

ST BONS NEWSLETTER 31th March

MONSIGNOR BERNARD'S MESSAGE

Yesterday at Clifton Cathedral, Bishop Declan celebrated for the last time, the Chrism Mass. A large crowd that has been there for a few years was able to see and hear Bishop Declan as he preached a beautiful homily with his successor, Canon Bosco sitting in the church, listening intently, and watching what has to be done with greater scrutiny than usual. It was the 23rd anniversary of Bishop Declan's ordination as the Bishop of our diocese. I remember the day very clearly because it was my 50th birthday and I had planned to be in Venice to celebrate the occasion. However, I decided that seeing our new Bishop being installed was more important than my own celebration.

Within a couple of years of his reign, I became one of his advisors and then became a Vicar General, a role that I held for almost 15 years. It was always a privilege to serve and work with the Bishop and to see the larger picture of a diocese, as well as the smaller picture of an individual parish. This has been one of the reasons why I have moved parishes four times, mainly at the request of the Bishop, because he felt that I had a certain skill set that was needed in certain places at certain times.

In just over a week's time, I will be celebrating the 36th anniversary of my ordination to the priesthood, which took place at Clifton Cathedral. In all the years of my priesthood I have been incredibly blessed by the Lord and have seen and heard and experienced a range of amazing things - I've seen the hand of the Lord at work in the lives of people that I have administered too, and I've experienced his hand guiding me in many situations. I have found myself in the right place at the right time, even though beforehand I hadn't realised that that was going to be the case.

So for me, this coming Easter is yet again a great opportunity to reflect on how the Lord has used me and how I have responded to Him. The great thing is that I know for certain, that the Lord doesn't just use priests, but uses all his people in different ways at different times. So maybe this Easter is a chance for all of us to say a big 'thank you' to God, for what we have recognised, and for what we have failed to recognise in His gentle, guiding hand.

EVENTS, PARISH & COMMUNITY

Please Pray For: Enzo Maniglia. Peter Sewell. Eddie Williams. Paul Tooze. Margaret Rogers. Rosemary Hatherly. Sheelagh Gaines. Ninette Bateman. We also pray for John McGrory and Sheila Bull who died recently.

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

Baptism: Baptisms: We welcome James Thurman and Marie-Helene Moreira baptised into the family of the Church next weekend.

John McGrory RIP: John's funeral will take place at St Bon's on Thursday, 4th April, 12 noon.

A big Thank You to all who helped cleaning the church last week. Thanks to our wonderful helpers, the church looks as good as can be and is now ready for Easter celebrations!

Recycling service at St Bons: If you would like to donate your unwanted items from around the house (jewellery, currency, gadgets etc), we are trialling the Recycling for Good Causes service in the church. Box for all donations can be found in the presbytery corridor by the repository cabinet. To find out more about the scheme, visit www.recyclingforgoodcauses.org

St Bon's Climate Action group: For your diary our next get-together with a simple vegetarian meal is on Monday, April 15th. All are welcome.

Livesimply Thought for the Week: Watching TV images of deadly violence in the Holy Land, we can feel helpless. Here are few things we can do: Pray the sorrowful mysteries or join the weekly Sabeel Wave of Prayer, emailed from Jerusalem. Stay informed and hear other voices from the heart of the conflict. Read personal stories from Parents Circle: Israeli & Palestinian bereaved families working together for a just peace. Combatants for Peace: Israelis and Palestinians formerly involved in the armed struggle, now committed to nonviolent means to achieve peace. Show solidarity: Send messages of solidarity to Palestinian families. Donate if you can to Medical Aid for Palestine particularly invaluable in Gaza. Contact your MP asking them to support an immediate ceasefire as a prelude to inclusive negotiations; an arms embargo on Israel (because

of its systematic violations of international law, including the disproportionate use of force against civilians) and a ban on importing goods from illegal Israeli Settlements.

Community Food Pantry Update:

Please donate: Longlife dairy milk, Tuna, Other tinned fish, Tinned peas, Tinned sweetcorn

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: 10 April. 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: Our team of soup-makers are taking a two week break over Easter (Fridays, 29th March and 5th April). Normal service will be resumed on Friday, 12th April, from 12 noon.

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 31	Sunday of the Resurrection	10.00	Peace in the Middle East
Sunday 31	Sunday of the Resurrection	18.00	People of the parish
Monday 1	Weekday of Easter	No Mass	
Tuesday 2	Weekday of Easter	9.30	Eugene Massey RIP
Wednesday 3	Weekday of Easter	9.30	Eric Pitt RIP
Thursday 4	Weekday of Easter	12.00	Funeral of John McGrory
Friday 5	Weekday of Easter	9.30	Cecilia Di Domasio
Saturday 6	Weekday of Easter	9.30	Private intention
Sunday 7	2 nd Sunday of Easter	10.00	Fr Peter Codd RIP
Sunday 7	2 nd Sunday of Easter	18.00	People of the parish