

ST BONS NEWSLETTER - 11th May 2025

MONSIGNOR BERNARD'S MESSAGE

I expect, like me, many of you were glued to your television sets on Thursday evening. There we were, waiting patiently, and some anxiously for the story to really unfold. That first hour was almost excruciating at times, but then in the end it was all changed when Manchester United scored their first goal.

The real story for the rest of the world, that unfolded on Thursday evening, was the sudden and rapid election of a new Pope. Many had predicted all sorts of different names, but the general consensus was that it was going to take longer to arrive at a conclusion because of the fact that many of the Cardinals didn't know each other.

As has been the case on many occasions before, the so-called front runners were not the ones that were chosen for the office of Pontiff. Very few had predicted that a man, who became a Cardinal only a couple of years ago, would get the top job. The fact that he was running the Dicastery for Bishop's meant that, although he may have been unknown to many in the mass media, he was known by every single Cardinal.

The speed of the election result shows that the working of the Holy Spirit was far more in evidence than all the politicking that have been predicted. To get a result after four votes (and in reality, really after three, when we assume it was becoming clear who the front runner was) just shows that these men were being led by the Spirit and not by personal gain.

Whether Manchester United will win a cup this season is still in doubt; however, there is no doubt that the church will be in good hands with Pope Leo XIV.

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 Angelo Sardo-Viscuglia, Patricia McManamon and Virginia McGladdery who died recently.

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

Funerals: Angelo Sardo-Viscuglia on 15th May at 10am and Patricia McManamon on 21st May at 1.30pm.

First Holy Communion: will be taking place on 17th May. Please keep the children and their families in your prayers as they approach this very important moment on their faith journey.

On Sunday, 25th May, during 10am Mass children will receive their FHC certificates. This will be followed by a party for children, their families, friends and our parish community in the hall. Please join in to celebrate with them!

Consultation on future Sunday Mass times: Canon Tom would like to ask all parishioners for their opinion on Mass times; therefore, we will be giving out a questionnaire after our Sunday Masses (one per person). We would encourage everyone to have their say and hope to have a good number of responses before the meeting on 21 June.

Parishes in Communion for Mission: As announced Canon Tom will be taking responsibility for the pastoral care of St. Bonaventure's in September, as well as St. Antony's and Sacred Heart. With this in mind, those interested, are invited to a meeting regarding the future of our three parishes on **Saturday 21st June** in the Newman Hall (behind Sacred Heart church) at 10am - 12noon. Refreshments will be provided.

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

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 .

Livesimply Thought for the Week: No Mow May is here – let's give power to the flowers! Approximately 97% of flower-rich meadows have been lost since the 1930s, and with them, vital food and habitat needed by wildlife. So to give nature the boost it deserves, Plantlife's No Mow May campaign urges everyone to pack away the lawnmower and let the wildflowers grow freely! Even the smallest wild patch can provide vital food needed by bees and butterflies, connecting us with nature and giving nature the best start to summer. There's more information on the Plantlife website on how to manage your lawn for nature all year round.

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: 21st May.

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

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Sunday 11	4 th Sunday of Easter, Good Shepherd Sunday	10.00	Tim & Mary Hanley RIP
		18.00	Kevin Spong RIP
Monday 12	Weekday of Easter	No Mass	
Tuesday 13	Weekday of Easter	No Mass	
Wednesday 14	St Matthias, Apostle	No Mass	
Thursday 15	Weekday of Easter	10.00	Funeral of Angelo Sardo-Viscuglia
Friday 16	Weekday of Easter	9.30	Patrick Dunning RIP
Saturday 17	Weekday of Easter	11.00	First Holy Communion Mass
		14.00	First Holy Communion Mass
Sunday 18	5 th Sunday of Easter	10.00	Janice Crowley
		18.00	People of the Parish

Second collection – 11.05.25: Clergy Training Fund (Good Shepherd Sunday)

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

