

ST BONS NEWSLETTER - 2nd February 2025

DEACON ANDREW'S MESSAGE

HOLY YEAR OF HOPE

In the summer of last year, I was invited to the Methodist great Hall in London where the first Commonwealth meeting was held, I believe in 1964. This was a gathering of commonwealth ambassadors from across the globe who had come to share their faith Stories individually and nationally, and how hope in God has been impacting their nations and communities in a life giving way. It was a joy sitting amongst these ambassadors and listening to them breaking bread on the life-giving word of God. This year we too as a parish and Christian community that is a part of a global witness, have been asked by the Holy father pope Francis to proclaim with him this holy year of hope. Each one of us are ambassadors of Christ and the Gospel, and have been called to herald hope, not just to our own parish, families and communities, but to nations and a world that is so much in need of hope.

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.

Funeral: Steph Murphy's funeral will be on Wednesday, 5th February at 10am.

Thank you to Fr Frank Bermingham for covering our Sunday Masses this week.

HCPT Quiz: Friday 21st March – 7.30pm: – Raise a team and pit your wits against a range of questions at Newman Hall, Sacred Heart Parish, Westbury-on-Trym. Hot dogs and burgers included on the night, all for the reasonable price of £10 pp. All profits go to support children with additional needs on a trip to Lourdes. Please email Tom to book a team in for the evening (21st March) tafosman@hotmail.co.uk

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

Livesimply Thought for the Week: Saturday, 8 February, is the feast day of St Josephine Bakhita, patron saint of victims of trafficking. Born in 1869 in Sudan, she was kidnapped at the age of 9 and sold into slavery, experiencing moral, spiritual and physical humiliations. Luckily, her final 'master' was the Italian Consul to Sudan and while serving in his household she became interested in Catholicism. After being taken to Italy by the family she was baptised and eventually entered the Canossian Sisters' convent. Trafficking is still a reality in most countries, but it is difficult to spot trafficked victims because they are hidden. Please pray for those affected by this cruel trade.

Community Food Pantry Update: We had a really lovely note of gratitude left at the Pantry recently. The volunteers are all extremely touched - it's such a comfort to know that the work they have all put in is really reaching the people who need help in such difficult times. You can help be part of that comfort and support - just pop along to the church with a small food donation. Anything is helpful, but have a look below for the things we really need at the moment. For those in need, the Pantry is open between 8am - 5pm every day except Monday.

Please donate: Tuna, Pesto, Jars of cook-in sauces, Tinned meat and tinned veggie meals, Shampoo, Deodorant

Please DO NOT donate: Fresh food (we can't safely store it, and it will go to waste)

Finances: The figures for January 2025:

Gift Aided Standing Orders	£3,086.50
Non-gift aided Standing Orders	£360.00
Cash	£558.31
Contactless Gift Aided	£564.00
Contactless Non-Gift Aided	<u>£376.00</u>
	£4,944.81

Poinsettia appeal: £510.00 - this will be split between 3 charities, our own Food Pantry, CAFOD and the homeless.

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.

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Sunday 2	The Presentation of the Lord	10.00 Margaret Lees RIP
		18.00 People of the Parish
Monday 3	Ordinary Time	No Mass
Tuesday 4	Ordinary Time	No Mass
Wednesday 5	St Agatha	10.00 Funeral of Steph Murphy
Thursday 6	St Paul Miki and Companions	No Mass
Friday 7	Ordinary Time	No Mass
Saturday 8	Ordinary Time	No Mass
Sunday 9	5 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	10.00 Private intentions
		18.00 People of the Parish