

ST BONS NEWSLETTER 21th April

MONSIGNOR BERNARD'S MESSAGE

Working as a parish priest the one thing you soon realise is that whilst you may be able to estimate the number of baptisms, weddings, or funerals that you will have over a year, what is almost impossible to predict is when these will actually take place. So in my own case with virtually no funerals in the first three months, next week, I find I'm involved in three funerals.

So this week a good amount of time has been taken up finalising the preparations for what is needed. And those needs can be radically different between one funeral and another. Whether it is in the age of the person who is deceased, or the size of the family that they have left behind or the location of where the service is to take place. There are differences between services that are only in the crematorium, or services that end in the crematorium, or those that end at the graveside. Then there is the range of mourners that you have, some of whom are regular churchgoers, some who are more Christmas and Easter attenders, and some who have not been to a Catholic funeral before.

Add to all this the actual deceased themselves some of whom have been active members of the parish for years, others who have a far less obvious connection with St Bonaventures, or those who have moved away from the area to be nearer family and whom I've never met. They all need and deserve the sort of funeral that they or their family feels reflects who and what they were. So next week individuals are very much that, three very different people with different stories. The thing that connects them is that they are children of God, and it is He who will judge and reward them for the lives they've led. My task is to comfort the mourners and pray for the deceased.

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 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

Wednesday Mass on 24th April: Year 3 children are attending the 9.30am Mass as a preparation for the First Holy Communion Mass next month.

St Bon's Cricket XI: St Bon's Cricket XI welcomes new players, young and old, experienced or newcomers, male or female, to add to their squad this season. We play 20:20 fixtures, weekly, on various nights over the Summer and are always on the look out for new talent. Come along and try, you only have to commit to one game at a time! FFI please contact Tommy at stbonaventurescricket@gmail.com.

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, May 20th. All are welcome.

Christians in Science lecture Friday May 3rd: Professor Nigel Crook will be speaking on "Consciousness, Creativity and Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)" at Redland Church Hall, BS6 7HE. The talk starts at 7.30pm and will be followed by time for questions with a formal close at 9.30pm. Refreshments will be served from 7pm. There is no entrance charge but if you can afford a donation, £5 would help cover our running costs. Artificial Intelligence has wide ranging implications which are important for Christians to understand and respond to.

Concerned about the Climate and Nature Crisis? The recent responses from our parish survey showed that many people are. Eco Together is a short course we are offering which brings together small groups of people for 5 structured sessions. Using an Info Pack designed to bring tangible results and to help build strong support, members help each other in making a difference; there are no costs involved. We are bringing together an Eco Together Group here at St Bons, beginning the week of May 13. Send an email to Liz Baldwin at lizzymac4000@gmail.com to register your interest and your preferred evening of the week. The sessions run for approx 1.5 hours.

Livesimply Thought for the Week: Monday 22 April is Earth Day with the theme for 2024: 'Planet vs. Plastics'. This world-wide celebration encourages people all over the world to work together to protect our beautiful planet. Just one example of the extent of the plastic problem: more than 500 billion plastic bags—one million bags per minute—were produced worldwide last year, many of which are used for only a few minutes, but persist for centuries. After plastics disintegrate, they remain as microplastics, minute particles polluting every part of life on the planet. On the Earth Day website there is a short video indicating the extent of the problem and some simple actions, including supporting the Global Plastics Treaty. This calls on the UN and governmental organisations to commit to a 60% reduction of all fossil fuel-based plastic production by 2040.

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 21	4th Sunday of Easter	10.00	Maddalena Panico
Sunday 21	4th Sunday of Easter	18.00	Michael Quigley RIP
Monday 22	4th Week of Eastertide	No Mass	
Tuesday 23	Saint George, Martyr	11.00	Funeral of Maria Lombardi
Wednesday 24	4th Week of Eastertide	9.30	Volodimir Diachenko RIP
Thursday 25	Saint Mark, Evangelist	9.30	Eduardo Rivera & Family
Friday 26	4th Week of Eastertide	13.00	Funeral of Sheila Bull
Saturday 27	4th Week of Eastertide	No Mass or Confessions	
Sunday 28	5th Sunday of Easter	10.00	Eric Pitt RIP
Sunday 28	5th Sunday of Easter	18.00	People of the Parish