

# ST BONS NEWSLETTER 31<sup>st</sup> July-28<sup>th</sup> August

## MGR BERNARD'S MESSAGE

This week I have been down at Buckfast Abbey in Devon, for the annual diocesan retreat for priests. It was led by Bishop John Sherrington ( one of the auxiliary bishop's in the diocese of Westminster) and it was a great time of prayer and reflection. Prayer by me for you, and reflection on where I think the Lord is calling us. If you haven't been to Buckfast in the last five or six years and it's well worth a visit. The Abbey has been completely renovated in recent times and has also had a new organ installed (at a reputed cost of two million pounds.) Whatever the actual cost it is certainly one of the best church organs in the country and most probably the best in the Catholic Church in the UK.

But the real star of the show is the beauty and tranquility that is found in the church. As you walk through the entrance doors you are struck by the fact that there is a tangible feeling that this is a house of prayer. And as you sit there in silent contemplation you have a real feeling of being in the presence of God. You can bring your hopes and fears before the Lord, and leave feeling that He will guide you to where ever He needs you to be. You can leave with a sense of confidence that if you follow his lead them all working as it is part of His great plan for the church.

So I returned for a few hours before going off on my holidays and leaving the parish in the safe hands on a number of parishioners, and Canon Alan Finley who will be saying the Sunday Masses for the next couple of weeks.

**Because I'm away, and many of you will be as well, there will be no newsletter until the end of August.** Also please bear in mind that the parish office will be closed for the next couple of weeks as Joanna only works during the school term times.

## EVENTS, PARISH & COMMUNITY

**Parent & Baby/Toddler Group:** takes a holiday break! We will resume our meetings in September. For more info or if you'd like to be added to the WhatsApp group please contact Claire on 07871627928.

**Rosary Prayer Group:** In view of the needs of our country and the need for peace in the world and especially Ukraine it has been decided to hold the prayer meeting Every Tuesday at 2pm in the presbytery. Contact Julia for prayer requests on 01179428696

**Drop in Coffee Morning:** Everyone is welcome on 2nd Wednesday of the month 10.30-12.00. Come along to the presbytery to meet up with old friends or make new ones while enjoying a cuppa. People living with dementia and their carers particularly welcome. Next date -10<sup>th</sup> August. Any questions contact Veronica Swann 0117 9427018.

**Art Group:** On 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month 10.00 - 12.00. All welcome, including beginners, to join small and very friendly group. Bring your own materials. Any questions contact: Penny Millar 07866138669 or Cath Lucas 078069437664.

**Knitting Group:** will take a summer break as well and will be resuming in September. Contact Ann Pobjoy for more info: ann.pobjoy@blueyonder.co.uk

**Friday Soup Lunches:** The small group of soup makers are taking a well-earned break for the summer. We will be back in September, watch this space for start date.

**Children's Liturgy:** Children's Liturgy at every Sunday morning Mass.

**Tea & Coffee:** Join us in the presbytery after Sunday morning Mass.

**Please Pray For:** Enzo Maniglia. Eric Pitt. Desmond Anglin. Peter Sewell & Ivy Sewell. Eddie Williams. Paul Tooze. Margaret Rogers. Rosemary Hatherly. Sheelagh Gaines. Anne James. Veronica. Anna McGinn. Nachtter Kaur. Reena James. Margaret McGuiness. If you would like to be named in the Newsletter, please contact the Parish Office to give your consent so it can be recorded.

**Thank you:** Thank you to Canon Alan Finley for covering the Sunday Masses when Monsignor Bernard is away on holiday.

**Office hours:** Please note that Joanna works term-time only, therefore the parish office will not be fully operational during the summer.

**Livesimply Thought for the Week:** On 28th July we will have used the amount of resources and services that our planet can create or renew in one year. For the rest of the year we are living on credit. The overshoot consists not only of ecological resources, but also accumulation of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Approximately 60 per cent of the overshoot comes from carbon dioxide emissions. We are all challenged to play our part in reducing the unsustainable demands we put on the earth.

**Clifton Diocesan Trustees:** The Diocese is currently looking for individuals to join the Board of the Trustees to enhance the skills of the Board in specific areas as a result of current vacancies. Suitable applicants should have in depth knowledge and experience of either corporate law, property law, or a HR environment. In order to support the full activities of the Board, experience in charity or corporate governance would also be beneficial. The commitment is to one 3 hour meeting per month on a Wednesday from 9.30 am in Bristol along with other on at least one sub-committee, and preparation for meetings. It is usual for a Trustee to give somewhere in the region of 6 hours per month plus travelling time. If you would like to be considered for a position, please send your details to the Bishop's Private Secretary, St Ambrose, North Rd, Leigh Woods, Bristol BS8 3PW by 5<sup>th</sup> August.

**Thank you from Bart Kowalewski:** Thank you for your prayers and kind messages about my institution to the ministry of Acolyte and to Chris and Veronica for taking time to attend. Very touching.

**CAFOD:** This week we want to say a massive thank you to all those people who've donated money to the Community Food Pantry. We wish we could thank each of you personally - but we can't since the donations are usually anonymous! Two people we can thank personally, however, are Chris and Veronica Swann, who collected £40 in donations at their Soup Lunch last week. We're very grateful for your support. Every single penny you give us is spent on the weekly shopping runs done by the Community Food Pantry volunteers, where they pick up not just the food we provide from the pantry but also essential personal hygiene and household cleaning products for those in need.

**Community Food Pantry Update:** The uptake of food for the food pantry continues to grow and we found the demand was so high last week that we had to do a shop three times the size we normally do. But thanks to the generosity of the congregation and surrounding community, especially those who celebrated their First Communions in July, we had enough money to do a very large shop for the pantry and also still deliver the 100+ items that were needed at AidBox Community (ABC). As we dropped the food at ABC, four families were in the hub and were able to put together a meal each for two days, as well as stocking up on hygiene essentials. It was touching and humbling to see your generosity in action - truly helping individuals who need it.

Where do I leave food donations? Please put food donations either in the clear box labelled "Community Food Pantry Donation Box" at the back of the church or in the box outside the front door of the Presbytery. How do I donate money? There is a "Food Pantry" button on the Donation Point inside the church if you would like to make monetary donations by card. Or you can give cash to Mgr Massey or put it in an envelope through Jenny Glester's door at 57 Egerton Road.

## LITURGY SCHEDULE

**Sunday 31st July      18th Sunday of Ordinary Time**  
10.00 Mass. Private Intention  
18.00 People of the parish

### NO WEEKDAY MASSES

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> August      19th Sunday of Ordinary Time**  
10.00 Mass. Private Intention  
18.00 Mass. People of the parish