyer, on 0117 942 7110.

*Best wishes
Fr Tom*

YEAR OF COMMUNION

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

3RD 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

You Retweeted



Pope Francis
@Pontifex

I wish to express again my closeness to those who are ill with the [#coronavirus](#) and to healthcare workers who are caring for them, as well as to civil authorities and all those involved in assisting patients and in containing the spread of the virus.

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Lent Week 3 (Year A)

Sunday 15th March

Third Sunday of Lent

(Sat Vigil 6.00pm Bryan Cambridge R.I.P.)

9.30am Mass *Mary Joyce R.I.P.*

6.00pm Mass *Pro Pop*

Monday 16th March

Weekday of Lent

9:00am Morning Prayer

9:15am Mass *Private Intention*

Tuesday 17th March

Feast of St Patrick, Patron of Ireland

9:00am Morning Prayer

9:15am Mass *Bill Knowles R.I.P.*

Confessions After Mass

Wednesday 18th March

Weekday of Lent

9:00am Morning Prayer

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

Thursday 19th March

Solemnity of St Joseph, Spouse of the

Blessed Virgin Mary

No Mass

Friday 20th March

Weekday of Lent

6.15pm Stations of the Cross

7.00pm Mass

7:30pm Holy Hour

Confessions After Mass

Saturday 21st March

Weekday of Lent

5.00pm Confessions

6.00pm Mass *Francis & Johanna Higgins*