



ST. BONIFACE



Bringing Christ to the people and people to Christ

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November 12, 2023 –THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Members of the Wedding: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time: According to marriage customs of Jesus' day, a bride was first "betrothed" to her husband but continued for a time to live with her family. Then, at the appointed hour some months later, the groom would come to claim her, leading her family and bridal party to the wedding feast that would celebrate and inaugurate their new life together. This is the background to the parable of the last judgment we hear in today's Gospel. In the parable's symbolism, Jesus is the Bridegroom (see [Mark 2:19](#)). In this, He fulfils God's ancient promise to join Himself forever to His chosen people as a husband cleaves to his bride (see [Hosea 2:16-20](#)). The virgins of the bridal party represent us, the members of the Church. We were "betrothed" to Jesus in Baptism (see [2 Corinthians 11:2](#); [Ephesians 5:25-27](#)) and are called to lives of holiness and devotion until He comes again to lead us to the heavenly wedding feast at the end of time (see [Revelation 19:7-9](#); [21:1-4](#)). As St. Paul warns in today's Epistle, Jesus is coming again, though we know not the day nor the hour. We need to keep vigil throughout the dark night of this time in which our Bridegroom seems long delayed. We need to keep our souls' lamps filled with the oil of perseverance and desire for God— virtues that are extolled in today's First Reading and Psalm. We are to seek Him in love, meditating upon His kindness, calling upon His name, striving to be ever more worthy of Him, to be found without spot or blemish when He comes. If we do this, we will be counted as wise and the oil for our lamps will not run dry (see [1 Kings 17:16](#)). We will perceive the Bridegroom, the Wisdom of God (see [Proverbs 8:12-21, 35](#); [9:1-6](#)), hastening toward us, beckoning us to the table He has prepared, the rich banquet which will satisfy our souls.

The Key Step from Disciple to Apostle – Sherry Weddell helps us understand what it means to move from being a disciple to becoming an apostle. Maturing men and women disciples begin to share their faith with others. Their Christian witness becomes fruitful for others. "Times of genuine revival and transforming mission are always the fruit of a wide variety of apostles – lay, religious and ordained...". The great Catholic revival referred to by historian Orest Ranum as the "Generation of Saints" in early 17th c. France emerged from circumstances grimmer than our own. France had been convulsed by 8 religious civil wars between Catholics and Protestants over 32 years, in which 2 to 4 million people died. 20% of the population of Paris died in a religiously-fuelled military siege. The exhausted survivors looked about them and were led to try a different path. There had already been a tradition in parts of Europe of an intercessory citywide or diocesan-wide version of 40 Hours Eucharistic Adoration that involved all the churches of an area. The idea was that there would be intense prayer before the Eucharistic Lord Jesus for 40 hours in one parish, followed by 40 hours in another parish, etc. The goal was progressive intercessory adoration that moved around church to church throughout the city. Pope Clement mandated this in the city of Rome. Shortly after, the newly ordained future St Francis de Sales began an evangelizing mission in France. His goal was to restore the Catholic Faith in Savoy, where every church had been destroyed or closed for 60 years, and where 60,000 had left the Church and only about 100 underground Catholics remained. In 4 years of intense evangelical ministry, he and some helpers brought 40,000 second- and third-generation former Catholics back to the Church. De Sales was made bishop of that region. This was the first chapter in what became a missionary revival that involved tens of thousands of French Catholics that transformed the Catholic Church in France, which from there spread to regions like Canada and Southeast Asia. With St Francis de Sales' help and guidance, Catholics turned their energies to prayer and penance, heroic systematic charity, evangelization, missionary work, creating the Catholic school and the seminary system and reshaping the local parish in a missionary mode. They engaged the needs of their time – a post-Reformation shattered Christendom – in the power of the Holy Spirit. "Let us see what love will do" was St Francis' motto. What can we learn from this remarkable group? They were intentional disciples, who knew that they could not simply follow Jesus alone, but rather as part of a larger community of disciples. They were in mission together – clergy, religious and laity. They regarded parishes as centres of missionary formation and outreach. They were present- and future-oriented. They creatively applied the Catholic faith to the unique needs of their generation. They expected God to act, trusting in the Holy Spirit's guidance and inspiration. They knew that ongoing discernment was critical. They were deeply prayerful. They knew that all spiritual and cultural transformation begins and ends with individuals and communities encountering God in a profound way. They were especially aware of the incredible importance of communal intercessory prayer to lay the foundation for fruitful evangelization." We have to believe and trust that renewal is possible in our own time as well. If we go to Jesus in personal and community adoration, He will empower us to bring His truth, love, and mercy to the people we meet. We will become apostles!

