



ST. BONIFACE



Bringing Christ to the people and people to Christ

Parish Priest
Fr. Tom Kleinschmidt, OMV

Assistant Priest
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January 14, 2024 – SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Hearing the Call: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time - In the call of Samuel and of the first Apostles, today’s readings shed light on our own calling to be followers of Christ. Notice in the Gospel today that John’s disciples are prepared to hear God’s call. They are already looking for the Messiah, so they trust in John’s word and follow when he points out the Lamb of God walking by. Samuel is also waiting on the Lord—sleeping near the Ark of the Covenant where God’s glory dwells, taking instruction from Eli, the high priest. Samuel listened to God’s word and the Lord was with him. And Samuel, through his word, turned all Israel to the Lord (see [1 Samuel 3:21; 7:2-3](#)). The disciples too heard and followed words we hear repeatedly in today’s Gospel. They stayed with the Lord and by their testimony brought others to the Lord. These scenes from salvation history should give us strength to embrace God’s will and to follow His call in our lives. God is constantly calling to each of us—personally, by name (see [Isaiah 43:1; John 10:3](#)). He wants us to seek Him in love, to long for His word (see [Wisdom 6:11-12](#)). We must desire always, as the apostles did, to stay where the Lord stays, to constantly seek His face (see [Psalm 42:2](#)). For we are not our own, but belong to the Lord, as Paul says in today’s Epistle. We must have ears open to obedience and write His word within our hearts. We must trust in the Lord’s promise—that if we come to Him in faith, He will abide with us (see [John 15:14; 14:21-23](#)), and raise us by His power. And we must reflect in our lives the love He has shown us, so that others too may find the Messiah. As we renew our vows of discipleship in this Eucharist, let us approach the altar singing the new song of today’s Psalm: “Behold I come . . . to do your will O God.”

AHEAD of this year’s Second Collection for the Cathedral of St John the Evangelist, Mother Church of the Diocese, which is scheduled to take place on 21 January, Father James McAuley, Cathedral Dean, Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia writes,

“I became Dean of our Cathedral Church of St John the Evangelist in September 2022. Since then, the parish has paid for emergency repairs of serious leaks in the Blessed Sacrament and St Patrick chapels, and in the Discovery Centre, which cost £23,060 in total. The cost of these repairs was paid for by parishioners, who responded generously to an appeal for contributions. In January 2023, the 120-year-old West Window began to collapse because of deterioration in the lead work. Its restoration was completed in December 2023 at an estimated final cost of more than £100,000. So far, we have raised almost £38,000 towards the cost of restoration of the West Window. These projects have used up virtually all the Cathedral’s available funds. The heating and electrical systems are in urgent need of upgrading. One of the three boilers, which heats the Cathedral and Cathedral House, has been broken since spring 2022. The money I had allocated to replace it had to be diverted to pay for the repairs to the West Window. The two remaining boilers both failed in late November 2023. After a week of no central heating, the two boilers were repaired, but we have been advised that all three boilers have come to the end of their useful life, having been installed about 25 years ago. We have no money to replace the boilers, never mind upgrade the heating system to a more energy efficient, “greener” system. In the summer of 2023, the quinquennial architectural survey was completed and the report we received in September outlined work required over the next five years to the roof, windows, heating, and electrical systems at an estimated cost of more than £1 million. I fully appreciate the financial pressures being felt by you and by your parishioners but would appeal to you to promote and support the Second Collection for the Cathedral on 21st January. Never has this annual collection by parishes for the Mother Church of the Diocese been more critical or needed. Your support is vitally important to us.”

Enthronement of the Santo Niño (Child Jesus) Statue – A group of Filipino parishioners recently acquired a replica of the statue of the Child Jesus venerated in the famous Basilica of the Santo Niño on the island of Cebu in the Philippines. They also acquired from the Rector of the Basilica a relic containing the cloth of the inner garment of the original statue, which dates to almost 502 years ago. In Philippine history, the statue was presented by Ferdinand Magellan, a famous world naval explorer, to Hara Amihan, the queen of Zebu (Cebu). Written accounts said that she joyfully leaped and danced the “sulog” or the dance of the tides when the image was entrusted to her. This event marked the beginning of the Sinulog Festival, which honours the Feast of the Child Jesus every second Sunday after Epiphany. It is with great joy that this replica will be enthroned at St Boniface on **21 January** at the end of the **11am Mass**. The Eucharistic celebration will be followed by the Sinulog festival in the church hall, where there will be prayers, dancing (Sulog) and fellowship. Everybody is welcome.

