

# ST BONS NEWSLETTER - 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2025

## MONSIGNOR BERNARD'S MESSAGE

As we approach Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent, I've also been involved with three funerals, all of which are radically different. The first one was for a good and faithful servant 'Harold'. You would see him at the entrance to the church giving out hymn books and orders of service for the 10 o'clock Mass on a Sunday morning, or standing there with a basket for a second collection at the end of Mass. No matter what the weather, or how he was feeling, he was almost always on duty with a ready smile for young and old alike.

The second funeral is for Anthony, and this is taking place at St. Augustine of Canterbury Church in Downend. He died in Japan and some of his ashes have been brought back and will be buried in the same grave as his brother, but because many of his friends could not go to his funeral, we're having a special Mass for him before the burial of the ashes.

The third funeral is a simple graveside service for another person called Anthony. This is a simple service at the cemetery prior to his body being laid to rest in the family grave. It was his decision that all he wanted was something short and simple and that is exactly what he will get.

So, we have three sets of families all grieving for the loss of a loved one, and all having very different types of service. People sometimes think about catholic funerals are a bit of a production line, and that everyone has the same thing. This is far from the reality. Each service is truly unique, in that it reflects the wishes of the individual and their family and is designed to help them navigate their grief. What is essential for one family is often totally different to what is essential for another.

It's a good number of years ago that I stopped worrying about what was correct or appropriate at a funeral. The good Lord will not be that worried about the funeral service. He will judge the individual on how they lead their life and not on what was said or done at their funeral. Ash Wednesday is a good time for us to once again think about how we are living our lives because one day we will be judged.

## EVENTS, PARISH & COMMUNITY

**Please Pray For:** Enzo Maniglia. Eddie Williams. Paul Tooze. Margaret Rogers. Rosemary Hatherly. Sheelagh Gaines. Ninette Bateman. Madeline Walsh. Giovanni Maniglia. We also pray for Harold Peters, Anthony Spear & Antony Robinson who died recently. If you would like to be named in the Newsletter, please contact the Parish Office.

**Baptism:** We welcome Ella West baptised into the family of the Church this Saturday.

**Hungarian Mass:** Fr Szende would like to invite you all again to a Sunday Mass celebrated in Hungarian - at 3pm on the 9th March. Coffee and cakes afterwards in the presbytery. All welcome.

**Stations of the Cross:** All welcome to join in Stations of the Cross in the church on Fridays during Lent - starting at 11.30am from Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> March to 4<sup>th</sup> April

**CAFOD Lent Appeal – Family Fast Day (14<sup>th</sup> March):** Please donate to our Family Fast Day parish collection and be a Pilgrim of Hope with CAFOD this Jubilee Year. You'll be supporting communities experiencing the impacts of war, poverty and climate change to find solutions and hope. Use the CAFOD envelope in church, donate online at [cafod.org.uk/envelope](http://cafod.org.uk/envelope) or call us on 0303 303 3030. You can also text CAFODLENT to 70085 to donate £10.

**Cuts to Overseas Aid:** On Tuesday the Prime Minister announced that the aid budget will be cut again, meaning that it will be at its lowest level since 1999. The result will be that in some of the most vulnerable places on earth, more people will die and many more will lose their livelihoods. CAFOD is asking us all to write to our MPs urgently, asking them to take action to ensure that the UK does not turn its back on those most in need.

Search 'CAFOD Tell your MP that you oppose the Aid Cuts' for an email proforma. It only takes a couple of minutes.

**Recycling for Good Causes:** Thanks to all those who have donated items into the Recycling for Good Causes box in the presbytery, which has raised £75 for CAFOD. Please continue to donate used stamps, foreign currency, old/broken jewellery, watches, digital cameras, mobile phones, satnavs, video cameras, electronic gaming devices, tablet computers. IPODS and MP3 players. Please don't donate other items as it costs the recycling company money to dispose of them. There is a list of suitable and unsuitable items on the wall over the box.

**Camino De Santiago:** Please come to a Returned Pilgrims/Practical Pilgrim Day on Saturday 15 March, upstairs in Santiago's Cafe by Bristol Bus Station (Cannon St, BS1 3NZ) from 11am - 2pm. You will meet people who have walked a Camino who will tell you about their experience. We will cover such things as how to get there, where to stay, what to pack, what route to walk etc, etc. As 2025 has been designated a Holy Year, walking the Camino will make you a "Pilgrim of Hope". Please let me know if you intend to come along, Annie: [annie\\_sparkes@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:annie_sparkes@hotmail.co.uk)

**Livesimply Thought for the Week:** The Jubilee Year invites us to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation. Let's take some time as we prepare for Lent to think about how we can use this precious season to respond. In prayer and silence in the presence of God we can examine the way we live and whether it shows our love of God in how we treat each other and creation. In fasting, for example from buying new things or from meat and dairy products, we show solidarity with the poor and our overburdened planet. To complete the third aspect of Lent, almsgiving, we can donate any money thus saved to a charity. But almsgiving also includes giving our time and talents to others.

#### **Community Food Pantry Update:**

**Please donate:** Pasta sauces, curry sauces, coffee, tinned soups, tinned peas, washing up liquid, shampoo

**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 March. 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	8 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	10.00	People of the Parish
		18.00	Virginia McGladdery RIP
Monday 3	Ordinary Time		No Mass
Tuesday 4	Ordinary Time	9.30	Pope Francis
Wednesday 5	Ash Wednesday	9.15	KS2 School Mass, all welcome
Thursday 6	Thursday after Ash Wednesday	9.30	Cath & Family
Friday 7	Friday after Ash Wednesday	9.30	Harold Peters RIP
Saturday 8	Weekday of Lent	9.30	Private intention
Sunday 9	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent	10.00	Marjorie Williams RIP
		15.00	Hungarian Mass
		18.00	People of the Parish