



ST. BONIFACE



Bringing Christ to the people and people to Christ

Parish Priest
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April 21, 2024 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Fourth Sunday of Easter: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Sunday Mass Readings – Jesus, in today’s Gospel, says that He is the good shepherd the prophets had promised to Israel. He is the shepherd-prince, the new David—who frees people from bondage to sin and gathers them into one flock, the Church, under a new covenant, made in His blood (see [Ezekiel 34:10–13, 23–31](#)). His flock includes other sheep, He says, far more than the dispersed children of Israel (see [Isaiah 56:8](#); [John 11:52](#)). And He gave His Church the mission of shepherding all peoples to the Father. In today’s First Reading, we see the beginnings of that mission in the testimony of Peter, whom the Lord appointed shepherd of His Church (see [John 21:15–17](#)). Peter tells Israel’s leaders that the Psalm we sing today is a prophecy of their rejection and crucifixion of Christ. He tells the “builders” of Israel’s temple that God has made the stone they rejected the cornerstone of a new spiritual temple, the Church (see [Mark 12:10–13](#); [1 Peter 2:4–7](#)). Through the ministry of the Church, the shepherd still speaks (see [Luke 10:16](#)), and forgives sins (see [John 20:23](#)), and makes His body and blood present, that all may know Him in the breaking of the bread (see [Luke 24:35](#)). It is a mission that will continue until all the world is one flock under the one shepherd. In laying down His life and taking it up again, Jesus made it possible for us to know God as He did—as sons and daughters of the Father who loves us. As we hear in today’s Epistle, He calls us His children, as He called Israel His son when He led them out of Egypt and made His covenant with them (see [Exodus 4:22–23](#); [Revelation 21:7](#)). Today, let us listen for His voice as He speaks to us in the Scriptures, and vow again to be more faithful followers. And let us give thanks for the blessings He bestows from His altar.

World Day of Prayer for Vocations – On the 4th Sunday of Easter, also known as Good Shepherd Sunday, each year we pray for vocations to all states of life and ministry in the Church, but especially for Vocations to the Sacred Priesthood and consecrated life. The word “vocation” derives its meaning from the Latin root *vocare*, which means “to call.” In the Catholic Church, your “vocation” refers to God’s call for you and your life. Jesus calls all of us in a unique and intimate way to know Him, love Him, follow Him, and serve Him. God has placed on each one of our hearts the desire for fulfilment, which is a desire for deep and authentic happiness. This desire is ultimately fulfilled in a relationship with God in Jesus Christ. True happiness is found in Christ – in our relationship with Him, in His will for us, and in a life given completely to Him. A vocation, then, is our path to perfect happiness, a journey by which God draws us closer to Himself through a life of holiness. Your vocation truly is a *calling*. This means that it does not come from the world, nor from ourselves. Rather, a vocation is an invitation from Jesus Christ to follow Him. The most fundamental and primary vocation of all people is the **call to holiness**. Holiness is not the luxury of a few, but the simple duty of all. We all are called to be holy – to know, love, follow, and serve God with our entire being. We all are called to live a life of virtue and to make a gift of ourselves to our neighbour in sacrificial love. We all are called to an intimate relationship with Christ through the sacraments and a life of prayer. The call to holiness touches us in the very depths of who we are. It is the reason for which we were created. It is the meaning of life! God – who is all Goodness, Truth, and Beauty – created us for Himself. He is the fulfilment of the deepest and truest desires of our heart. In the depths of our heart, we realize that God loves us infinitely; so much so that His love gives us our very identity. *We are as His beloved sons and daughters*. This is the lofty calling that all people share. All baptized men and women are called to become saints. We call this the “Universal Call to Holiness,” and it is a life-long pilgrimage. We all are sinners in need of God’s mercy. Only through God’s grace and mercy are we able to persevere in this life of holiness. Jesus Christ, in and through the Church, invites individuals to a unique life of holiness by means of their *particular* vocation. Particular vocations refer to the unique state in life by which men and women are called to live out the universal call to holiness. There are four particular vocations: Married Life; Diocesan Priesthood; Religious Life; Consecrated Virginity. Our particular vocation is the way that we are uniquely called to respond to the universal call to holiness. Each particular vocation is a way of following Christ, growing in holiness, and serving the Church and the world. It is our path to greatest holiness, and therefore to our greatest happiness: life in Christ. Jesus Christ is calling many men to freely give of themselves and lay down their lives in service to the Church and the world as priests. Discovering God’s particular calling for our lives takes time. We must spend much time in prayer and silence, listening for God’s voice. Hearing this vocational call takes patience, perseverance, and trust in the Father’s will. This process of hearing God’s call for your life with the help of the Holy Spirit is called “discernment.” (from thinkpriest.org)

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](#)

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.**

Southampton Choral Society presents, for its 80th birthday concert – “**Eternal Light**” – three contrasting choral works. Saturday 27 April at Chandler’s Ford Methodist Church at 7:30pm. Tickets £18 from www.southamptonchoralsociety.org.uk or any choir member.

Sad Passing of Sue Cavanagh: 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, 10am, at St Boniface Church.** All are welcome to attend!

To celebrate Pentecost – there will be tea and cake served after 11am Mass on 19 May in the hall – please come and join us! If you would like to organise additional cakes for Pentecost after a different Mass, please contact Helen by emailing social@st-boniface.org.uk.

Mission Mass: Missio, and the Mill Hill Missionaries invite everyone to celebrate a special Mass for Mission at **St Theresa’s Church Beaumont Road, Totton SO40 3AL. On Wednesday 8 May at 7pm.** Come and hear how the **Red Box** is supporting our global Catholic community through donations and prayerful support. Mass will be followed by refreshments in the Parish Hall. All are welcome.

St Boniface Baptismal News: we welcome **Larra Yngrd Nobleza Gil** into the embraces of God on Sunday 28 April, at 2pm. Please pray for her and her family.

“I publish the Banns of marriage between Adenigba Temitope Samuel and Amagoh Gabriella Ebelechukwu, which will take place on July 20, 2024, at Emmanuel the Saviour Catholic Church in Asaba, Nigeria. If you know any reason in law why these persons may not marry each other, please declare it”, Fr Tom.

Sacrament of Penance – To support on the ongoing formation of the newly baptised and confirmed at the Easter vigil, Fr Tom is giving a talk and reflection of the Sacrament of Penance on Monday 29 April at 7:30pm in the St MC room. The talk is open to all parishioners who might find it helpful in their own faith formation and instruction.

On Friday 3rd of May, please come and join us as we recommence **Lunch in the Hall** on the 1st Friday of the month from midday. On the menu will be jacket potatoes and a range of fillings plus the usual tea, coffee, and cake. £5 donation recommended. Please come and enjoy some fellowship with other parishioners.

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. All payments to be made to the parish secretary.

Parish Office: if you would like to receive a larger print of the Newsletter/Mass Intention sheet, please contact the Parish Office.

Second Collection This Weekend (20 – 21 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.

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

Newsletter deadline 9.00pm on Wednesday for inclusion on following Sunday, space permitting. This Parish is within the Southampton Pastoral Area. Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Registered Charity: 119956