

ST BONS NEWSLETTER 18th February

MONSIGNOR BERNARD'S MESSAGE

This week has been busy, frustrating, and quiet at various times. I expect that's possibly quite common for most of you. So the busy was on Wednesday with the distribution of Ashes at both Masses where we had somewhere in the region of 300 people attending the two Services. Added to that I was called into Southmead Hospital three times this week to anoint various people. The local priest have the emergency phone for a week at a time and sometimes it doesn't go off at all during the week and other times it can be more of a challenge.

The frustrating part of the week was that I'm currently trying to construct a new website, as the present one is a couple of years old and starting to look dated and I want to add a couple of decisions of accessibility for people into the site. The trouble is that whilst I was quite conversant with the old site, the new one hosted by the same organisation has now updated it's software and I am struggling to fully understand how to use a program called Elementor. I have fallen into that trap, that some of you may well have encountered of finding that you don't quite understand the technology and blame the machine for the problems rather than blaming ones self.

Finally, the quiet part has been that because it was half term the number of phone calls coming in to the parish office was incredibly low ,so all a bit of a mix bag. However, it does seem in many to ways mirror the spiritual life which is never a straightforward nice gentle line. It has its highs and lows, those moments of challenge, and those moments of quite reflection.

Lent is a time for us when we realise that those challenges are not meant to be setbacks, but are more a realisation that we can choose to work for the building of Gods kingdom, or we can choose to be a counter witness to it by our words or deeds. Building the website is going to take me sometime but I am hopeful that the effort will be worth it. Building the kingdom of God will take longer but I'm sure, in fact I'm certain, that it is worth it.

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.

Three pillars of Lent: Lent is a time when we're all called to make a special effort to nourish our spiritual lives. The traditional pillars of Lent are prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, and these three paths work together to help us ground ourselves in the love of Christ and share that love with our neighbour. Use these pillars to grow closer to Jesus Christ this Lent.

Healing Mass - Save the date! Healing Mass will be celebrated on 16th March at 3pm. The Healing Mass is the perfect preparation for Easter, so do plan to come with your family to join us for this celebration. Teas and coffees will be served afterwards.

Livesimply Thought for the Week: We are producing too much plastic, far more than our recycling infrastructure can cope with. Most of this is soft, flimsy, low-grade, plastic which ends up in landfill. The resulting plastic pollution affects human health as well as that of vital ecosystems. In March 2022, the world took the historic decision to end plastic pollution by agreeing to develop an international legally binding agreement on plastic. Negotiations are continuing and our government could play a significant role. That's why Greenpeace have teamed up with Everyday Plastic to run the Big Plastic Count again this year. Households around the country are being invited to count all the plastic packaging thrown away (or recycled) for just one week (11-17.03). The results will be used to push ministers, supermarkets and big brands to lead the way at the global talks

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: 13 March. 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 18	1st Sunday of Lent		10.00	John Bullock RIP
Sunday 18	1st Sunday of Lent		18.00	People of the Parish
Monday 19	Weekday of Lent	No Mass		
Tuesday 20	Weekday of Lent		9.30	Bishop Declan
Wednesday 21	Weekday of Lent	No Mass		
Thursday 22	The Chair of St Peter the Apostle		9.30	Pope Francis
Friday 23	Weekday of Lent		9.30	Children
Saturday 24	Weekday of Lent	No Mass		
Sunday 25	2nd Sunday of Lent		10.00	Bishop Declan
Sunday 25	2nd Sunday of Lent		18.00	People of the Parish