



# 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 17, 2023 – Third Sunday of Advent

**One Who is Coming: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Third Sunday of Advent** - He is not Elijah returned from the heavens (see [2 Kings 2:11](#)), although like him he dresses in the prophet's attire (see [Mark 1:6](#); [2 Kings 1:8](#)) and preaches repentance and judgment (see [1 Kings 18:21](#); [2 Chronicles 21:12-15](#)). Not Elijah in the flesh, John is nonetheless sent in the spirit and power of Elijah to fulfil his mission (see [Luke 1:17](#); [Malachi 3:23-24](#)). Neither is John the prophet Moses foretold, although he is a kinsman and speaks God's word (see [Deuteronomy 18:15-19](#); [John 6:14](#)). Nor is John the Messiah, though he has been anointed by the Spirit since he was in the womb (see [Luke 1:15, 44](#)). John prepares the way for the Lord (see [Isaiah 40:3](#)). The baptism he performs is symbolic, not sacramental. It is a sign given to stir our hearts to repentance. John shows us the One upon whom the Spirit remains (see [John 1:32](#)), the One who fulfils the promise we hear in today's First Reading (see [Luke 4:16-21](#)). Jesus' bath of rebirth and the Spirit opens a fountain that purifies Israel and gives to all a new heart and a new Spirit (see [Zechariah 13:1-3](#); [Ezekiel 36:24-27](#); [Mark 1:8](#); [Titus 3:5](#)). John comes to us in the Advent readings to show us the light, that we might believe in the One who comes at Christmas. As we sing in today's Responsorial, the Mighty One has come to lift each of us up, to fill our hunger with bread from heaven (see [John 6:33, 49-51](#)). And as Paul exhorts in today's Epistle, we should rejoice, give thanks, and pray without ceasing that God will make us perfectly holy in spirit, soul, and body—that we may be blameless when our Lord comes.

**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. The final practice for the Midnight Carol Service and Mass, will take place on **Thursday 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.

**This is Advance Information** that there will be **NO Exposition/Benediction on Saturday December 23.** This is to allow time to decorate the Church for our Christmas celebrations.

### **MASSES OVER THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD!**

**Christmas Eve Sunday 24 December: Masses at 9am, 11am, 5:30pm Vigil Family Mass** – children are invited to dress up as shepherds and Nativity characters; **10:15pm** – Carol service; and **11pm** – 'Midnight' Mass.

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

**Boxing Day Tuesday 26 December - Feast of St Stephen Mass at 11am (No Mass at 10am!!).**

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

**\*\*Additionally, we are also celebrating the Traditional Filipino Christmas Novena – Simbang Gabi - with Masses during the Advent Period (please note the different timings on different days). Those Masses will begin on Friday 15 – 5pm; Saturday 16 – 8pm; Sunday 17 – 5:30pm; Monday 18 – 6pm; Tuesday 19 – 6pm; Wednesday 20 – 7:30pm; Thursday 21 – 6pm; Friday 22 – 5pm; and end on Saturday 23 – 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).

**URGENT APPEAL for a St Boniface Long-time Elderly Parishioner!** Many of you will know Agnes Garfield, who has been a member of our parish for many years. Unfortunately, since Covid she has not been able to leave her home and attend Mass. We have been bringing Holy Communion to her. She and her family have asked Fr Tom to make an appeal for home care for Agnes from 9pm to 9am every day. It could be one person, or perhaps two persons working on alternate days. The family will of course pay for this service. If you know of any woman who is looking for stable work, please contact one of Agnes' daughters at 07980 314768. For more information, you can also speak with Fr Tom.

**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. Any interested persons in any of the above should contact: Augustine Odukoya on 07883014954 or send him an email to [timiodu2@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:social@stboniface.org.uk)

**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!

**Christmas Second Collection is on Sunday 17 December for CHRISTMAS FLOWERS! Please donate generously!**

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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)**