

ST BONS NEWSLETTER - 29nd June 2025

MONSIGNOR BERNARD'S MESSAGE

As I move into the final few months before my retirement certain dates and feasts remind me of my priestly journey. Today (Friday) we celebrate the Feast of the Sacred Heart, and on Sunday we will celebrate the feast of Saints Peter & Paul.

The Sacred Heart was the name of the first primary school I attended. I was there for a couple of years before my home parish (Holy Family) opened its Primary School in September 1958. I remember the Sacred Heart Church as a large and impressive building run by the Jesuits. The other Sacred Heart is the one in Westbury-on-Trym where I was Parish Priest. I have many happy memories from my time there, and knowing both parish communities, I am sure they will work together collaboratively once I retire.

The feast of Ss Peter and Paul reminds me of course of our Cathedral. When I bought my 3rd house and lived in Long Ashton I used to attend the Cathedral.

One thing that stood out for me that time, was the weekly newsletter and the articles that were written by the then Monsignor Crispin Hollis, the style of which I have tried to copy over the years. Trying to give you a bit of an insight into aspects of my life and relating that to the scriptures.

The Cathedral was also the place where I was ordained on the 9th of April 1988. Never in my wildest dreams did I expect to have achieved things that I have over these past 37 years. The places that I have worked, both in the diocese and overseas, have all shaped me into the person I am today.

I see myself as a pebble that has been down a stream and, in the hurly-burly, edges have been knocked off, and the pebble has been polished so that it looks significantly different to when it first entered the stream back in '88.

However, I recognise that this pebble will only find its final true beauty when it leaves the stream of this earth and goes hopefully to heaven. If the Lord lets me in, then it will be in no small part due to the love that I have received from those I have encountered in the whole of my life. We are all part of God's family, and He uses us to help us to shape one another.

EVENTS, PARISH & COMMUNITY

Please Pray For: Enzo Maniglia. Eddie Williams. Margaret Rogers. Rosemary Hatherly. Sheelagh Gaines. Ninette Bateman. Madeline Walsh. Giovanni Maniglia.

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

Cake sale: Our young parishioner, Lucia (in Y5) is holding a sale of cakes and plants this Sunday after 10am Mass to support water project in Ethiopia - 'Run 4 H2O', which is a fundraising initiative generating money for HOPE International Development Agency. Please support her as you enjoy your coffee and cake this Sunday!

Informal Sociable Summer Matinee Concert: Saxophony saxophone group are staging a concert on 29th June at 2.30 pm in the church, also featuring Andy Fagan on guitar, Emma Deegan on flute, and vocalist Maria Mondragon Kalfopulos. There will be tea and cakes served and a collection for CAFOD/Food Pantry.

Mgr Bernard's Retirement collection: As most of you will know, Mgr Bernard is retiring in September this year. To show our deep appreciation and gratitude, we are organizing a retirement collection in his honour. Your generous contribution will be a heartfelt way to thank Mgr Bernard for his years of service. Please either place donations in the offertory basket or drop it through the Presbytery letter box, or if you prefer, donate on the machines in the entrance or online www.stbonsbristol.com/donate.

Save the date!: We'll be holding a Farewell Party for Mgr Bernard to which everyone is welcome! It will be in the Parish Hall on Friday evening - 12th September at 7pm – please save the date in your calendar!

2025 Lourdes Pilgrimage: The Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place from Friday 22nd August to Friday 29th August 2025. As usual, we shall be part of the Catholic Association Pilgrimage. Tagney tours will be dealing with bookings, hotels and flight bookings. We shall be travelling from Birmingham airport direct to Tarbes-Lourdes airport. Bookings are now open via the Tangney Tours website: [Tangney Tours – Lourdes 2025 booking](http://TangneyTours-Lourdes2025booking)
Booking form: CA-booking-form-2025. Clifton Pilgrims are requested to book either the Astrid or the Irelande hotels. We shall be running a coach to and from Birmingham airport.

If you would like to contact Fr Eugene about the pilgrimage, please do so here: lourdes@cliftondiocese.com

Pastoral Ministry Formation course: We are now actively seeking to recruit for the next Pastoral Ministry Formation course which begins in the Autumn 2025. The course is ideal for ANY parishioner who seeks to develop their capacity to serve the parish in anyway which they believe the Lord is calling them. If you are a catechist – this course is for you. If you are a minister in any form – this course is for you. If you are not involved in any way – but would like to be – this course is for you! Interested? – then please do come to our information evening which will be taking place on Monday 30 June, 7pm: Apostle Room, Cathedral, Clifton. Here you will hear in more detail about what is being offered, time commitment involved, interview process and costs including the role of parishes to support those who are successful in obtaining a place. If you would like to attend a session just email adult.education@cliftondiocese.com to let us know you will be attending.

Livesimply Thought for the Week: Today with more than 50 active conflicts around the world - more than at any time since World War II - the prospect of peace seems very distant. During this Jubilee Year of Hope we are called to play our part in building a culture of peace by showing love and consideration for each of our fellow human beings. Let us examine our relationships with others in our own circle of friends and family, our local community, our country and the wider world. As Pope Francis said in his message for this year's World Day of Peace 'something quite simple will do, such as a smile, a small gesture of friendship, a kind look, a ready ear, a good deed'. You might also like to support those working for peace (such as Pax Christi) and to pray that world leaders will see further than their national interests in efforts to reduce conflict.

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: 9 July. 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 after the summer.

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

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Sunday 29	Ss Peter and Paul, Apostles	10.00	Catherine Lucas
		18.00	People of the Parish
Monday 30	The Dedication of Clifton Cathedral	No Mass	
Tuesday 1	St Oliver Plunket, Bishop	9.30	Bishop Declan Lang
Wednesday 2	Ordinary Time	9.30	Bishop Crispian Hollis
Thursday 3	St Thomas, Apostle	9.30	Housebound
Friday 4	The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus	9.30	People of Gaza
Saturday 5	Ordinary Time	9.30	People of Ukraine
Sunday 6	Ss Peter and Paul, Apostles	10.00	People of the Parish
		18.00	Virginia McGladdery RIP

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

