



ST. BONIFACE



Bringing Christ to the people and people to Christ

Parish Priest
Fr. Tom Kleinschmidt, OMV

Assistant Priest
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Assistant Priest
Fr. Jufel (Alex) Baldado, OMV

February 4, 2024 – FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Raised to Serve: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time – His lament reminds us of the curse of toil and death placed upon Adam following his original sin (see [Genesis 3:17–19](#)). Men and women are like slaves seeking shade, unable to find rest. Their lives are like the wind that comes and goes. But, as we sing in today's Psalm, He who created the stars promised to heal the broken-hearted and gather those lost in exile from Him (see [Isaiah 11:12](#); [61:1](#)). We see this promise fulfilled in today's Gospel. Simon's mother-in-law is like Job's toiling, hopeless humanity. She is laid low by affliction but too weak to save herself. But as God promised to take His chosen people by the hand (see [Isaiah 42:6](#)), Jesus grasps her by the hand and helps her up. The word translated "help" is actually Greek for "raising up." The same verb is used when Jesus commands a dead girl to arise (see [Mark 5:41–42](#)). It's used again to describe His own resurrection (see [Mark 14:28](#); [16:7](#)). What Jesus has done for Simon's mother-in-law, He has done for all humanity—raised all of us who lay dead through our sins (see [Ephesians 2:5](#)). Notice all the words of totality and completeness in the Gospel. The whole town gathers; all the sick are brought to Him. He drives out demons in the whole of Galilee. Everyone is looking for Christ. We too have found Him. By our baptism, He healed and raised us to live in His presence (see [Hosea 6:1–2](#)). Like Simon's mother-in-law, there is only one way we can thank Him for the new life He has given us. We must rise to serve Him and His gospel. Our lives must be our thanksgiving, as Paul describes in today's Epistle. We must tell everyone the good news, the purpose for which Jesus has come—those others, too, may have a share in this salvation.

Volunteer Recruitment Update – Many thanks to all those parishioners who generously offered their services in response to last weekend's appeal for volunteers. More offers would be welcome. The reply-slips and the box for returns are in the porch. It's still not too late, should you wish to join our volunteering team! If you have posted a form in the box, but have not had an acknowledgment by 14 Feb, please email ppc@st-boniface.org.uk so that we can chase it up. Thank you!

REFRESHER SESSION FOR EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS, Saturday 17 Feb 1:30– 4pm – All Eucharistic Ministers are warmly invited to attend this session, which takes place in St Boniface Hall and will be led by Tina Quinn. We will be joined by the Eucharistic Ministers from City Centre parish. Tea and coffee from 1.30, session starts at 2. Any parishioner who is not currently a Eucharistic Minister but would like to find out more about the role, is also welcome to attend the session. There will be a similar session for Readers later in the year. Date yet to be confirmed.

Called & Gifted – Thursday 25th January marked the completion of the Called & Gifted programme here at St Boniface. This does not mean that the work is done. A number of parishioners took part in this programme with great fruit. They were able to identify charisms the Lord has bestowed upon them for the good of the parish. They have been experimenting with these charisms over the past few months and will now continue to exercise these charisms for the glory of God and the growth of the parish community. God is asking each one of us to be a living member of His Church by taking an active role in contributing to the growth of the Church. If you are interested in learning how you can better discern what God is asking of you, please contact Fr Tom for more information.

St Boniface Parish joyfully welcomes the following babies who were baptised on Sunday afternoon on 28 January: **Cillian Samson-Lee, Isioma Olivia Okwechime, Anya Georgina Gianan, and Harry George Bull.** May God bless their families.

CAFOD Family Fast Day Friday 23 February: this Lent, your donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day appeal will help hardworking people like James the fisherman in Liberia with resources, tools, and training to feed their families for good. Give today using the envelope or online at www.cafod.org.uk and please join us in praying with James that our sisters and brothers around the world have what they need to feed their families.

Preparing for the Holy Year 2025 – Bishop Philip Egan writes: "As we embark on the new year 2024, the Holy Father has invited us to prepare for the Jubilee Year of 2025, entitled 'Pilgrims of Hope'. In his letter promoting the Jubilee Year, Pope Francis recalls the suffering and hardships that many of us experienced during the pandemic. In a time where many countries also suffer the effects of war and the climate crisis, Pope Francis sees the Jubilee Year 2025 as an opportunity to restore hope, a time of renewal and rebirth. The Jubilee Year will begin on **24th December 2024**, with the opening of the Holy Door at St Peter's Basilica and will draw to a close on the **feast of Epiphany, January 2026**. In preparation for the Jubilee Year, the Pope has proclaimed this **year 2024 to be a year of prayer in preparation**. It will focus on that prayer given to the disciples, the 'Our Father.' The Our Father not only reminds us that God is our Father but also reminds us of the union we share as brothers and sisters in Christ. During this coming year of prayer, let us also (re)consider the Spiritual Works of Mercy. Just as Jesus was attentive to the practical needs of those He encountered in His ministry, the spiritual works of mercy call us to reach out to our neighbour and attend to their spiritual needs too. The seven-spiritual works of

