



ST. BONIFACE



Bringing Christ to the people and people to Christ

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July 16, 2023 – FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The Word's Return: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Jesus is portrayed in today's Gospel as a new and greater Moses. Moses, the meekest man on earth (see [Numbers 12:3](#)), was God's friend (see [Exodus 34:12, 17](#)). Only he knew God "face to face" (see [Deuteronomy 34:10](#)). And Moses gave Israel the yoke of the Law, through which God first revealed Himself and how we are to live (see [Jeremiah 2:20; 5:5](#)). Jesus, too, is meek and humble. But He is more than God's friend. He is the Son who alone knows the Father. He is more also than a lawgiver, presenting Himself today as the yoke of a new Law and as the revealed Wisdom of God. As Wisdom, Jesus was present before creation as the firstborn of God, the Father and Lord of heaven and earth (see [Proverbs 8:22; Wisdom 9:9](#)). And He gives knowledge of the holy things of the kingdom of God (see [Wisdom 10:10](#)). In the gracious will of the Father, Jesus reveals these things only to the "childlike"—those who humble themselves before Him as little children (see [Sirach 2:17](#)). These alone can recognize and receive Jesus as the just saviour and meek king promised to daughter Zion, Israel, in today's First Reading. We, too, are called to childlike faith in the Father's goodness as sons and daughters of the new kingdom, the Church. We are to live by the Spirit we received in Baptism (see [Galatians 5:16](#)), putting to death our old ways of thinking and acting, as Paul exhorts in today's Epistle. Our "yoke" is to be His new law of love (see [John 13:34](#)), by which we enter into the "rest" of His kingdom. As we sing in today's Psalm, we joyously await the day when we will praise His name forever in the kingdom that lasts for all ages. This is the sabbath rest promised by Jesus—the rest first anticipated by Moses (see [Exodus 20:8-11](#)), but which still awaits the people of God (see [Hebrews 4:9](#)).

Called & Gifted Coming to St Boniface in September! In this special year of the Holy Spirit, we are blessed to have a special event this coming autumn. The Holy Spirit bestows specific gifts and charisms on each one of us. It is important that we all understand those gifts and discover our unique mission within the Mystical Body of Christ, the Church. Called & Gifted offers parishes an amazing Charism Discernment process to help parishioners grow in their faith, commitment, and service. It takes individuals on a "soul journey" by fostering friendship with Jesus, forming them to become more dedicated disciples of Jesus, preparing them for mission and nurturing them in their service to God and others. There are many charisms or spiritual gifts mentioned in the Bible (e.g., Act 2, 1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12, Ephesians 4). Called & Gifted will help us learn and understand 23 very specific charisms and show us how to clearly recognize the specific charism or charisms the Holy Spirit has bestowed upon us. There will be a teaching day on **9 September 2023** in the church hall. Then there will be **one-to-one discernment conversations** via Zoom with a trained facilitator to help us unlock our potential charisms. Finally, we will be encouraged to begin "experimenting" with our discerned charism by putting it into **concrete practice**.

Parable of the Talents (Mt 25:14-30) – As we approach the date for the Called & Gifted programme beginning at St Boniface on 9th September, it is good to keep thinking of the importance of knowing our God-given gifts and talents and using them for His glory and the good of others. In the parable of the talents Jesus speaks of a rich man who gives his servants some money to manage during his absence. Each servant is given a different amount, according to his ability. The servants who were given three and five talents (a big sum of money) were able to double the amount. The rich man was very pleased with their responsible stewardship and promised to entrust them with more. The servant who was given one talent (certainly less, but still a big sum) hid his money out of fear. He thought his master would be content if he just managed to return the talent entrusted to him, but the rich man reprimanded him for being lazy. This parable is a wonderful lesson of how we are called to use God's gifts and not simply hide them out of fear or laziness. When God bestows His gifts, He does expect us to be responsible and use them well. And He gives His gifts according to each person's ability. We are never entrusted with more than God knows we can handle. He assesses our performance not based on how our accomplishments compare to others, but upon how well we have lived for His glory and helped others according to our abilities and resources. We all have amazing potential, and if we cooperate with God's grace, we can do amazing things. May we all one day hear these words of the Lord: "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share in your Master's joy".

