



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 3, 2023 – First Sunday of Advent

Watch for Him: Scott Hahn Reflects on the First Sunday of Advent: The new Church year begins with a plea for God’s visitation. “Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down,” the prophet Isaiah cries in today’s First Reading. In today’s Psalm, too, we hear the anguished voice of Israel, imploring God to look down from His heavenly throne—to save and shepherd His people. Today’s readings are relatively brief. Their language and “message” are deceptively simple. But we should take note of the serious mood and penitential aspect of the Liturgy today as the people of Israel recognize their sinfulness, their failures to keep God’s covenant, their inability to save themselves. And in this Advent season, we should see our own lives in the experience of Israel. As we examine our consciences, can’t we, too, find that we often harden our hearts, refuse His rule, wander from His ways, withhold our love from Him? God is faithful, Paul reminds us in today’s Epistle. He is our Father. He has hearkened to the cry of His children, coming down from heaven for Israel’s sake and for ours to redeem us from our exile from God, to restore us to His love. In Jesus, we have seen the Father (see [John 14:8–9](#)). The Father has let His face shine upon us. He is the good shepherd (see [John 10:11–15](#)) come to guide us to the heavenly kingdom. No matter how far we have strayed, He will give us new life if we turn to Him, if we call upon His holy name, if we pledge anew never again to withdraw from Him. As Paul says today, He has given us every spiritual gift—especially the Eucharist and penance—to strengthen us as we await Christ’s final coming. He will keep us firm to the end—if we let Him. So, in this season of repentance, we should heed the warning repeated three times by our Lord in today’s Gospel: be watchful, for we know not the hour when the Lord of the house will return.

NEW MEMBERS NEEDED FOR THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL - 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!

Music at Christmas - The three music groups at St Boniface are looking forward to preparing the music for Christmas. For the 5: 30 Vigil mass on 24th December speak with Guada. For 11:00 am mass on 25th December speak with Mike. For the 5:30 evening mass on 25th December speak with Vicky.

If you would like to sing traditional Christmas carols in 4–part harmony, there will be a short carol service with readings before midnight Mass. Please speak with Mike Wood after the 11:00 am 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 20th 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.

PARISH OFFICE REOPENED ON THURSDAY, 30 NOVEMBER! After a well–deserved holiday, our parish secretary Margaretta is back in office. We felt her absence and are very happy to welcome her back.

St Pope Paul VI: “Jesus Christ, you have heard Him spoken of, indeed the greater part of you are already His – you are Christians. So, to you Christians I repeat His name, to everyone I proclaim Him – Jesus Christ is the beginning and the end, the Alpha, and the Omega. He is the king of the new world. He is the secret of history. He is the key to our destiny.”

Sunday, 3 December, is the First Sunday of Advent, when the Church enters a short but magical season that prepares us for the Coming of Christ. Advent has a twofold character: as a season to prepare for Christmas when Christ’s first coming to us in Bethlehem is remembered, and as a season when that remembrance directs our minds and hearts to await Christ’s second coming at the end of time. Advent is thus a period of hope, of devout and joyful expectation. Next week we will announce some special events happening during Advent.

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 Program:** 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

St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) – St Boniface Conference!

Who are we? St Boniface SVP conference is local group of lay volunteers, who inspired by the dedication of St Vincent de Paul come together as a spiritual fraternity to help people in our local community who are in need.

What do we do? We aim with the guidance and support of the Holy Spirit to bring practical aid to the sick or housebound, friendship to the lonely or bereaved, campaign for social justice, and help those struggling with day-to-day essentials such as bills, food, clothing, or shelter.

Inspired? Why not join us! Your time and talents, however, small, are very welcome! Or, make a donation via [Donate today | St Vincent de Paul Society \(svp.org.uk\)](#); or, refer someone you may know who needs help by using the enquiry form. For further information contact us by email: svp@st-boniface.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 incomes, so please give generously, as a way to show our deep appreciation and huge thanks to our clergymen here in 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)**