A special Thank You to the PPC members completing their mandate – We are immensely grateful to Joanna Rzepecka, Angela Wood, Emma D’Arcy and Helen Bignell who have been serving on the Parish Pastoral Council for the past three years. They all contributed wonderfully to the life and growth of the parish. May God reward them for their generous service. At the same time, we want to **welcome the new members of the PPC** – Mae Felongco, Jane Stephenson, Obiajulu Christopher, Henry Eboh, Fatima Amedu and Mart Ryan. We look forward to their contribution to parish life and growth!

Altar Server Training on Saturday 20 January, at 2pm in St Boniface Church. We are grateful for all of our young altar servers and ask God to bless them for their generous service to God and the parish! If any children Year 5 and above are interested in becoming altar servers, please join us at this training session.

The funeral Mass of Jane Barber is on Wednesday 17 January, at 1:15pm in our Church. Some refreshments will be ready afterwards in our Church Hall. All are welcome. Catherine Mercer’s funeral is on Friday 26 January, at 1pm in St Boniface. Coffee/teas will be available in the Hall 2pm – 4pm for those attending the funeral.

A HUGE Thank You from Stella Maris: “Dear Fathers & parishioners of St Boniface, our seafarers enjoyed an abundance of Christmas gifts thanks to the great support offered by the many local parishes that responded to our Stella Maris Southern Ports appeal. Please would you pass our huge thanks to all your parishioners who contributed so generously in their prayers, efforts and gifts. All go together to make a positive difference in the lives of seafarers at Christmas who, year after year, are separated from friends and family. We have put together a [video](#) to look back on our activities in the past year and provide information at the end for anyone who would like to learn more or volunteer their services to Stella Maris. We’d be grateful if you could promote our work by placing the following link on your parish website or social media <https://youtu.be/EQIZNrrqhAI> With many thanks for keeping seafarers in mind and wishing you and all your parish a Happy New Year. Charles Stuart & Gregory Hogan. Southampton Regional Port Chaplain. Stella Maris.”

News from the Diocesan CARITAS: “We are entering the coldest and most difficult time of year for people who are struggling with financial insecurity. This year many more people are having to make difficult decisions about whether to pay bills, heat their homes or eat. Our parishes can support by providing warm spaces and hot food and it is very simple to do. If you would like to know more about how to organise or have experience to share on running a warm space/community meal project in your parish do join Caritas Portsmouth for our first networking event on **Tuesday 23 January from 12:30-1pm**. An opportunity to learn from others experience, share best practice and see how Caritas Portsmouth can support you get your project off the ground. You can register [here](#) and we look forward to seeing you.”

Churches Together in Shirley have organised a prayer walk on **Saturday 20 January:** starting at Shirley Baptist at 10am. We will spread out in small groups and pray over our area. We intend to finish around 11am. If the weather is not good, we will pray at Shirley Baptist. As this is the start of the National Week of Prayer for Christian Unity it would be good to support one another.

Sunday, 14 January has been designated as Peace Sunday: an opportunity to pray for World Peace. Please see the latest Portsmouth Diocese E-news: [Portsmouth Diocese e-News Issue 429 \(mailchi.mp\)](#)

Knit & Natter meets every Monday 10am – 12 noon in St Margaret Clitherow Room. All are welcome!

Volunteers Needed for our Safeguarding Team – If you would like to be actively involved in making sure that St Boniface always remains a safe haven for our children and for the vulnerable, please consider joining our Safeguarding Team. For more information, please contact our Safeguarding Officer Angela Braga: safeguarding@st-boniface.org.uk

The Sunday *Obligatory* Second Collection – the 1st one this year - is for St John’s Cathedral and will be collected on Sunday 21 January. Please support generously for the building and maintenance of our Cathedral!

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.

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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

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Safeguarding Officer: Angela Braga

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