"I Am Mark": a One-man Dramatic Presentation of St Mark's Gospel. To be performed in St Edmund's at 7pm on Friday, 24 November (£5 per person: any 'profit' will go towards the Organ Fund). Listening to a gospel in its entirety in one sitting enables us to grasp the whole picture and message. The Eventbrite link to book is: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/i-am-mark-tickets711430175807?aff=oddtcreator>

The Diocese Vocations Intercessions 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time: November 12, 2023 – “That young people will be open to God’s call in their lives and respond generously to give their lives to Him in the service of the Church, we pray to the Lord.” If you would like more information, please contact Cn. John Cooke: vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or call 01329 318 869.

St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) - St Boniface Conference: Who are we? St Boniface SVP conference is local group of lay volunteers, who inspired by the dedication of St Vincent de Paul come together as a spiritual fraternity to help people in our local community who are in need. **What do we do?** We aim with the guidance and support of the Holy Spirit to bring practical aid to the sick or housebound, friendship to the lonely or bereaved, campaign for social justice, and provide assistance to those struggling with day-to-day essentials such as bills, food, clothing, or shelter. **Inspired?** Why not join us! Your time and talents, however, small, are very welcome; make a donation via [Donate today | St Vincent de Paul Society \(svp.org.uk\)](https://www.donate.org.uk); refer someone you may know who needs help. Contact us through [St Vincent De Paul Society – St Boniface Catholic Church, Southampton \(st-boniface.org.uk\)](https://www.st-boniface.org.uk), or by email svp@st-boniface.org.uk

Annual visit to Hollybrook cemetery on Sunday, 19 November at 2pm. We will meet at the grave of Canon MacDermot Roe. Almost the furthest point from the entrance at the hospital entrance.

“CAFOD Israeli–Palestinian Crisis Appeal! Donate to CAFOD’s Israeli–Palestinian Crisis Appeal at [cafod.org.uk/ipc](https://www.cafod.org.uk/ipc) or call 0303 303 3030 to support those affected and get funds to local trusted experts in Gaza and southern Israel who have been working alongside communities helping those most in need. Your donation will help support aid workers providing urgent humanitarian aid including food, water, and emergency shelter to those in need. Thank you for your prayers.”

St Boniface Newly Formed Teams Announcement! 1. Parish Welfare/Welcome Committee: The PPC has approved the formation of the Welfare/Committee as soon as possible. The focus of the Committee will include but not limited to, providing support to new arrivals at the parish to settle into the community of Southampton properly as well as continuous support to the parishioners who are in need. **2. Volunteer & Working Group For Youth/Children Program:** The Parish is in need of volunteers/working group to help put together some plan of activities for the youth and children of this parish. Interested persons in any of the above should contact: **Augustine Odukoya** on 07883014954 or send an email stating the area of interest and the contact number to: office@st-boniface.org.uk or timiodu2@gmail.com

St Boniface Social: Friday 1 December: Poem & Pie Evening 6 – 8pm in the Church hall: “Calling all poetry fans, You’re invited to bring a favourite poem or two to share with the group, listen to others’ favourites, and enjoy some pie! No worries if you don’t have a poem to bring – feel free to simply come and listen and enjoy some pie! More details to follow and a sign-up sheet will be in the church porch shortly.”

The St Boniface Parish Intercessory Prayer Group will be meeting in the St Margaret Clitherow Room at 10 am on Sunday 26 November. If you feel called to pray for the needs of others, please come and join us.

Please Support the Local Stella Maris Christmas Chocolate Appeal! Stella Maris, the Catholic charity that supports Seafarers, is planning to give chocolate treats to the crew members on board ships in ports along the south coast over Christmas. There will be many hundreds of seafarers passing through our ports and far away from home this Christmas. The Port Chaplains are asking for chocolate donations, e.g., tubs of chocolate sweets: Quality Street, Roses, Celebration, Heros etc. Please give your tub donations to the parish office by Monday 18 December; however, donations are also welcome after this date. The Southampton, Fawley and Portsmouth Port Chaplains will collect and deliver the treats to the ships. For more details contact: **Gregory Hogan** at: gregory.hogan@stellamarismail.org

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED! The Parish Secretary will be away for three weeks: **9 – 29 November**, coming back on Thursday 30 November. In the meantime, if you have an urgent matter, please contact any of the Priests available. It will not be possible to book the Hall during this period, so please book before or after these dates. Thank you for your great understanding.

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**. Or simply give it to the Priest on the day of your Mass requested/attended.

The Next Second Collection is for the St Boniface Building & Maintenance on Sunday 26 November. Please give generously.

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 Officer: Angela Braga

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