NIGERIAN DAY! Following last week's advance notice, here is a little "taster" for you to understand our country prior to the Day: Nigeria is a country located in West Africa. It is a multicultural country with various languages and rich in diversity. While the northern part of Nigeria is Muslim-dominated, the southern part comprises Christians of various denominations. Many Christians in Nigeria celebrate harvest thanksgiving, starting from the year's second quarter, to thank God for his provisions. Hence, as the Nigerian community is growing here at St Boniface, we thought having a Thanksgiving mass would be great. On the chosen date for this event, which is **Sunday, July 30**, at the 11 am Mass we will have a thanksgiving procession from the church entrance to the altar carrying some gifts to present to the priests at the altar. (This will happen after the post-communion prayer). We plan to sing some Nigerian songs of thanksgiving and dance to the altar. We will dress up in our traditional attire to showcase Nigerian multi-culture even in the way we dress. Usually, our Thanksgiving gifts are consumables for our parish priests/the parish house, and/or items that the parish priest can use for charity. Two people from the Nigerian community are expected to take the 1st and 2nd readings. Immediately after the 11am mass, there will be a reception at the church hall with a barbecue and a variety of Nigerian dishes free for all parishioners. Tea and Coffee will be served as usual. **All are welcome!** – by Gloria, St Boniface Parishioner

The St Boniface Music Group (11am Mass) will be taking its customary summer break after the 23 July and will resume in September. Eileen would like to thank all the singers and musicians for their contribution to the liturgy throughout the year each Sunday and especially at Christmas, Holy Week and Easter. May they receive every blessing for their commitment to this Ministry and enjoy their well-earned break.

Funeral News: for the late Sydney Daarol is on Wednesday, 19 July, at 12 noon.

St Boniface Parish Cream Tea Afternoon: the Social Team would like to invite you to a **cream tea** get-together in the **church hall/garden** on **Saturday 22 July** at **2:30-3:30pm**. There is no charge for this event, but we would like an idea of numbers so please register your intention to come on the sign-up sheet in the church porch. **And St Boniface Parish Picnic** – is going to be on **17 September 2023 1pm onwards**. Details will follow nearer the time. Thank you and see you at both events!

News of Pilgrimage Opportunity: Escorted Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine, Ireland, 2 October 2023. £699.00 per person sharing. Price includes flight, all transfers, 4 nights' in Knock House Hotel with full board. All entertainment and excursions included. Day trips to Westport, Ballintubber Abbey, Croagh Patrick, Fr. Peyton Centre & National Museum. Single supplement £150.00. Contact Patricia or Natali on 01268 762 278 or 07740 17557 or email: knockpilgrimages@gmail.com

Come and Find out about CAFOD's Work: CAFOD Portsmouth is hosting two meetings in September so that volunteers and supporters can find out more about our work. The first meeting is on Saturday 9 September at St Bedes Church hall, Popley Way, Basingstoke RG24 9DX from 10:30 am to 12:30pm where Philippe Mougin CAFOD's Emergency Response Leader will talk about our work in Pakistan after last year's floods. The second meeting is on Saturday 16 September at St Michael & All Angels Church hall, Dunsbury Way, Leigh Park PO9 5BD from 10:30am to 1:30pm (lunch is provided) where Sara Moreno from CAFOD's Partner SIEMBRA from Colombia will speak about her work with human and environmental rights defenders Everyone is welcome but please book so that we have an idea of numbers by emailing Jo Lewry at portsmouth@cafod.org.uk

Mass Intention Offering – Please be advised that offerings can be made by cash (in an envelope clearly marked "Mass Intention"), or by cheque payable to **CDP Oblates of the Virgin Mary**; or via a bank transfer using the details given here: Payee Name: **CDP Oblates of the Virgin Mary**; Branch Sort Code: **30-80-27**; Account Number: **36062268**; Reference: **Mass Intention**

The next Sunday Second Collection is for St Boniface's Building & Maintenance, on Sunday 30 July.

Presbytery: St. Boniface House, 413 Shirley Road,
Southampton SO15 3JD Tel: 023 8077 0277

Parish website: www.st-boniface.org.uk

Parish Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stbonifacesouthampton>

Parish Office opening hours: Mon to Fri – 9:30am to 12:30pm

Parish Secretary: Margaretta Livingstone
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Safeguarding Officers: Sarah Studzinski/Angela Braga
safeguarding@st-boniface.org.uk

Parish Pastoral Council: ppc@st-boniface.org.uk

