



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

December 10, 2023 – Second Sunday of Advent

Straighten the Path: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Second Sunday of Advent: Our God is coming. The time of exile—the long separation of humankind from God due to sin—is about to end. This is the good news proclaimed in today's liturgy. Isaiah in today's First Reading promises Israel's future release and return from captivity and exile. But as today's Gospel shows, Israel's historic deliverance was meant to herald an even greater saving act by God—the coming of Jesus to set Israel and all nations free from bondage to sin, to gather them up and carry them back to God. God sent an angel before Israel to lead them in their exodus toward the promised land (see [Exodus 23:20](#)). And He promised to send a messenger of the covenant, Elijah, to purify the people and turn their hearts to the Father before the day of the Lord (see [Malachi 3:1-4](#)). John the Baptist quotes these, as well as Isaiah's prophecy, to show that all of Israel's history looks forward to the revelation of Jesus. In Jesus, God has filled in the valley that divided sinful humanity from Himself. He has reached down from heaven and made His glory to dwell on earth, as we sing in today's Psalm. He has done all this not for humanity in the abstract but for each of us. The long history of salvation has led us to this Eucharist, in which our God again comes, and our salvation is near. And each of us must hear in today's readings a personal call. Here is your God, Isaiah says. He has been patient with you, Peter says in today's Epistle. Like Jerusalem's inhabitants in the Gospel, we have to go out to Him, repenting our sins, all the laziness and self-indulgence that make our lives a spiritual wasteland. We have to straighten out our lives so that everything we do leads us to Him. Today, let us hear the beginning of the Gospel and again commit ourselves to lives of holiness and devotion.

Advent Penitential Hour: Friday evenings in Advent from 6-7pm on 8, 15 & 22 December During the penitential season of Advent, on these three Fridays we are holding an hour of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament with the opportunity for individual confession.

Music at Christmas - The three music groups at St Boniface are looking forward to preparing the music for Christmas. For the 5:30pm Vigil Mass on 24 December speak with Guada. For the 11:00am Mass on 25 December speak with Mike Wood. For the 5:30pm evening Mass on 25 December speak with Vicky. If you would like to sing traditional Christmas carols in a 4-part harmony, there will be a short Carol Service with Readings before Midnight Mass. Please speak with Mike Wood after the 11:00am Mass if you would like to support this and sing during Midnight Mass as well. There will be 4 practices for the Midnight Carol Service and Mass, all taking place on **Thursdays 30 November and 7, 14 & 21 December, 8-9pm in the St Margaret Clitherow Room.**

Candles for Christmas – Wednesday 20 December. Drop in between 5:30pm and 7:30pm. Come and light a candle for Christmas. There will be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament the whole time, confession available and carols sung, making it the perfect opportunity to spend some time in peace with Jesus and remember the reason for the season. **This is an outreach event,** not just for our parishioners but for the whole community- so why not bring a friend along? If you would like to help, please sign up at the back of church. There will be mince pies and hot drinks available.

***CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:**

Christmas Eve 24 December: 5:30pm Vigil, Family Mass – children are invited to dress up as shepherds and Nativity characters. **10:15pm** – Carol service; **11pm** – 'Midnight' Mass.

Christmas Day 25 December: Masses at 9am, 11am and 5.30pm.

Boxing Day 26 December, Feast of St Stephen: Mass at 11am (No Mass at 10am!!)

New Year's Day 1 January 2024: Masses 11am & 5:30pm (No Mass at 10am!!)

****Additionally, we are celebrating the Traditional Filipino Christmas Novena – Simbang Gabi- with Masses during the Advent Period. The Mass times are on the 15th – 5pm; 16th – 8pm; 17th – 5:30pm; 18th – 6pm; 19th – 6pm; 20th – 7:30pm; 21st – 6pm; 22nd – 5pm; and on the 23rd – 8pm. All are welcome!**

Epiphany Celebration Lunch – Friday 5 January, 12 noon in Church Hall with soup, sandwiches & cakes. All are welcome! “It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope” (Pope Benedict XVI).

“The Lord is coming, always coming. When you have ears to hear and eyes to see, you will recognise Him at any moment in your life. Life is Advent. Life is recognising the coming of the Lord” (Henri Nouwen).

New Members Needed for the Parish Pastoral Council – It is hard to believe, but the newly revived St Boniface PPC has now been in existence for three years. The PPC is the main strategic group in the parish, working with the priests to help enact its vision and steer its future direction. We meet every 6–8 weeks. As part of an ongoing process of renewal, we are now seeking to recruit up to **FOUR** new members. We are looking for individuals who can commit to working in an open-minded and collaborative way, for a term of office of at least two years starting in January 2024. **We hope to attract a representative range of applicants of all ages, gender, and ethnicity.** Could this be YOU? Could you serve your parish in this key role, with the love of God and the parish at its core? You are invited to nominate yourself, or you can nominate another parishioner provided you have asked their permission. Please fill in one of the forms available in the porch or use the online form on the parish website. Closing date is 24 December 2023. Only four places are available at present, and if not chosen on this occasion, all applicants will remain on file for future vacancies. If you would like to find out more about what is involved, please speak to any existing member of the PPC. Thank you!

St Boniface Newly Formed Teams Announcement!

- 1) **Parish Welcome Committee:** The PPC has approved the formation of a parish Welcome Committee as soon as possible (to be distinguished from the SVP, which reaches out to the housebound.) 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 Programme:** The Parish needs 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

Tea and Coffee Rota Volunteers Required! For serving tea/ coffee after Sunday 11 am Mass. We need more volunteers to join our team. You will probably do it no more than 4 times a year. For more details please contact Helen at: social@stboniface.org.uk

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, Heroes 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

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.

St Boniface’s own Clergy Christmas Collection! Here is the link to the Clergy Christmas Collection fundraising page for our Parish: <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/southampton-st-boniface-catholic-church-christmas-collection-2023> This forms part of their major annual income, so please give generously as a way to show our deep appreciation and huge thanks to our priests here at St Boniface. The fundraising link is created via Give As You Live. Have a nice day and God bless!

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**Presbytery: St. Boniface House, 413 Shirley Road,  
Southampton SO15 3JD Tel: 023 8077 0277  
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  
[office@st-boniface.org.uk](mailto:office@st-boniface.org.uk) Tel: 023 8077 3640  
Safeguarding Officer: Angela Braga  
[safeguarding@st-boniface.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@st-boniface.org.uk)  
Parish Pastoral Council: [ppc@st-boniface.org.uk](mailto: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: 1199568.