



# ST. BONIFACE



Bringing Christ to the people and people to Christ

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## April 14, 2024 – THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

**Third Sunday of Easter: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Sunday Mass Readings** – Jesus in today’s Gospel teaches His apostles how to interpret the Scriptures. He tells them that all the Scriptures of what we now call the Old Testament refer to Him. He says that all the promises found in the Old Testament have been fulfilled in His Passion, death, and Resurrection. And He tells them that these Scriptures foretell the mission of the Church—to preach forgiveness of sins to all the nations, beginning at Jerusalem. In today’s First Reading and Epistle, we see the beginnings of that mission. And we see the apostles interpreting the Scriptures as Jesus taught them to. God has brought to fulfilment what He announced beforehand in all the prophets, Peter preaches. His sermon is shot through with Old Testament images. He evokes Moses and the Exodus, in which God revealed himself as the ancestral God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (see [Exodus 3:6, 15](#)). He identifies Jesus as Isaiah’s suffering servant who has been glorified (see [Isaiah 52:13](#)). John, too, describes Jesus in Old Testament terms. Alluding to how Israel’s priests offered blood sacrifices to atone for the people’s sins (see Leviticus 16; Hebrews 9–10), he says that Jesus intercedes for us before God (see [Romans 8:34](#)), and that His blood is a sacrificial expiation for the sins of the world (see [1 John 1:7](#)). Notice that in all three readings, the Scriptures are interpreted to serve and advance the Church’s mission—to reveal the truth about Jesus, to bring people to repentance, the wiping away of sins, and the perfection of their love for God. This is how we, too, should hear the Scriptures. Not to know more “about” Jesus, but to truly know Him personally, and to know His plan for our lives. In the Scriptures, the light of His face shines upon us, as we sing in today’s Psalm. We know the wonders He has done throughout history. And we have the confidence to call to Him, and to know that He hears and answers.

**Spiritual Practices for the Easter season – (Lynne Baab, Ph.D.).** Easter is a season, not just a day. The Easter season goes from Easter Day to Pentecost Sunday (15 May this year), a period of seven weeks. Because Jesus’ resurrection is such a huge, amazing, overwhelming, fantastic gift to us, focusing on it for seven weeks allows time to ponder many aspects of what we receive on Easter Day. The liturgical colour for the Easter season is white to reflect the holiness and purity of Jesus, which enabled him to die in our place. White also symbolizes light. Jesus submitted to the darkness of the grave, and on Easter morning he came back into the light, and his own light was again revealed. Paintings of Jesus after the resurrection often show him surrounded by light. What spiritual practices are appropriate in a season of light and joy? This is a season of feasting, not fasting. Celebrate joy and light in whatever ways you can. Ponder, journal, or talk with others about the joyful events of Easter and what they mean for you. Here are some suggestions for spiritual practices for the Easter season: 1. **Practise thankfulness.** Watch for God’s good gifts in your life and your loved one’s lives. Look for signs of Jesus’ resurrection life in events and people around you. Go out of your way to express gratitude and love to people who have cared for you. Pay attention to the small gifts of daily life and thank God for them. To help you pay attention, consider starting (or re-starting) a thankfulness journal and commit to adding five items to the list each day. Or partner with others to talk through the things you’re thankful for every day. Be sure to pray your thanks as well. 2. **Focus on light.** Watch for the word “light” in scriptures, praise songs, hymns, and poetry. Write a poem or statement about the ways Jesus is your light and ask for further light in specific areas of your life and in the lives of loved ones. Use various names for God and Jesus in breath prayers: “Lord Jesus Christ, light of the world, shine your light on me” (John 8:12). “Jesus, bright morning star, guide my steps” (Revelation 22:16). “Word of God, be the lamp to my feet and the light on my path” (Psalm 119:105). “Lord God, sun and shield, give me your light and protection” (Psalm 84:11). All of these prayers can be prayed for others as well as for yourself. 3. **Ponder the fact that Jesus has freed** “those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death” (Hebrews 2:15). In what ways has Jesus freed you from that fear? In what ways would you like to experience more freedom? What do you think that might look like? Journal or talk with a friend about the role fear of death has played in your life. Pray your thanks and pray for further growth in this area. The seven-week Easter season nudges us to look at life through the lens of resurrection power and Jesus’ pure light.

**Special Notice - We would like to renew the sick list on a quarterly basis.** On the Mass Intention sheet we always include a list of persons struggling with illness, who need our prayers. To ensure that this list is always kept up to date, we will renew it every three months. If you would like to add your name to the list, or if you would like your name added back on the list, then simply get in touch with the parish office. You can also submit a request through our website.

**Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2024** - The dates for the annual Pilgrimage to Lourdes have been confirmed as 22 – 26 July 2024. If wishing to take part, a Booking form and digital poster for newsletters can be found at: [2024 Booking Form - Diocese of Portsmouth v2.pdf](#); [2024 UK Lourdes Poster - Diocese of Portsmouth v2.pdf](#)

**St Boniface Baptism:** we welcome **Lazarus Benjamin Odulio** into the embraces of God on Sunday 14 April, at 2pm. Please pray for him and his family.

**Read, Pray, Share, Action – Acts of the Apostles** – Following on from our Lenten programme of the introduction to the story of our Salvation in the first 11 chapters of the book of Genesis. We will prepare for Pentecost by exploring the book of the Acts of the Apostles through reading, praying, and discussing this inspiring book about the infancy of the Church, AD 33 to the present. The Holy Spirit descends on the followers of Jesus, filling them with wisdom and strength. The apostles and disciples boldly proclaim the Gospel to all who will listen, and Christianity spreads to the gentiles and to many nations. Under the leadership of Peter, the Church begins its mission, which continues to this day.' Starting on **Friday 12 April till Friday 17 May from 6:30 to 7:30 pm.**

**Sad Passing of another St Boniface Parishioner:** with much sadness we announce the death of Sue Cavanagh on April 4 after a long and debilitating illness. A brave lady, loved and respected by many of our parishioners. Rest in peace now, dear Sue. To respect the wishes of Sue and her family, there will be **no** funeral service, but a Mass will be dedicated to her memory on **Wednesday 1 May, at 10am.** All are welcome to attend!

**St Boniface Knit & Natter Group** meets every Monday morning 10am-12noon, at the St MC Room. All are welcome.

**St Boniface Table Tennis Group** meets twice a week every week throughout the year (apart from if there are parish activities and Good Friday) on Tuesday & Friday afternoons 2-3pm in the Hall. For details contact the Parish Office. All are welcome.

**St Boniface Parish Toddlers' Group meets** every other Tuesday (school term times only) in our Church Hall. Donations of £1 per family is welcome. Their next meeting is 16 April at 9:30am.

**Senior Citizens' Bingo Sessions** meets once a week on Wednesday afternoon 1 – 3:30pm at the St MC Room. For details contact Sue: 07920 793615; or Carol: 07378 765998.

**Our Father in Heaven Retreat at St Peter's Pastoral Centre in Winchester** – Pope Francis has asked that this year, 2024, be a Year of Prayer in preparation for the Jubilee Year, 2025. He has asked that there be a particular focus on the Our Father. We pray this prayer so often and there's always the risk of it becoming dry or remaining superficial. Why not come and join us on Friday 4th May and Saturday 5th May at St Peter's Pastoral Centre (29 Jewry Street, Winchester, SO23 8RY) as Allegra Mutanda leads us in a time of prayer and recollection, helping us to explore what it means to pray 'Our Father in heaven'? All our missionary efforts are dependent upon this intimate relationship between us and 'Abba', who wishes to bless and heal all His beloved sons and daughters. All are welcome. Once you have registered, you will receive further details nearer to the date of the event. Please confirm your attendance by Monday 29th April latest by registering at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/year-of-prayer-our-father-in-heaven-retreat-days-fri-3-pm-and-sat-4-may-tickets-877957062207?aff=oddtcreator>.

**Special St Boniface Event!! Pilgrimage to The Friars, Aylesford (Kent), and Canterbury on Saturday 6 July 2024:** the parish of St Boniface is organising a pilgrimage to Aylesford priory to ask for God's blessing and in honour of Our Lady. As you might know there is also a relic of St Simon Stock, who had an apparition from Our Lady while in Cambridge, promising that whoever died wearing the brown Carmelite scapular would be saved. We will celebrate Holy Mass at Aylesford. After visiting the shrine and lunch we will travel to Canterbury where those who wish can visit the Cathedral (Entrance fee is not included in the pilgrimage fee). **Cost £33/ person. Deposit £20.00 by the 30th of April. Final payment by the 31st of May 2024.** Please contact Diana Agacy to register or for any other inquiries via email to: [fhc@st-boniface.org.uk](mailto:fhc@st-boniface.org.uk). All payments to be made to the parish secretary.

**From the Parish Office:** should any one wish to receive a larger print of the Newsletter and the Mass Intention sheets, please contact the Parish Office. See contact details below.

**Second Collection next weekend (20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> of April) is for Clergy Training Fund!**

**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.

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Parish website: [www.st-boniface.org.uk](http://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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