

ST BONS NEWSLETTER - 20th July 2025

MONSIGNOR BERNARD'S MESSAGE

Well, I have just celebrated not only the school end of term Mass, but also what is my last school Mass. Whilst I will be here for the start of the new school year, it makes far more sense for Canon Tom to do the school Mass in September as he will be taking over from me only couple of weeks later.

Also, this week, I'm on my last 7 days and nights as 'On Call Catholic Chaplain' for Southmead Hospital. It's one of those weeks where I never get a really good night sleep, and my first thought when the alarm goes off in the morning is 'thankfully the phone's not gone during the night.' It has however gone off twice since Sunday. When people ask me am I looking forward to retirement, the answer is as far as the phone is concerned, it will be one of the best things.

I'm on the Diocesan Priest's retreat most of next week, so it's a time for me to reflect not on what I have done over the last 37 years, but more on what am I going to do in the future. I want to ponder on how to balance my free time, with what I could do to help some of my brother priests in their busy lives.

When I was suddenly absent in 2023 due to my triple heart bypass, it was a few retired priests who helped with Masses here at St. Bons, so I know that with holidays and emergencies there is often a request to the retired community to see if any can help.

Hopefully, I will have found some answers by the end of the summer holidays. If you are going away, I hope you and your family have a happy and safe time and come back recharged for the next adventure God has in store for you!

EVENTS, PARISH & COMMUNITY

Please Pray For: Eddie Williams. Margaret Rogers. Rosemary Hatherly. Sheelagh Gaines. Ninette Bateman. Madeline Walsh. Giovanni Maniglia. We also pray for Enzo Maniglia who died recently. If you would like to be named in the Newsletter, please contact the Parish Office.

Funeral: Enzo Maniglia's funeral will be on the 6th August at 10am at St Bon's. Please keep Enzo and his family in your prayers in the days and weeks ahead.

Baptism: We welcome Amber Fogg baptised into the family of the church this Saturday.

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 this Sunday after the morning Mass in front of the Presbytery. You can expect Pimm's & lemonade, delicious cakes and face painting and tattoos for children!

New Welcomers needed: With there only being one Sunday Mass following Mgr Bernard's retirement, it is anticipated that the church will be very busy. In order to welcome those attending Mass, and helping them to find a seat, we anticipate the need for additional welcomers. If you are interested in helping, please send your details to the parish office via email. Thank you.

Mgr Bernard's Farewell: We warmly invite everyone to a farewell celebration for Monsignor Bernard on Friday, 12th September. The evening will begin with Mass at 6.30pm, followed by a party in St Bon's Hall from around 7.15pm. Please save the date!

Mgr Bernard's Retirement collection: In celebration of Mgr Bernard's upcoming retirement, we are putting together a collection. 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 at www.stbonsbristol.com/donate.

St Bon's Climate Action Group: Our next meeting is on Monday, 21 July in the presbytery. All are welcome to join us for a fascinating talk by the 'Bee Lady' who will describe her approach to traditional beekeeping. Help us to plan parish activities for the Season of Creation in September and share a simple vegetarian meal. The meeting begins at around 7.30pm with food at 7pm.

Livesimply Thought for the Week: Following the results of last year's Big Butterfly Count, Butterfly Conservation have declared a butterfly emergency, and need your help more than ever before. By taking part in this year's Big Butterfly Count (18 July to 10 August), you can help assess the health of our environment simply by counting butterflies. Using Butterfly Conservation's down-loadable ID Guide or free app you can learn how to identify these insects and have fun. Simply download the Guide, find a sunny spot outdoors and spend 15 minutes identifying and counting the number and type of butterflies and day-flying moths you see. After submitting your sightings via the Big Butterfly Count website <https://bigbutterflycount.butterfly-conservation.org/> or app you will receive a Citizen Scientist certificate to print or download. You can do as many Big Butterfly Counts as you like choosing different spots to see how they compare.

Parent & Baby/Toddler Group is having a summer break. We're back in September, 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: 13 August. 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 - watch this space!

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

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Sunday 20	16 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	10.00	Patrick Dunning RIP
		18.00	People of the Parish
Monday 21	Ordinary Time	No Mass	
Tuesday 22	St Mary Magdalene	No Mass	
Wednesday 23	St Bridget of Sweden	No Mass	
Thursday 24	Ordinary Time	No Mass	
Friday 25	St James	9.30	Happy Holidays
Saturday 26	Ss Joachim & Anne, Parents of BVM	9.30	Private intention
Sunday 27	17 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	10.00	Felicia and Alex Kukiela RIP
		18.00	People of the Parish

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



Parish Office: Please note that during the summer holidays, emails will be checked periodically. In the event of an urgent query please call the office on 01179424448 & leave a message or email bernard.massey@cliftondiocese.com