

ST BONS NEWSLETTER 11th February

MONSIGNOR BERNARD'S MESSAGE

Last week I was very proud of myself for my efforts at golf which I played remarkably well. This week reality struck, in that I went to play again and played some of the worst golf I have ever played in the last 20 years. I seem to recall saying about 'pride come before fall.' it helped to teach me a good lesson before the start of lent.

Lent is a time when we take a good hard look at who we really are, and try not to fool ourselves into thinking that we are better than we actually are; or we could call it a time when we look at ourselves and say, "no, we're not brilliant" but you know what, there's really no need to change at the moment; it's too hard and I've got other things on my personal agenda to deal with.

However, change is also a realisation that we have a future, and that we want things to be better than the present.

This week we sent half of our church kneelers off to be recovered and when they come back in about a fortnight, the second half will go off for the same treatment. You might say that they are OK at the present time, but the reality is they are old, dirty, and as I'm sure you know pretty uncomfortable. When they come back, they will have had a complete makeover and will not only look better but will be a lot more comfortable.

So hopefully by the time Easter comes, not only will we have renovated our souls, but also renovated our kneelers. In both cases, some people will recognise and see those changes, but not everyone will be aware, however that doesn't mean it's not worth doing.

EVENTS, PARISH & COMMUNITY

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

If you would like to be named in the Newsletter, please contact the Parish Office.

Ash Wednesday this year is on 14 February. Mass times this Wednesday are at 12.00 noon and 7pm.

Stations of the Cross: All are welcome to join in Stations on Fridays during Lent. Starting at 11.30am from Friday, 16th February in the church.

Tree management: Following an inspection by a consultant arboriculturist, the parish has decided to fell the Lawson's Cypress tree in the presbytery garden. The current tree is damaging the infrastructure (telephone wires, paving and drain system).

The Sorbus torminalis which we shall plant as a replacement, is a beautiful but rare native species, well suited to our clay soil, with white flowers in spring and edible fruits in autumn that attract wild birds. - The gardening team

St Patrick's Workshop: St. Patrick's Day Parade Workshop will take place in St Bonaventure's Hall on 11th Feb, 2 – 5pm. Calling all people (all ages from 3-103) who identify as having Irish heritage to bring an object, letter or photograph to help to create big beautiful puppets for 2024 St Patrick's Day Parate. The parade itself will take place on St Patrick's Day, March 17th, setting off from The Bristol Irish Society, in existence now for 24 years is now known as W.E. IRISH (West of England Irish) in order to be more inclusive and not just confined to our fair city of Bristol.

Livesimply Thought for the Week: As we approach Lent let us take some time to appreciate the signs of Spring - buds beginning to open, bird song, the first snowdrops, lighter evenings - and to thank God for this beautiful world. But, we know that all is not well as the seasons become less predictable here and around the planet. Let our love of our creation inspire us to pray that those in power will take bold action to address climate change. This is the theme of the 'No Faith in Fossil Fuels' prayer vigil taking place outside Parliament during the first 10 days and nights of Lent. There are St Bon's parishioners participating, if only for part of it, and you are welcome to join too, either in London or praying from home. As Pope Francis has said, 'Everyone's talents & involvement are needed to redress the damage caused by human abuse of God's creation' LS#14. For more information click on the CAFOD or Christian Aid website.

Bristol Hospitality Network seeks your help: Would you consider offering a room for free (3-6 months) to someone seeking asylum and experiencing destitution, perhaps from Iraq, Afghanistan or Eritrea? Our members have fled their home country to the UK for sanctuary yet many become homeless due to the Government's hostile immigration policies. We would support you in taking this first step and then be with you all the way through. Once someone is hosted and safe they usually make good progress and over 75% of our hosted members have resolved their situation with our support. What is involved in becoming a host? It really is as simple as providing a spare room and a key. We work hard to get to know the hosts and their requirements first in order to place appropriate members in their homes. We provide expenses for the guest and they are self sufficient with travel and food.

You do need to be living within Bristol. Ffi contact laura@bhn.org.uk

Community Food Pantry Update:

Please donate: **tinned vegetarian meals, tinned vegan meals, tinned meat meals, tinned fruit, cereal, shampoo, deodorant, toilet rolls.** 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: 14 February. 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 12 noon, 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 11	6th Sunday in OT	10.00	Children of the Parish
Sunday 11	6th Sunday in OT	18.00	People of the Parish
Monday 12	Ordinary Time		No Mass
Tuesday 13	Ordinary Time	9.30	Pope Francis
Wednesday 14	Ash Wednesday	12.00	Private intention
Wednesday 14	Ash Wednesday	19.00	The Sick
Thursday 15	Thursday after Ash Wednesday	9.30	Mgr Bernard
Friday 16	Friday after Ash Wednesday	9.30	Children
Saturday 17	Saturday after Ash Wednesday	9.30	Refugees
Sunday 18	1st Sunday of Lent	10.00	Bishop Declan
Sunday 18	1st Sunday of Lent	18.00	People of the Parish