



ST. BONIFACE



Bringing Christ to the people and people to Christ

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October 15, 2023 – TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Dressing for the Feast: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Our Lord's parable in today's Gospel is again a straightforward outline of salvation history. God is the king (see [Matthew 5:35](#)), Jesus the bridegroom (see [Matthew 9:15](#)), the feast is the salvation and eternal life that Isaiah prophesies in today's First Reading. The Israelites are those first invited to the feast by God's servants, the prophets (see [Isaiah 25:6](#)). For refusing repeated invitations and even killing His prophets, Israel has been punished, its city conquered by foreign armies. Now, Jesus makes clear, God is sending new servants, His Apostles, to call not only Israelites, but all people—good and bad alike—to the feast of His kingdom. This an image of the Church, which Jesus elsewhere compares to a field sown with both wheat and weeds, and a fishing net that catches good fish and bad (see [Matthew 13:24-43, 47-50](#)). We have all been called to this great feast of love in the Church, where, as Isaiah foretold, the veil that once separated the nations from the covenants of Israel has been destroyed, where the dividing wall of enmity has been torn down by the blood of Christ (see [Ephesians 2:11-14](#)). As we sing in today's Psalm, the Lord has led us to this feast, refreshing our souls in the waters of Baptism, spreading the table before us in the Eucharist. As Paul tells us in today's Epistle, in the glorious riches of Christ we will find supplied whatever we need. In the rich food of His body and the choice wine of His blood, we have a foretaste of the eternal banquet in the heavenly Jerusalem, when God will destroy death forever (see [Hebrews 12:22-24](#)). But are we dressed for the feast? Are we clothed in the garment of righteousness (see [Revelation 19:7-8](#))? Not all who have been called will be chosen for eternal life, Jesus warns. Let us be sure that we're living in a manner worthy of the invitation we've received (see [Ephesians 4:1](#)).

Becoming Intentional Disciples – Sherry Weddell reports that when she and her team asked hundreds of diocesan and parish leaders from 60 dioceses throughout the English-speaking world, "What percent of your parishioners, would you estimate, are intentional disciples?" the consistent answer was "5%". This should make us ask ourselves: How can we work to create an environment that is conducive to the growth of personal faith and discipleship? How can every single parishioner truly follow Christ more closely and live as He asks us to live? One big help is to talk more openly and sincerely about our lived relationship with the Lord. Sherry Weddell writes: "The Catholic norm of silence about a relationship with God, about Jesus Christ and His story, about our own stories of following Christ, and about the need for everyone to decide whether or not he or she will follow as a disciple is stifling the emergence of a culture of discipleship and all that flows from it. One of the most powerful ways to challenge the silence is by making a safe place for others to talk about their own lived relationship with God." We could all make the concrete step of inviting people we know to talk about their lived relationship with God. We should listen prayerfully, seeking to learn what their journey has been like. If we take the time to first learn where people have been and where they are now, we can much more effectively encourage them on the journey to intentional discipleship. Our RCIA programme at St Boniface has been beautiful, because it is a wonderful setting for individuals to explore their relationship with God and to get to know the beauty of our Catholic faith. But this also happens in our sacramental preparation programmes. We are hoping soon to do this through adult faith formation. Have you ever considered asking a person you meet: Can you describe your relationship with God to this point in your life? Can you tell me the story of your relationship with God so far? We need to learn to listen to the wonderful ways God is at work in those around us. If we meet someone who describes himself or herself as "atheist", we could ask: What do you mean by "atheist"? Tell me about the God you don't believe in. We could also ask: Have you ever believed in God? If so, why did you stop? Do you ever pray? If so, how? What gives meaning to your life? Could you ever imagine believing in God? If so, what would that God be like? In all of this we are listening for what the Church calls the "seeds of the Word". We trust that the Holy Spirit is at work in the heart of every person through the seeds of the Word. The Holy Spirit is at the very source of every person's existential and religious questioning. These seeds are a preparation for the Gospel. Another good question is: If you could ask God one question that you knew he would answer right away, what would it be? Such a conversation can often open up the door to sharing the Great Story of Jesus that awakens initial Christian faith and discipleship.

