



ST. BONIFACE



Bringing Christ to the people and people to Christ

Parish Priest
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April 7, 2024 – SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

The Day the Lord Made: Scott Hahn Reflects on Divine Mercy Sunday - Three times in today's Psalm we cry out a victory shout: "His mercy endures forever." Truly we've known the everlasting love of God, who has come to us as our Saviour.. By the blood and water that flowed from Jesus' pierced side (see [John 19:34](#)), we've been made God's children, as we hear in today's Epistle. Yet we never met Jesus, never heard Him teach, never saw Him raised from the dead. His saving Word came to us in the Church—through the ministry of the apostles, who in today's Gospel are sent as He was sent. He was made a life-giving Spirit (see [1 Corinthians 15:45](#)) and He filled His apostles with that Spirit. As we hear in today's First Reading, they bore witness to His resurrection with great power. And through their witness, handed down in the Church through the centuries, their teaching and traditions have reached us (see [Acts 2:42](#)). We encounter Him as the apostles did—in the breaking of the bread on the Lord's day (see [Acts 20:7](#); [1 Corinthians 16:2](#); [Revelation 1:10](#)). There is something liturgical about the way today's Gospel scenes unfold. It's as if John is trying to show us how the risen Lord comes to us in the liturgy and sacraments. In both scenes it is Sunday night. The doors are bolted tight, yet Jesus mysteriously comes. He greets them with an expression, "Peace be with you," used elsewhere by divine messengers (see [Daniel 10:19](#); [Judges 6:23](#)). He shows them signs of His real bodily presence. And on both nights the disciples respond by joyfully receiving Jesus as their "Lord." Isn't this what happens in the Mass—where our Lord speaks to us in His Word, and gives himself to us in the sacrament of His body and blood? Let us approach the altar with joy, knowing that every Eucharist is the day the Lord has made—when the victory of Easter is again made wonderful in our eyes.

Significance of Divine Mercy Sunday – (Robert Stackpole STD). To put on a great banquet for one's friends, the first step is to send out proper invitations. The invitations must say WHY the banquet is being held, WHEN it will take place, WHO is invited, and WHAT TO EXPECT. The *Diary of St Faustina* is filled with invitations from our Lord to celebrate with Him the great Feast of Divine Mercy. Why did Jesus ask the Church to institute the Feast of Mercy? He did so to reach out to sinners, the "throw them a lifeline". As Jesus said to St Faustina, He wanted to make this Feast Day a special "refuge and shelter" for the "consolation" of souls. This Feast is to be celebrated on the First Sunday after Easter. Jesus told St Faustina: "My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day all the divine floodgates through which grace flow are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet. My mercy is so great that no mind, be it of man or of angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity. Everything that exists has come forth from the very depths of My most tender mercy. Every soul in its relation to Me will contemplate My love and mercy throughout eternity. The Feast of Mercy emerged from My very depths of tenderness. It is My desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the First Sunday after Easter. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My Mercy." Note how Jesus is asking us to make a good confession in preparation for the Feast. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is one of the greatest gifts of God's mercy! Just as in Christ's parable of the Pharisee and the Publican, it was the publican who went away from his prayers "justified", for he had come before the Lord with nothing but a simple cry from his heart for mercy: "Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner!" (Lk 18:9-14). The benefits are immense. Jesus is offering a complete renewal of baptismal grace, a complete cleansing of the soul, renewing within us all the gifts and grace of the Holy Spirit that we received at baptism. Jesus only asks that we come to Him with trust. "The graces of My mercy are drawn by the means of one vessel only, and that is trust. The more a soul trusts, the more it will receive" (Diary 1578). Trust is a combination of faith, hope, humility and love. One of the great fruits of receiving God's mercy in our own lives is that we become more merciful to others. Jesus is asking us to show mercy to others always and everywhere. Jesus, we trust in You!

What saints have said about God's mercy: "Let no one mourn that he has fallen again and again; for forgiveness has risen from the grave" (St John Chrysostom). "How happy I am to see myself imperfect and be in need of God's mercy" (St Therese of the Child Jesus). "Do not let the past disturb you. Just leave everything in the Sacred Heart and begin again with joy" (St Teresa of Calcutta). "Those who say sincerely, 'Jesus, I trust in You' will find comfort in all their anxieties and fears. There is nothing that man needs more than Divine Mercy – that love which is benevolent and compassionate, which raises man above his weakness to the infinite heights of the holiness of God" (St John Paul II).

For those parishioners who are still using the ENVELOPE Scheme as a method of donation to St Boniface, please collect your envelopes and accompanying information from the church porch. It will be in large brown envelopes. Thank you.

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.**

A Message from the Chair of St Boniface PPC: “Do you know who your PPC members are? The members of the Parish Pastoral Council wish to make themselves more ‘visible’ to the parish as a whole, so that parishioners can recognise them and feel able to approach them about any parish matters. Accordingly, at all Masses this weekend (6-7 April) any PPC members who are present at each Mass will come to the front and identify themselves, and they will be available in the porch afterwards to meet you.” Parish Pastoral Councils are established at the recommendation of the bishop (Canon 536) and, when established, are presided over by the parish priest. A pastoral council gives the parish priest help and recommendations regarding the pastoral needs within the parish. A pastoral council is consultative and advisory in nature.

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.

Margaret Quantrill’s Funeral is on Thursday 11 April, at 11:30am at St Boniface’s Church. Margaret’s daughter Jacqui has the following request: As Margaret’s favourite colour was green, the family is inviting people to wear a ‘dash of green’ in her honour, if they would like to. And if anyone would like to make a donation to Mountbatten Hospice in Margaret’s memory, that would be very gratefully received by the charity: <https://www.mountbatten-hampshire.org.uk/inmemoryof/margaret-quantrell>.

DO YOU HAVE GREAT COMMUNICATION SKILLS? ARE YOU GOOD AT I.T.? The parish is in urgent need of someone to coordinate the Communications group. This group works with other teams in the parish to spread the word about parish activities, both by digital means and via posters, website, and newsletter. It plays a vital role in ensuring we all know what’s happening. If you feel you could help, or would like to find out more, please email the PPC on ppc@st-boniface.org.uk. Thank you!

Special 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.

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.

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

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

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