

# ST BONS NEWSLETTER - 18<sup>th</sup> May 2025

## MONSIGNOR BERNARD'S MESSAGE

This Saturday (17th of May) we are holding our parish First Holy Communion with 43 young people receiving the Sacrament for the first time. We have 2 Masses at 11am and 2 pm. Over the past 38 years, I've had literally thousands of children make their First Holy Communion. As I move every closer to retirement, these occasions seem to become more poignant.

For each child, and for each family, these are special moments. A rite of passage on a lifelong journey that doesn't stop until we are united for eternity with Trinity. How many of these young people will still be churchgoers in 10 years' time, is an impossible question to answer. All I do know is that we are planting seeds and we have to wait to see how they develop.

I remember clearly my own First Holy Communion, where I was instructed by my family to pray, particularly for my grandfather who was suffering with heart failure. He died about three weeks later. I didn't really understand when my family said that in many ways it was an answer to prayer. He had always been a variant of person but in his final weeks was bed-bound and his quality of life has been severely eroded.

Just after my First Communion, my paternal grandparents presented me with a cassock and cotter, so that I could become an altar boy. When many years later I went to Seminary, I discovered that only one, out of the 30 in my year, have not been an altar boy.

When as a student at college, I stopped going to church I never imagined that I would end up as a Priest. Even to this day, I still marvel at the generosity of God in not rejecting me even when I appeared to reject him. So, join me in praying for our young people this weekend because we never know where the Lord will lead them and how they will make their mark in the world.

## 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.

**Baptisms:** We welcome Bonnie Morgan and Teddy McDonald baptised into the family of the Church this Sunday.

**Funeral:** Patricia McManamon's funeral will be on 21<sup>st</sup> May at 1.30pm.

**First Holy Communion:** Congratulations to 43 young people making their First Holy Communion on Saturday 17th May! On Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> May, during 10am Mass children will receive their FHC certificates. This will be followed by a party in the hall for children, their families & friends and our parish community. Please join in to celebrate with them!

**Consultation on Sunday Mass times:** Canon Tom would like to ask all parishioners for their opinion on Mass times, therefore there will be having a questionnaire after our Sunday Masses. 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.

**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 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](mailto:adult.education@cliftondiocese.com) .

**Livesimply Thought for the Week:** This week Palestinians have been marking the Nakba, the 77th anniversary of their expulsion from their homeland after the establishment of the Israeli state. We daily see the horror of Gaza since the Israeli government banned all deliveries of food, clean water, fuel and medicines. From the start of the war Pope Francis telephoned the priest at the Holy Family parish in Gaza every evening to assure him of prayers and support. We too can pray for Gazans and all Palestinians and demand that our government cease all deliveries of weapons to Israel and insist on a ceasefire now.

**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: 11 June. 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: 21<sup>st</sup> May.

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

## LITURGY SCHEDULE

Sunday 18	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	10.00	Janice Cowley
		18.00	People of the Parish
Monday 19	St Dunstan, Bishop	No Mass	
Tuesday 20	Weekday of Easter	*12.00	Pope Leo XIV
Wednesday 21	Weekday of Easter	13.30	Funeral of Patricia McManamon
Thursday 22	Weekday of Easter	9.30	Private intention
Friday 23	Weekday of Easter	9.30	Barbara Seed RIP
Saturday 24	St Aldhelm, Bishop	9.30	People of Gaza
Sunday 25	6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	10.00	People of the Parish
		18.00	Virginia McGladdery RIP

*\*Please note the change of Mass time on Tuesday*

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

