

# ST BONS NEWSLETTER - 26<sup>th</sup> January 2025

## MONSIGNOR BERNARD'S MESSAGE

What a great day last Sunday was! We had a church almost full to the brim as we enrolled 40 children into this year's First Holy Communion programme. This was followed by a party in the parish hall. Again, we had good numbers of people there, and professional entertainer kept the children engaged for well over an hour. There were many screams of delight, giggles and applause as he performed his various tricks for the edification. Meanwhile parents and guardians were able to mingle and chat, knowing that their children were safe and happy. As I walked around chatting and listening, I was aware that what I was seeing was one big happy family. As a parish priest, one of the things that always encourages me is seeing the joy of family life lived out in a Christian environment.

With terrible details of the murders of three children in Southport being revealed this week, we recognise just how lucky we are. We also recognise that the parents of those who were killed and injured have been traumatised in a way that we can hardly comprehend. So whilst our hearts go out to those who have suffered violence and death in their family lives, we are called to pause for a moment and count our blessings.

So maybe this weekend you will find a few moments to thank God for all that you have. Many people in our world are living in war torn areas, or are facing intolerable hardships due to corruption and dictatorships. May the God of love help them and us to find ways to build a better world for our children

## EVENTS, PARISH & COMMUNITY

**Please Pray For:** Enzo Maniglia. Peter Sewell. Eddie Williams. Paul Tooze. Margaret Rogers. Rosemary Hatherly. Sheelagh Gaines. Ninette Bateman. Madeline Walsh. Giovanni Maniglia. We also pray for Patricia Meehan, Steph Murphy and John Collins who died recently. If you would like to be named in the Newsletter, please contact the Parish Office.

**Funerals:** Kitty (Patricia) Meehan - Requiem Mass will be on Thursday, 30th January at 11am. Steph Murphy's funeral will be on Wednesday, 5th February at 10am.

**Encounter 2025 - 1st February St Bernadette's:** Encounter 2025 is a Diocesan wide programme between Easter and Pentecost. It will empower parishioners to have a better understanding of the Holy Spirit, a closer relationship with God and to be able to explain the reasons for their faith. Many people have said that they find it difficult to explain why they are Catholic or even a Christian. Grandparents are sad that their children and grandchildren no longer attend Mass. All are welcome to our initial planning event on 1st February 2025 between 9.30 and 1 pm at St Bernadettes, 731 Wells Rd, Bristol, BS14 9HU. For more information, email [pentecost@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:pentecost@cliftondiocese.com)

**Poinsettia appeal:** A big thank you to all who supported our poinsettia appeal over the Christmas period. Over £500 was raised to support three causes: CAFOD, the Homeless in Bristol & our Food Pantry. Many thanks for your generosity!

**Discover Radio Maria – Your Catholic Voice on Air:** Don't miss an upcoming special broadcast on Radio Maria at 10am on Tuesday, 28th January, featuring Fr. Conor McDonough, O.P. from the Dominican House of Studies in Dublin. He'll explore the fascinating trend of young people, particularly young men, rediscovering Christianity through figures like Jordan Peterson. Radio Maria England is a Catholic radio station bringing uplifting music, engaging discussions, and faith-filled programming to inspire your daily life. Tune in for live Mass, prayers, and thought-provoking talks from leading Catholic voices. You can listen via DAB+, the Radio Maria Play app, on the Alexa Smart Speaker or online at [www.radiomariaengland.uk](http://www.radiomariaengland.uk). Join us and let Radio Maria bring faith to life!

**Livesimply Thought for the Week:** If you're having a spring clear-out don't forget that St Bon's now has a [Recycling for Good Causes](#) collection box in the Presbytery corridor for recycling a range of items to raise funds for CAFOD. Items collected include unwanted watches and jewellery (anything from plastic beads to old broken gold chains); gadgets (such as cameras, games consoles, mobile phones, sat navs and MP3 players); old currency (UK & foreign) and used stamps. When the box is full, Recycling for Good Causes arranges its collection and each item is assessed and recycled by their experts to get the highest price possible for our designated charity, CAFOD. If you're not sure whether an unwanted item that you have can be recycled in this way, have a look at information on the collection box or the Recycling for Good Causes [website](#).

**Community Food Pantry Update:** As the children settle back into school after the excitement of the Christmas holidays, let's recognise how difficult it can be to keep them well-clothed, well-shod and well-fed so they can play and learn together. While the Food Pantry can't help with the expense of clothes, we can help ease the pressure on parents struggling with the cost of food by providing a source of free, no-questions-asked, long-lasting groceries. When doing your shopping this week, could you put a few extra items in your trolley and bring them along to the Pantry for others to take? Have a look below for a list of things that are particularly popular. For those in need, the Pantry is open between 8am - 5pm every day except Monday.

**Please donate:** Vegan tinned meals, Vegetarian tinned meals, Meaty tinned meals, Tinned fish, Pesto, Stock cubes, Plain or self-raising flour, Tortilla-style wraps

**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 February. 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.

**Breviary Morning Prayer:** Every Thursday 9am in the church.

**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

Sunday 26	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	10.00 Patrick Dunning RIP 18.00 People of the Parish
Monday 27	Ordinary Time	No Mass
Tuesday 28	St Thomas Aquinas, Priest, Doctor of the Church	No Mass
Wednesday 29	Ordinary Time	No Mass
Thursday 30	Ordinary Time	<b>11.00</b> Funeral of Patricia Meehan
Friday 31	St John Bosco, Priest	No Mass
Saturday 1	Ordinary Time	No Mass
Sunday 2	The Presentation of the Lord	10.00 Margaret Lees RIP 18.00 People of the Parish