mercy are: counselling the doubtful, instructing the ignorant, admonishing the sinner, comforting the sorrowful, forgiving injuries, bearing wrongs patiently, and praying for the living and the dead. In the parable of the sheep and goats, Jesus commends the ones who show mercy to those who are suffering and marginalised (Matthew 25:31-46.) Mercy is a virtue in which one is called to have compassion for another, and if possible, to alleviate their suffering. At a time when the Church focuses on forgiveness and reconciliation, the spiritual (and corporal) works of mercy are about helping those on the journey of faith and those who are searching to be reconciled with God, the Church and with others. So, as we begin this year of prayer in preparation for the Holy Year 2025, let us daily contemplate the 'Our Father' and extend that prayer in practice through performing the seven-spiritual works of mercy.

Catholic Faith Formation – Since October last year, a group has been meeting fortnightly on Monday evening at St Boniface to explore the teachings, beliefs, and practices of the Catholic Faith. The programme is called **RCIA: Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults** and is open to anyone who desires to be received into Full Communion with the Catholic Church. The programme is open to people who have not been baptised and to Christians of other denominations who now wish to join the Catholic Church. The programme is also very helpful to Catholics who may have been away from the church for some time and now wish to come back to practise their faith. Now those who are coming since October last year are now being asked to decide whether they wish to go further in their Journey of Faith and be received into the Catholic Church at the forthcoming Easter vigil, this year. Please keep them in your prayers. We have potential six individuals who are seriously considering making this step, so your prayers will be most timely. Thank you.

Ten-Year Mission Plan – As announced last year, Bishop Philip Egan has initiated a Ten-Year Mission Plan to bring our central focus back to Jesus, putting Him at the centre of everything we are and do. True renewal and growth are not simply the fruit of organising meetings and forging plans. It is first and foremost the fruit of being very close to the Lord. At the Last Supper Jesus used the image of the vine and the branches: "Abide in Me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:4-5). Those are some powerful words! Apart from the Lord we can do nothing. But with Him nothing is impossible. This is why Bishop Philip Egan urges us to deeply renew our prayer life and our sacramental life. Without prayer and the Sacraments, which are the channels God Himself has given us so that we may abide in Him and He in us, not even the best of plans can bear fruit. The six holy habits, which our Bishop strongly recommends, are simply an invitation to renew our prayer life and sacramental life. Representatives from the six parishes of our pastoral area have been working hard on consolidating our efforts around three key areas identified by the Bishop – 1) becoming a more Christ centred Church (through prayer, liturgy, and ongoing faith formation); 2) becoming a missionary Church (through outreach and evangelisation); 3) becoming prudent stewards of Christ's Church (through wise administration). Please continue to keep this intention in your prayers.

With great sadness we announce that **Tom Vickers**, a parishioner of St. Boniface since the early 50's, died after a very brief illness on Sunday 21 January. Details for his funeral Mass are **Tuesday 13 February, 12:30pm**, St Boniface Church.

Friday Soup Lunches: Soup-makers are urgently needed to make vegetarian soup on a rota basis. Any help or support would be most welcome to ensure that this venture, which helps to bring the parishioners of St Boniface together on a regular basis, can continue. Please contact Catherine Keogh by emailing catherine.keogh@hotmail.co.uk Thank you.

St Boniface Parish Toddlers' Group meets every other Tuesday morning (school term times only). Their next meeting is on **6 February, 9:30am**, in our Hall. A donation of £1 per family is welcome.

Diocesan Recruitments: please follow the link <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/about-us/other/jobs> for current vacancies throughout the Diocese. This is a permanent link which will be kept up date with all current vacancies throughout the year.

Lenten Retreat 2024: an Advance Notice from St Vincent de Paul RC Church: "At St Vincent de Paul, we are organising the Lenten Retreat scheduled to take place on **Saturday 16 March 10am- 4pm in our Church**, to be led by the Dominican Sisters. The Day's donation is £10 per head with light refreshments provided. If anyone is interested in obtaining more information, please get in touch with the parish administrator at: svpoffice@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk All are welcome!

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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