

ST BONS NEWSLETTER 14th April

MONSIGNOR BERNARD'S MESSAGE

This week I celebrated 36 years as a priest and in a few months time I will have been a priest for over half my life. I sometimes wonder where the time has gone and think about the many many people that I have met. In my time as an Army Chaplain we used to talk about 'Hatching', 'Matching' and 'Dispatching'. Now I don't know the exact numbers of Baptisms I've celebrated but it will be over 1,000. Weddings in the 100's (including 1 in Italy near Naples, 1 in New York and 1 in the Cathedral in Stockholm.) and finally, Funerals were the numbers are in the high hundreds. So I have been privileged to be involved with so many families at times of major changes in their lives.

Sometimes it has been easy and sometimes really hard. You can never be involved as a mere spectator you always share some of the joy, or the sorrow, or the pain of those you are ministering too. Sometimes you can really feel the Lord guiding you, or giving you the right words to say that brings peace or comfort to people in the congregation, or at a hospital bedside.

Luckily this year my sister reminded me of the anniversary on a 'facetime' call the day before the actual anniversary, otherwise it highly likely that I would have forgotten it (as has happened on several occasions). Then on the day, to my surprise, a parishioner from a former parish rang me to wish me well, and then invited me out for dinner that night.

As is often said 'The Lord works in mysterious ways' so look out because you can sometimes miss His hand at work.

EVENTS, PARISH & COMMUNITY

SECURITY ISSUES. Twice in the past 6 weeks the last people to leave the Presbytery on a Sunday morning after coffee have left the front door open. This meant that it had remained open until about 5.00pm when the helpers for the evening Mass arrived. Please treat the parish security as you would at your own home security. Thank you

Please Pray For: Enzo Maniglia. Peter Sewell. Eddie Williams. Paul Tooze. Margaret Rogers. Rosemary Hatherly. Sheelagh Gaines. Ninette Bateman. We also pray for Sheila Bull and Maria Lombardi who died recently. If you would like to be named in the Newsletter, please contact the Parish Office.

Forthcoming Funerals: Maria Lombardi - 23rd April 11.00am, Sheila Bull - 26th April 1.00pm

Get ready for the Plant Sale: The St Bon's Climate Action Group is holding a plant sale after Masses on 12th May. If you have any plants you are dividing or surplus seedlings please bring them along to sell, in aid of CAFOD and the Food Pantry

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.

St Bon's Litter Picking Group: After a long period of inactivity, the group finally got out picking again on 24 March. And what a good job they did that afternoon. Including 4 big bags of street litter they pulled together a lot of the fly tipped rubbish scattered along a notoriously dirty street and left it in a neat pile for the Council to collect which, after some persuasion, they did. If you too are appalled at the state of Bristol's roads, do please come and join us again on Sunday 19 May. Save the date - details will be published nearer the time.

Livesimply Thought for the Week: As insect numbers continue to fall let's make sure our gardens, window boxes and outdoor pots offer plants that encourage pollinators. Bees and insects are crucial to our environment because they pollinate plants and provide the best pest control for plants. Get in your garden this spring and plant bee-friendly flowers such as sunflowers, heather, poppies, foxgloves and lemon thyme, or give the children the job. If you don't have a garden then plant flowers in pots or window boxes.

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: 8 May. 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 14	4th Sunday of Easter	10.00	Hanna Tully RIP
Sunday 14	4th Sunday of Easter	18.00	People of the parish
Monday 15	3rd Week of Eastertide	No Mass	
Tuesday 16	3rd Week of Eastertide	9.30	Isabella King RIP
Wednesday 17	3rd Week of Eastertide	9.30	Anne Castle RIP
Thursday 18	3rd Week of Eastertide	9.30	Bishop elect Bosco McDonald
Friday 19	St Alphege, Bishop	9.15	School Mass
Saturday 20	3rd Week of Eastertide	No Mass or Confessions	
Sunday 21	5th Sunday of Easter	10.00	Maddalena Panico
Sunday 21	5th Sunday of Easter	18.00	Michael Quigley RIP

Second collection on 21 April for Clergy Training Fund