

# ST BONS NEWSLETTER - 27<sup>th</sup> April 2025

## MONSIGNOR BERNARD'S MESSAGE

Late on Sunday afternoon my plans for the week were severely disrupted when the four-day cruise that I was due to go on on Monday was cancelled. The cruise liner has gone in for a refit and this was taking longer than was planned. Instead, I went to stay with my sister and brother-in-law who should've been on the same cruise as me and we had good few days together.

But of course, the real story of this week was the very sudden, and to a great extent, unexpected death of Pope Francis. The tributes that came from all over the world, and not just from Christians, were a clear indication of the high esteem in which he was held. Seldom in history do we see people of such high rank being so close to their everyday. As Francis himself said, he wanted the clergy of the church to have the smell of the sheep, in other words he wanted them to be close to those they serve.

What history will eventually make of Francis's Pontificate is far too early to say. It will, to some extent, be dependent on who his successor is. If he is someone who has the same humble outlook, then Francis could well be seen as the leader of a new style of running the Church. Hopefully his vision of a synodal church will also be carried forward. Certainly, our Bishop and in fact most, if not all of the Bishops of England and Wales, see this as a way to reinvigorate the Church.

So as we are glued to the television on Saturday watching Francis's funeral from the Vatican, let us also pray for whoever may succeed him. No matter how prepared you may feel, running a Church of 1.6 billion people is an unenviable task for anyone.

In the meantime, may Francis rest in peace and rise in glory with the saints.

## EVENTS, PARISH & COMMUNITY

**Please Pray For:** Enzo Maniglia. Eddie Williams. Margaret Rogers. Rosemary Hatherly. Sheelagh Gaines. Ninette Bateman. Madeline Walsh. Giovanni Maniglia. We also pray for Paul Tooze, Thomas McDonagh and Angelo Sardo-Viscuglia who died recently.

If you would like to be named in the Newsletter, please contact the Parish Office.

**Baptism:** We welcome Theodore Cox baptised into the family of the Church this Saturday.

**Divine Mercy Sunday at St Patrick's church:** St Patrick's Church would like to invite you for the Divine Mercy Sunday on the 27<sup>th</sup> April for a Holy Hour to venerate the Mercy of Our Lord from 3 pm to 4.15 pm. There will be a Holy Hour, including Exposition of The Blessed Sacrament, The Rosary of The Divine Mercy, Benediction and Hymns. During this hour the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be made available. Immediately after the Holy Hour there will be a Complimentary Tea served downstairs in The Shore Gallery.

**Encounter 2025** is a diocesan wide programme to equip and empower people to share their faith and be renewed in heart and mind. The first step is to deepen our understanding of the Holy Spirit and cultivate a closer, more intimate relationship with God—this is at the heart of what we hope to achieve between Easter and Pentecost. The programme will officially begin on Saturday, 3rd May, with a launch event at the Cathedral, open to all ages. We are delighted to offer children's streams, ensuring families can fully participate in this exciting journey together. Weekly sessions will follow on Wednesday evenings, live-streamed from the Cathedral, enabling everyone across the Diocese to join in, wherever they are. These will be recorded and available to view at a later date. To find out more, please email the team at: [pentecost@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:pentecost@cliftondiocese.com).

**Save the date for Laudato Si' Diocese Encounter at St Bons:** To mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the encyclical 'Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home', we invite all to meet on 31<sup>st</sup> May, with Bishop Bosco celebrating the Mass at 11am in our church. Details of the day to follow.

**Diocesan Jubilee Celebration of Hope:** Bishop Bosco warmly invites you to join him on 19 July for our Diocesan Jubilee Celebration of Hope at Downside School & Abbey. In addition to three keynote speakers, prayer, and reflections we will be offering an exciting and joyful programme for our children & young people. Register via this link: <https://jubileedayofhope.eventbrite.co.uk> or email [adult.education@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:adult.education@cliftondiocese.com).

**Livesimply Thought for the Week:** Did you know that there are over 130,00 victims of modern slavery in the UK alone? Come and find out more at a webinar 'Modern day slavery and Human Trafficking Awareness' arranged by the Santa Marta group and Clifton Diocese on Thursday, 1st May 7.00 - 8.30 pm.

**Community Food Pantry Update:**

**Please donate:** Tinned meat meals, Tinned vegetarian or vegan meals, Tinned fruit, Tinned tuna and other tinned fish, 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: 14 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.

**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.

**Women's prayer group:** Once a month on a Wednesday at 6.30pm, in the Presbytery. The next date: 30th April.

**Tea & Coffee:** Join us in the Presbytery after Sunday morning Mass for tea, coffee biscuits and a chance to chat.

## LITURGY SCHEDULE

Sunday 27	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter, Divine Mercy Sunday	10.00	Virginia McGladdery
		18.00	Michael Quigley RIP
Monday 28	St George, Patron of England	No Mass	
Tuesday 29	St Catherine of Siena	11.00	Funeral of Thomas McDonagh
Wednesday 30	Weekday of Easter	No Mass	
Thursday 1	Weekday of Easter	9.30	Pope Francis RIP
Friday 2	Memorial of St Athanasius, Bishop	9.30	John Hanley RIP
Saturday 3	Ss Philip and James	9.30	People of the Parish
Sunday 4	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter	10.00	Eric Pitt RIP
		18.00	Virginia McGladdery

If you'd like to make a donation to the parish,  
please scan the QR code

