



ST. BONIFACE

Bringing Christ to the people and people to Christ



Parish Priest
Fr. Tom Kleinschmidt, OMV

Assistant Priest
Fr. Godwin Kambai, OMV

Assistant Priest
Fr. Jufel (Alex) Baldado, OMV

November 19, 2023 –THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Settling Accounts: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time: The day of the Lord is coming, Paul warns in today's Epistle. What matters isn't the time or the season but what the Lord finds us doing with the new life, the graces He has given to us. This is at the heart of Jesus' parable in today's Gospel. Jesus is the Master. Having died, risen, and ascended into heaven, He appears to have gone away for a long time. By our Baptism, He has entrusted to each of us a portion of His "possessions," a share in His divine life (see 2 Peter 1:4). He has given us talents and responsibilities according to the measure of our faith (see Romans 12:3–8). We are to be like the worthy wife in today's First Reading and the faithful man we sing of in today's Psalm. Like them, we should walk in the "fear of the Lord"—in reverence, awe, and thanksgiving for His marvellous gifts. This is the beginning of wisdom (see Acts 9:31; Proverbs 1:7). This is not the "fear" of the useless servant in today's parable. His is the fear of a slave cowering before a cruel master, the fear of one who refuses the relationship that God calls us to. God has called us to be trusted servants, fellow workers (see 1 Corinthians 3:9), using our talents to serve one another and His kingdom as good stewards of His grace (see 1 Peter 4:10). In this, we each have a different part to play. Though the good servants in today's parable were given different numbers of talents, each "doubled" what he was given. And each earned the same reward for his faithfulness—greater responsibilities and a share of the Master's joy. So let us resolve again in this Eucharist to make much of what we've been given, to do all for the glory of God (see 1 Corinthians 10:31). That we, too, may approach our Master with confidence and love when He comes to settle accounts.

Forming Intentional Disciples – We have reached the end of our series on Sherry Weddell's best seller book "Forming Intentional Disciples". We hope that this has been helpful as we seek to implement our parish vision and mission to bring all to Christ and Christ to all. Every parish and every parishioner should ask this important question: Am I growing in my own personal relationship with Jesus? And have I helped others have a personal encounter with Jesus? This requires both a good individual spiritual life and a fruitful sacramental life celebrated within the bigger family of the parish. The priests play a key role in making this happen, but they cannot do everything. All of the lay faithful are called to play an active, creative role in bringing Christ to all and all to Christ. But we first need to deepen our own personal relationship with the Lord. God has blessed us with the riches of the Catholic Faith. We need to keep exploring the amazing depth and beauty of this treasure. Meditating on Scripture is an immense help. Reading and reflecting on the Catechism of the Catholic Church will help us appreciate our Faith. Reading the lives of the saints is very inspirational. We have a beautiful RCIA programme in place and are currently meeting every two weeks to deepen our understanding and appreciation of our Faith. Everyone is welcome to join us. As we get to know Jesus more personally, we also get to know our heavenly Father and the Holy Spirit. The door is opened to union with the Holy Trinity. As our faith knowledge and love of Christ becomes more personal, we move beyond "engagement" and a purely institutional "faith". This is what creates a spiritual climate that fosters real growth within the parish. Sherry Weddell and her team promote what they call the "Prayer of Openness". This is something we are now using in the Called & Gifted programme. Sherry writes: "It basically involves inviting others to talk to God in their own words and tell God that they are open to the possibility of personal and spiritual change. I have never seen God not respond in powerful ways to someone who prays an authentic prayer of openness. It is not a scripted one-size-fits-all prayer, because what the individual praying has to say to God is based upon his/her lived experience of God, where he/she really is in the spiritual journey and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Part of what makes such a simple act a doorway into a personal relationship with God is that it is an authentic prayer from the person's heart in the person's own words." Short model prayers are helpful like: God, if you are real, please let me know; Lord, help me to be open to your purposes for me; Jesus, I want to follow you. Help me to grow as your disciple; Jesus, show me how I can be an instrument of your love and provision for others. The key thing is to simply tell God in your own words that you are open to the possibility of personal and spiritual change. Let's all pray together for a deep, spiritual renewal of our parish. Intercessory prayer plays a key role in bringing about renewal. In doing this, we are simply uniting ourselves to Jesus. The glorified Jesus, now sitting at the right hand of the Father and simultaneously sacramentally present in every tabernacle in the world on earth is constantly interceding for us. He is "able for all time to save those who draw near to God, since he always lives to make intercession for them" (Hebr 7:25).

"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>

Diocesan Intercession for Vocations – "That the Church will be continuously blessed with good and faithful servants following Christ as priests, deacons, sisters and brothers"

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 \(svp.org.uk\)](#); refer someone you may know who needs help. Contact us through [St Vincent De Paul Society – St Boniface Catholic Church, Southampton \(st-boniface.org.uk\)](#), or by email svp@st-boniface.org.uk

CAFOD Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal! Donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at 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 a parish Welcome/ Welfare/Committee as soon as possible. The focus of the Committee will include, but not be limited to, providing support to new arrivals in the parish to help them settle properly into the community of Southampton, as well as providing 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. There is a sign-up sheet in the church porch.

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.

World Youth Sunday (and Funday) (from Canon PJ Smith)

World Youth Sunday is coming up later this month on Sunday 26th November, Feast of Christ the King, a day on which Pope Francis invites the global Church to celebrate and pray for young people. In Lisbon this year, Pope Francis told young people that “Jesus’ door is always open: Come and See!” This has inspired the theme for World Youth Day celebrations in England and Wales for 2023, and there are several World Youth Day resources available here: <https://worldyouthsunday.org/wyd2023>.

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 is 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
office@st-boniface.org.uk Tel: 023 8077 3640

Safeguarding Officer: Angela Braga
safeguarding@st-boniface.org.uk

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