



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

October 8, 2023 – TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Living on the Vine: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time: In today's Gospel Jesus returns to the Old Testament symbol of the vineyard to teach about Israel, the Church, and the kingdom of God. And the symbolism of today's First Reading and Psalm is readily understood. God is the owner, and the house of Israel is the vineyard. A cherished vine, Israel was plucked from Egypt and transplanted in a fertile land specially spaded and prepared by God, hedged about by the city walls of Jerusalem, watched over by the towering Temple. But the vineyard produced no good grapes for the wine, a symbol for the holy lives God wanted for His people. So God allowed His vineyard to be overrun by foreign invaders, as Isaiah foresees in the First Reading. Jesus picks up the story where Isaiah leaves off, even using Isaiah's words to describe the vineyard's wine press, hedge, and watchtower. Israel's religious leaders, the tenants in His parable, have learned nothing from Isaiah or Israel's past. Instead of producing good fruits, they've killed the owner's servants, the prophets sent to gather the harvest of faithful souls. In a dark foreshadowing of His own crucifixion outside Jerusalem, Jesus says the tenants' final outrage will be to seize the owner's son and to kill him outside the vineyard walls. For this, the vineyard, which Jesus calls the kingdom of God, will be taken away and given to new tenants—the leaders of the Church, who will produce its fruit. We are each a vine in the Lord's vineyard, grafted onto the true vine of Christ (see [John 15:1-8](#)), called to bear fruits of the righteousness in Him (see [Philippians 1:11](#)) and to be the "first fruits" of a new creation (see [James 1:18](#)). We need to take care that we don't let ourselves be overgrown with the thorns and briars of worldly anxiety. As today's Epistle advises, we need to fill our hearts and minds with noble intentions and virtuous deeds, rejoicing always that the Lord is nearby.

Becoming Intentional Disciples – Fr Raniero Cantalamessa once said: "If we want to evangelize a secularized world, there is a choice to make. Where do we begin? The immense wealth of doctrine and institutions can become a handicap if we are trying to present all of that to a person who has lost all contact with the Church and no longer knows who Jesus is. It is necessary to help this person establish a relationship with Jesus. We need to do what Peter did on the day of Pentecost, when 3,000 people were present: to speak about Jesus whom we have crucified and whom God has raised and to bring that person to the point that he or she, cut to the heart, asks, "Brethren, what shall we do?" (Acts 2:37). We will respond as Peter does, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you" (Acts 2:38) if you have not been baptized, or if you have already been baptized, go to confession. Those who respond to the proclamation will join themselves – today as in that day- to the community of believers. They will listen to the teaching of the Apostles and will partake in the breaking of the bread. Depending on each person's calling and response, little by little they will be able to make the immense heritage arising from the kerygma their own. Jesus is not accepted on the word of the Church, but the Church is accepted on the word of Jesus." Our primary task when someone has reached the threshold of seeking is to help him or her focus on the person of Jesus and the central challenges of the kerygma. But this not just a "me and Jesus" mindset. Jesus is encountered in the context of the Church and of one's own parish. Crossing the **threshold of seeking and intentional discipleship** means actively wrestling with and seriously contemplating the following of Christ. When an individual crosses the line into active seeking, things really start to change. When large numbers of parishioners are actively seeking or are disciples, the spiritual atmosphere in the parish heats up dramatically. To enter into the threshold of seeking requires a certainty that a personal relationship with God is possible. Seeking feels like a quest. The seeker seeks Jesus Christ and not just God in a general sense or as the "divine", an "impersonal force", or a "Higher Power". Seeking is centred on the possibility of committing oneself to follow Jesus as his disciple. Seekers realize that following Christ has personal implications: It will make real demands on their priorities, time, money, relationships, and all other areas of life. They grasp the fact that discipleship is not just "fire insurance", nor is it mere "mental assent" to a few religious ideas or values. A person reaches the moment where – with complete freedom – he or she chooses to become a real follower of Christ. Let's pray that all of us may fully commit ourselves to fostering a deep, personal relationship with Jesus and follow Him.

Please Return all Shoeboxes to the church hall before the 6.30pm Saturday vigil Mass on 14 October; or before the 9am, 11am and 5.30pm Mass on Sunday 15 October. Thank you.

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 10 October. For more details contact catholicmotherssoton@gmail.com Non-St Boniface parishioner families welcome!

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.

Change of Mass time on Thursday, 12 October!! Since Fr Tom will be giving a retreat to Sisters in Spain this coming week and Fathers Godwin and Jufel are obligated to attend an induction training session organised by the diocese, **the Mass on Thursday, 12 October, will be at 8am**, and not at 10am. Please accept our apologies for this change. We tried to find a supply priest, but no one was available.

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](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/engaging-the-disengaged-how-to-accompany-non-religious-persons-tickets-2023-at-18:00)

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 any Priests, or hand it to the Parish Office; 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 will get 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.

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