The Diocese, in Partnership with the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England & Wales is hosting an online seminar on Tuesday 21 November, at 6 pm, led by Evangelist Sherry Weddell, for Catholics wishing to bring people closer to Christ. Tickets are £10 per person from [Engaging the Disengaged \(How to Accompany Non-religious persons\) Tickets, Tue 21 Nov 2023 at 18:00 | Eventbrite](#)

List of November Names 2023! Please email names of your deceased loved ones to the parish office: office@st-boniface.org.uk. Or to any Priests to pass on to the office if you attend weekend Masses. If the submissions are handwritten ones, please ensure they are in CAPITAL LETTERS for maximum clarity. **The deadline to submit these names is 31 October.**

St Boniface Parish Toddler Group is meeting in St Boniface Parish Hall 9:30am - 11am on alternate Tuesdays of school term times only. The next meeting is on Tuesday 31 October. For more details contact catholicmotherssoton@gmail.com Everyone is welcome!

St Boniface Baptismal News: St Boniface welcomes **Amari Theo Ortiz** to be entered into God's embrace on Sunday 22 October, at the 11am Mass. Please prayer for him and his family.

Please note that there will be a funeral service for **Zena (Alexine Anna) Smith at the Hollybrook Cemetery Chapel** on 19 October at 1pm followed by the burial at the gravesite. We pray for the repose of her soul and for God's blessings upon her relatives and friends.

Shoebboxes: need to be returned at all Masses this weekend. Please take them directly to the St MC Room **before Mass.**

Drivers needed for the Poitiers food bank at St Joseph's in Ashurst. Drivers are needed to deliver food to the needy. This only requires a couple of hours on Friday morning or even Saturday morning. For more information please contact: **Brian Arthur:** brianjARTHUR@btinternet.com or 07796 161047.

St Boniface Parishioner Database Needs Updating! "Hello, if you're new, or newish to us, it will be most helpful if you can pick up a parishioner registration form from the church porch, fill it in and hand it to the Parish Office, or to any Priest; or you can do so via our website: www.st-boniface.org.uk. It is very important that you're formally & accurately accounted for. It also means that you can enjoy a lower hire rate when you book our venues for your functions. Thank you".

We Welcome Enquiries for Baptism here at St Boniface Church: just complete the form on the Parish website www.st-boniface.org.uk. Please note that we're no longer using paper application forms. If this is a problem, visit the Parish Office.

ADoRE Spiritual Mini-retreat 28 October 10.00-1.00 "Whatever the Father Does, the Son also does – Following God's will in evangelisation." Including Mass, Adoration, Praise, Prayer, and inspiring guest speaker Fr Gareth Leyshon. Please register for the Zoom meeting in advance at bit.ly/ADOREOCT2023

St Boniface Knit & Natter welcomes all abilities to join every Monday morning 10am – 12 noon at the St MC Room (school term times only). Fee: a token charge of £1 per person with refreshments included.

The Holy Spirit in Scripture. Deacon Martin McElroy invites you to a series of formation sessions (via Zoom) on "The Holy Spirit in Scripture", as part of our diocesan observance of the Year of the Holy Spirit. They will be on Friday evenings (19:45-21:30) **from 13 October to 24 November** inclusive. Please save the dates, as more details about how to register will follow in the next issue of the Portsmouth Diocese e-News issue.

A New & Upcoming Repair Cafe Event at Immaculate Conception church hall on Saturday 21 October from 10:30am till 1pm. Volunteer-repairers will undertake a variety of repairs from IT, electricals, clocks, sewing and so on for a donation to help pay for the hire of the venue. Whilst waiting to be attended to, there will be tea, coffee, and homemade cakes available.

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 on 22 October is for World Mission. The St Boniface's own Building & Maintenance Collection is on Sunday 29 October – please give generously. Thank you.

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
office@st-boniface.org.uk Tel: 023 8077 3640
Safeguarding Officers: Sarah Studzinski/Angela Braga
safeguarding@st-boniface.org.uk
Parish Pastoral Council: ppc@st-boniface.org.uk

