

# ST BONS NEWSLETTER 19<sup>th</sup> May

## MONSIGNOR BERNARD'S MESSAGE

On Thursday of this week, I went up to Oxford University to give the guest lecture to the Newman Society. Named after Cardinal Newman it is the oldest student society at Oxford University with its foundation in 1878. Over the years, the great and the good have spoken to students on a range of topics. Evelyn Waugh not only spoke here but mentioned it twice in his great novel 'Brideshead Revisited'. Malcolm Muggeridge, Alec Guinness and William Rees-Mogg have spoken. On the clerical front: Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Cardinal George Pell and Archbishop Malcolm McMahon have all addressed the assembled students. So, as you can imagine, I was under some degree of pressure given the calibre of some of the former speakers to this august assembly.

Not being a theologian or a well-known name, my chosen topic was to speak on my life as a priest, I related to them the story of how the plans I had for my life were not those that God have chosen and so in many ways, I was a reluctant priest. Or rather reluctant to train for the priesthood but once I started, my love for the role grew and grew. I told them about some of my experiences of parish life over the last 36 years. My role has a prison chaplain firstly to young offenders when I was in Downend and then to long-term adult prisoners when I was parish priest in Gloucester. I also talked at some length about my experiences as an army chaplain and how those shaped my understanding of my ministry and shaped my opinion of the great work done by our own forces. As you can imagine, I was confronted with a number of questions at the end of my talk which, I think, I managed to answer to at least my satisfaction, and I think also to the questioners' satisfaction. After night prayer in the chapel, we ended up in the college bar and once more I answered individuals' questions and queries.

When I was first asked, I was a bit reluctant to say yes, but now I'm glad that I did because I met some fantastic young people and it's always good to realise that the church will be in safe hands in the years to come.

## EVENTS, PARISH & COMMUNITY

**Please Pray For:** Enzo Maniglia. Peter Sewell. Eddie Williams. Paul Tooze. Margaret Rogers. Rosemary Hatherly. Sheelagh Gaines. Ninette Bateman. Rosie O'Hagan. If you would like to be named in the Newsletter, please contact the Parish Office.

**Thank you** to everyone who supported the cake and plant sale last Sunday - a total of £292 was raised, so CAFOD and the Food Pantry have each received £146. £845.60 has been collected during both FHC for the Food Pantry - thank you so much!

**FHC Party:** Let's get together as a parish family and share some joy with our First Holy Communion children, their families and friends this Sunday. We'll be having light lunch, tea, coffee and cake straight after 10am Mass (no usual tea and coffee in the presbytery this week). All welcome!

**St Bon's Litter Picking Group:** Just a reminder that the next litter pick will be this Sunday 19 May. Meet outside St Peters Hospice shop Gloucester Rd/Dongola Ave at 12.30. Please bring your own stick although I have a few spare sticks if needed. I would encourage families with young children to come along to instil a sense of civic duty. If you have any questions, please contact [annie\\_sparkes@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:annie_sparkes@hotmail.co.uk)

**Mission Mass for Missio:** Missio supporters, volunteers and the wider Catholic community are invited to come together in prayer for the Global Church at St Bon's on 22 May at 7pm. We hope to welcome people from the parishes in our new Pastoral Area. The Mass will be celebrated by Fr Gary Brassington, Diocesan Director for Missio and followed by refreshments. Br Eddie Slawinski from the Mill Hill Missionaries will be here to share the work of Missio and how Red Box donations are helping to build the Catholic Church and share the Gospel message. All are welcome.

**St Joseph's Home Summer Draw:** Draw tickets costing £2.50 each will be on sale after both Masses next Sunday, 19th May. Star prizes are a Helicopter Flight with bubbly for 2 people, an Apple watch and a Hot Air Balloon flight for 2, plus a dozen other prizes. Winners will be drawn at the Summer Fair on 22nd June.

**Photo Competition:** St Bons Climate Action Group is holding a Photo Competition on the theme 'The Natural World', judged in three age groups - under 12, 12-16 and 17 and over. For full details click here. Go to <https://forms.gle/S5h6DJwW4yDnFvfJ7> or scan the QR code to find the entry form and upload your photo, or you can email your photo to [stbonsclimateaction@gmail.com](mailto:stbonsclimateaction@gmail.com), stating the photo title, your name and your age group. The closing date is Sunday 16th June.



**St Bon's Climate Action group:** Our next meeting is on Mon 20th May where we will be exploring more ways that we, as individuals and as a community, can play our part in slowing down the climate emergency. Join us for a simple vegetarian meal at 7pm, or come along at 7.30pm for the discussion.

**The Catholic Association for Racial Justice** will celebrate its 40th anniversary on Saturday 25 May from 10.30 to 4pm in the Amigo Hall, attached to St George's Cathedral, Lambeth Rd., London SE1 7HY. The day will include speakers, lunch and Mass and all are warmly invited to attend.

**Livesimply Thought for the Week:** This year's theme for Laudato Si' Week (19-26 May) is 'Seeds of Hope,' and is inspired by Pope Francis' letter to all people of good will to care for our common home. There is a downloadable eight-day Laudato Si' Week Celebration Guide here which includes inspirational quotes, practical activities, reflections and prayers aimed at inspiring meaningful change in our interaction with the environment. Each day a specific theme is suggested, such as waste reduction, renewable energy use and water conservation. As Pope Francis states in his follow up letter, Laudate Deum "There are no lasting changes without cultural changes [...] and there are no cultural changes without personal changes" (# 70). If each of us makes small lifestyle changes and keeps to them over the long term, together we could make a considerable impact preserving our beautiful world and the planet's health for future generations. Let us be seeds of hope in our lives and in our world, rooted in faith and love.

**Community Food Pantry Update:** Please donate: Milk, Coffee, Washing up liquid, Sanitary products

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: 12 June. 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.

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## LITURGY SCHEDULE

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|--------------|---|---------|--|
| Sunday 19    | Solemnity of Pentecost                              | 10.00   | Children of the Parish                     |
| Sunday 19    | Solemnity of Pentecost                              | 18.00   | People of the Parish                       |
| Monday 20    | Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church           | No Mass |  |
| Tuesday 21   | Ordinary Time                                       | No Mass |  |
| Wednesday 22 | Ordinary Time                                       | 9.30    | Private intention                          |
|              |   | 19.00   | MISSIO                                     |
| Thursday 23  | Our Lord Jesus Christ, The Eternal High Priest      | 9.30    | Barbara Seed RIP                           |
| Friday 24    | St Aldhelm, Bishop                                  | 9.30    | Vocations                                  |
| Saturday 25  | St Bede The Venerable, Priest, Doctor of the Church | 10.00   | Families of the Parish (Holy Spirit Event) |
| Sunday 26    | The Most Holy Trinity                               | 10.00   | Tim & Mary Hanley RIP                      |
| Sunday 26    | The Most Holy Trinity                               | 18.00   | People of the Parish                       |