



# 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**

## January 21, 2024 – THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**Following Him: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time** – The calling of the brothers in today’s Gospel evokes Elisha’s commissioning by the prophet Elijah (see [1 Kings 19:19–21](#)). As Elijah comes upon Elisha working on his family’s farm, so Jesus sees the brothers working by the seaside. And as Elisha left his mother and father to follow Elijah, so the brothers leave their father to come after Jesus. Jesus’ promise—to make them “fishers of men”—evokes Israel’s deepest hopes. The prophet Jeremiah announced a new exodus in which God would send “many fishermen” to restore the Israelites from exile, as once He brought them out of slavery in Egypt (see [Jeremiah 16:14–16](#)). By Jesus’ Cross and Resurrection, this new exodus has begun (see [Luke 9:31](#)). And the apostles are the first of a new people of God, the Church—a new family, based not on blood ties, but on belief in Jesus and a desire to do the Father’s will (see [John 1:12–13](#); [Matthew 12:46–50](#)). From now on, even our most important worldly concerns—family relations, occupations, and possessions—must be judged in light of the Gospel, Paul says in today’s Epistle. The first word of Jesus’ Gospel—repent—means we must totally change our way of thinking and living, turning from evil, doing all for the love of God. And we should be consoled by Nineveh’s repentance in today’s First Reading. Even the wicked Nineveh could repent at Jonah’s preaching. And in Jesus we have “something greater than Jonah” ([Matthew 12:41](#)). We have God come as our saviour, to show sinners the way, as we sing in today’s Psalm. This should give us hope—that loved ones who remain far from God will find compassion if they turn to Him. But we, too, must continue along the path of repentance—striving daily to pattern our lives after His.

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** – Bishop Philip Egan writes: “Unity is central to the very nature of the Church. This year I ask you to consider on a personal level whether you have ever thought of ‘the ecumenical cause’ as being a ‘non-optional dimension’ of being a Catholic. So, please join with the other Christians in your community during this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity to celebrate what we share together – our love for Jesus and His love for all of us.” Fr Tom adds: On the night before He died, Jesus said a special prayer to His heavenly Father. That prayer is recorded in the Gospel of John, chapter 17. Jesus prays: “My prayer is not for them alone (i.e., for the disciples of His time). I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be one in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one – I in them and you in me – so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me” (John 17:20–23). At the Last Supper Jesus also gave us the New Commandment: “Love one another, as I have loved you”. Let us make Jesus’ prayer our own, especially in this week of prayer for Christian unity.

**ST BONIFACE PARISH VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT WEEKEND: 27/28 January** – You will all be aware that our parish cannot function without the efforts of many unpaid volunteers. At about this time of year, Saint Boniface Parish seeks to recruit more volunteers for our teams. On the weekend of Saturday the 27th and Sunday the 28th of January, leaflets and information will be available at all Masses so that everyone can see where they could join one of our teams and play their part in our life as a parish family. Please consider carefully where you might be able to help. Thank you!

**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.”

**News from our CAFOD rep: Danielle Green, who writes,** “Dear St Boniface parishioners, as I am moving to the US to get married, I will sadly no longer be able to serve as St Boniface’s CAFOD volunteer. I am searching for a new CAFOD rep for our parish. I would describe this role as low commitment, but high impact and very rewarding. We usually raise around £1000 every fast day to contribute towards CAFOD’s important work on international development! Please do get in touch with me if you would be

interested in serving, I am happy to provide more information: [Danniegee23@gmail.com](mailto:Danniegee23@gmail.com); 07588226658. Thank you and best wishes, Danielle.”

**The funeral Mass for the late Catherine Mercer is on Friday 26 January, at 1pm in St Boniface Church. Coffee/teas will be available in the Hall 2pm – 4pm for those attending the funeral.**

**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.

**Springhill Catholic Primary School** is looking for Foundation Governors. A foundation governor is a practicing Catholic. You don’t have to have any experience in education – training will be provided. Meetings are once a month on a Monday evening. Having school governors is essential as the role of the governor is to support the school in asking questions. If you’d like to find out more, please contact the school office on [info@springhillcatholic.net](mailto:info@springhillcatholic.net) and the head teacher will give you more information about the role before you make a decision if it is something you can commit to. Our wonderful school needs governors.

**Good News from Ukraine** - The Rotary Club have just confirmed that our shoeboxes were delivered to children in great need in Ukraine via Rotary Club in Chelm, Poland on 15-17 December. The Club say how surprised and thrilled the children were to receive something just for them and thought the boxes themselves were the present. Thank you so much for all you did to help us and please help again this year if you can. We hope to have a video of this on the parish website. Carole & Tom Olding.

**Escorted Knock Pilgrimage Tour to Knock & Co Mayo, 3 March 2024**, costs at £899.00 per person. Price includes flight, 10kg hold luggage, 5 nights’ in 4\* Castlecourt Hotel, Westport with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Lunch on three days. All entertainment, excursions and transport included. Visit Knock, Galway City, Kylemore Abbey, Croagh Patrick & Ashford Castle. Single supplement on Enquiry. Contact Patricia or Natalie on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email [knockpilgrimages@gmail.com](mailto:knockpilgrimages@gmail.com).

**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](mailto:svpoffice@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) All are welcome!

**The Sunday *Obligatory* Second Collection – for St John’s Cathedral- is on Sunday 21 January. Please support generously!**

**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

[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)