

ST BONS NEWSLETTER 19th November

MGR BERNARD'S MESSAGE

Last weekend we had our parish AGM which wasn't particularly well attended; I know that a number of people did watch online and so it is hard to give an exact number of people that heard and saw what was going on. A couple of important past aspects were raised which I'd like to share with you.

The first was a request to reinstate a Parish Pastoral Council, and this is something that I believe to be good and necessary for our parish community. We have certainly seen from the recent synod in Rome that meetings of clergy and laity are the way forward for the universal and local churches.

Also, as you may well be aware, we have had some restructuring of the diocese, and we are now part of a pastoral group called 'St Edmund of Abingdon'. This will, next year, have its first pastoral council meeting and so we need to get ours up and running so that we can feed in to the larger group. To ensure that our group has a good understanding of all age ranges in the parish, I am proposing that we have two people aged under 25, two people aged 25 to 50, and two people from the 50+ group. You may either volunteer yourself or suggest someone who you think would be good, but you do need them to agree to their names being put forward. I would like to hear from you over the next couple of weeks so that we can look at starting this in the New Year.

The second item that came up at the AGM was the reinstatement of Holy Communion under both kinds. In fact, this has been allowed in the diocese since Easter, but we have been slow to do anything about it, partly because of my absence due to my operation and recovery. The only thing that is stopping us from introducing it immediately is that we do not have enough ministers of Holy Communion to be able to offer this at every weekday and Sunday Mass. Again, if you would like to volunteer or suggest someone then please give me your names as soon as possible. It would be good if we could start this by the New Year if not before.

EVENTS, PARISH & COMMUNITY

Please Pray For: Enzo Maniglia. Peter Sewell. Eddie Williams. Paul Tooze. Margaret Rogers. Rosemary Hatherly. Sheelagh Gaines. Ninette Bateman. Stella Sanchez. Anne Browne.

Please pray for the for the repose of the soul of Fatima Pereira who died recently. If you would like to be named in the Newsletter, please contact the Parish Office to give your consent so it can be recorded.

Fatima Pereira's funeral will take place on Tuesday 21st November at 10.00 am.

Remembrance Mass, 18th Nov at 3pm: If you have suffered a bereavement during the past twelve months, you are warmly invited to join us with your family and friends for the Remembrance Mass on Saturday 18th Nov at 3pm. During the course of Mass you will be given an opportunity to light a candle in remembrance of your loved one. There'll be a get together afterwards in the Presbytery, so please stay for some tea/ coffee, biscuits and a bit of chat.

Insect Talk: Pete Dawson, the 'bugman' is giving a talk in the presbytery on Monday 20th November at 7.30pm. It's about how land use and climate change are affecting the insect populations of North Bristol, especially butterflies and moths, and the knock-on effects on mammals and birds, and what we can do about it. All welcome, but ideally email hilary@farey.org if you are coming so we can organise seating and refreshments.

Camino de Santiago Pilgrim Day: 11am - 2pm on Wed 29 Nov @ Santiago's Cafe BS1 3NZ (right next to the bus station). Have you ever considered walking one of the long distance pilgrimage routes in Europe or the UK? Maybe you have already completed one? Either way, do come along and chat to us about your plans & meet others who share your interest. Please drop me an e-mail at annie_sparkes@hotmail.co.uk so that I can know numbers.

Senior Citizens Christmas Party: We are having a change from normal arrangements this year with a lunch-time party, as in previous years some of our parishioners have been worried about going home in the dark following the afternoon celebration. So please put Saturday 16th December 12-2 in your diaries. We will serve a light lunch with festive drinks, crackers, lucky dip etc. If you would like to attend, please see members of the Welfare team who will be taking names after Masses on Sunday 3rd and 10th December. Alternatively, you could call Veronica Swann on 07884134599, please let us know of any dietary requirements. Please note there will be no Healing Mass at this time, it will be brought forward to Lent as a Service in the spring proved very popular earlier this year.

Laudate deum discussion: Join us on 4th Dec at 7.30 pm in the presbytery to discuss our response to Laudate deum, Pope Francis's follow up to Laudato si which he issued last month.

St Joseph's home fair: St Joseph's Home, 66 Cotham Hill, are holding their Christmas Fair on Saturday 25th November at 12.00 noon. Please support the Little Sisters of the Poor by attending the fair, or popping in during the coming week to buy draw tickets from reception.

Livesimply Thought for the Week: This Sunday, 19 November, is the seventh World Day of the Poor, initiated by Pope Francis in 2017. Pope Francis has chosen "Do not turn your face away from anyone who is poor" (Tobit 4:7) as the inspiration for this year. Jesus gave us the example of loving God and neighbour, especially the most vulnerable. Indeed, whenever we turn away from those who are poor, we turn away from Jesus himself, who is forever associated with the most vulnerable in society. It's not just about making donations to help alleviate poverty, although this is important. We are also called to do what we can for the marginalised in our own communities, those who are lonely, struggling to care for families or looking for work, and to challenge the causes of poverty. Let's pray that we may see what is ours to do in working alongside those in need.

Community Food Pantry Update:

Please donate: Tinned fruit, Tinned meat meals (for example: chilli, meatballs, casserole, curry), Tinned sweetcorn, Tinned tuna, Cooking oil, Sugar, Pasta sauce, Shampoo, Sanitary towels, Deodorant, Toilet roll

Please DO NOT donate: Fresh food (we can't safely store it and it will go to waste)

Parent & Baby/Toddler Group: Monday, 10am - 12pm. For more info or if you'd like to be added to the WhatsApp group please contact Claire on 07871627928.

Rosary Prayer Group: Rosary group meets every Tuesday in St Elizabeth dining room in Presbytery at 2pm. All welcome. Prayer requests welcome. Telephone Julia 07746101030

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: 13 December. Any questions, contact Veronica Swann 07884134599.

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 Chris Swann 01179427018 or Cath Lucas 078069437664.

Friday Soup Lunches: Fridays in the Presbytery from 12pm, all welcome! Donations are sent to charity. More information from Chris Swann on 01179427018.

Men of St Joseph: Bible and Catechism study with real life application to become a better Catholic man, Husband, Father and forge a lasting brotherhood of men of the faith. Meetings every 1st Friday of the month at 7.30pm. If you're interested, please see Deacon Bart or Juan Carlos (altar servers) after 10am Mass or come to the meeting.

Tea & Coffee: Join us in the Presbytery after Sunday morning Mass for tea, coffee biscuits and a chance to chat.

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Sunday 19	33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	10.00	Vita Francesca Smith RIP
		18.00	People of the parish
Monday 20	Weekday OT	No Mass	
Tuesday 21	Memorial of the presentation of the BVM	*10.00	Funeral of Fatima Pereira
Wednesday 22	St Cecilia	9.30	Ivy Sewell RIP
Thursday 23	Weekday OT	* 9.00	Christina Sewell RIP
Friday 24	St Andrew Dung-Lac & companions	9.30	George Sewell RIP
Saturday 25	Weekday OT	9.30	Deceased from Maddalena Family
Sunday 26	Solemnity of our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe	10.00	Robert & Margaret Bennett RIP
		18.00	Canon Martin Fitzpatrick RIP