

ST BONS NEWSLETTER – 6th July 2025

MONSIGNOR BERNARD'S MESSAGE

This week, my pending retirement in September has taken centre stage. As part of my preparations, I have been rearranging rooms in my upstairs flat so that I can turn one of the rooms into a Chapel where I can go to pray and say Mass. A spare room is always a bit of a luxury, but a 'Sacred Space' is more of a necessity.

All this has necessitated a couple of trips to IKEA for a few pieces of furniture, as I needed somewhere to store my own personal vestments and my liturgy books for Masses, as well as bits and pieces for other rooms.

What I love about IKEA is that what you walk out of the store with bears little or no resemblance to the finished product. You walk out with a number of flat packed items and trust that (if you can follow the makers instructions) you will end up with something beautiful and functional. The assembly process often has its frustrations but if you stop, reflect and then carry on, it all starts to become clear.

In many ways the whole thing is a metaphor for our Christian way of life. We are born into the world, and no one is exactly sure what we are going to become. However, with the tender love of parents (who are hopefully following 'The Makers' instructions) and the effort of members of the construction team: grandparents, sibling and teachers, slowly but surely, we begin to see how this person develops into a unique member of society.

So as I continue my journey on to retirement, I hope that I can find what it is that the Lord is asking of me, as I enter these twilight years. All I know (from past experience) is that it will be different to what I first imagined.

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.

Baptisms: We welcome Alfie & Max Shaddick and Rocco & Elaya Thompson baptised into the family of the Church this weekend.

St Bonaventure's Feast Day: Following the success of last year's celebration, we're excited to celebrate our Patron Saint again! Come and join us on Sunday, 20th July, after the morning Mass in front of the Presbytery; meet and mingle with wonderful members of St Bon's community. You can expect Pimm's & lemonade, delicious cakes and face painting! Donations of cakes welcome.

Parish Meeting 21st June: Thank you to all who attended the joint parishes meeting on June 21st. Full notes from this meeting are now available on the parish website.

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, 7pm – save this 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. 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

Livesimply Thought for the Week: This month is Plastic Free July, a global movement helping millions of people to be part of the solution to plastic pollution. The Plastic Free Foundation's [website](#) is packed with ideas, alternatives and resources encouraging people around the world to avoid single use plastic. You are invited to take the Plastic Free challenge, with a questionnaire that helps you to estimate your current plastic use and a follow-up in August which helps to track your progress. If you sign up to the challenge, you will receive tips, hints and stories in weekly emails during July to help keep you motivated. By working together to reduce our individual plastic use we can make a difference and be a part of the solution.

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: The soup makers are having a summer break; the last soup will be Friday, 11th July. We will re-commence on Friday 19th September. 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 6	14 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	10.00	People of the Parish
		18.00	Virginia McGladdery RIP
Monday 7	Ordinary Time	No Mass	
Tuesday 8	Ordinary Time	*12.00	Peace in the Middle East
Wednesday 9	Ordinary Time	*12.00	Holy Souls
Thursday 10	Ordinary Time	9.30	Private intention
Friday 11	St Benedict, Abbot, Patron of Europe	9.30	Youth of the Parish
Saturday 12	Ordinary Time	9.30	Thanksgiving – Mondragon-Kalfopulos Family
Sunday 13	15 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	10.00	Patrick Neary RIP (2 nd anniversary)
		18.00	People of the Parish

***Please note the change to Mass times on Tuesday and Wednesday this week**

There will be a 2nd collection on 13th July for Stella Maris (Sea Sunday)

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

