



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

**July 30, 2023 – SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME; and
August 6, 2023 – THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD**

Treasures of the Kingdom: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time: What is your new life in Christ worth to you? Do you love His words more than gold and silver, as we sing in today's Psalm? Would you, like the characters in the Gospel today, sell all that you have in order to possess the kingdom He promises to us? If God were to grant any wish, would you follow Solomon's example in today's First Reading—asking not for a long life or riches but for wisdom to know God's ways and to desire His will? The background for today's Gospel, as it has been for the past several weeks, is the rejection of Jesus' preaching by Israel. The kingdom of heaven has come into their midst; yet many cannot see that Jesus is the fulfilment of God's promises, a gift of divine compassion given so that they—and we—might live. We, too, must ever discover the kingdom anew. We are called to find it as a treasure, a pearl of great price. By comparison with the kingdom, we must count all else as rubbish (see [Philippians 3:8](#)). And we must be willing to give up all that we have—all our priorities and plans—in order to gain it. Jesus' Gospel discloses what Paul in today's Epistle calls the purpose of God's plan (see [Ephesians 1:4](#)): for Jesus be the firstborn of many brothers. His words give understanding to the simple, the childlike. As Solomon does today, we must humble ourselves before God, giving ourselves to His service. Let our prayer be for an understanding heart, one that desires only to do His will. We are called to love God, to delight in His law, and to forsake every false way. And we are to conform ourselves daily ever more closely to the image of His Son. If we do this, we can approach His altar as a pleasing sacrifice, confident that all things work for the good—that we whom He has justified will also be glorified.

Called & Gifted Coming to St Boniface in September! When Catholics hear the expression "Called and Gifted", they often assume one is speaking about special vocations to the priesthood or religious life. But what they often forget is that every baptized Christian is called and gifted by God. Our first and most fundamental call and identity is to be God's beloved sons and daughters. Every Christian vocation, whether to married life, or single life in the world, or priestly life and religious life, is a call to live out the grace one has received in baptism. The vast majority of Christians are called by God to married and family life. But what is important to know is that every single Christian has received special gifts and charisms and is called to discern those gifts and then put them at the service of God and others. We are blessed to have a good number of Catholics here in the UK who are specially trained to help other Catholics discern their God-given gifts and charisms. "Called and Gifted" is a Catholic organization approved by our diocesan Bishop Philip Egan. Sherry Weddell, co-founder of the Catherine of Siena Institute (CSI), introduced the Called and Gifted Charism Discernment process to the Portsmouth diocese back in 2014. Since then, she and her well trained team of Called and Gifted Teachers and Discernment Facilitators have helped many Catholic parishes and parishioners across the diocese to discern their gifts and put them into practice. This has brought new and exciting life into the various parishes and families. Called and Gifted fits marvellously into the vision of both the diocese and our parish to bring all to Christ and Christ to all. Imagine what a benefit it is in our Christian lives to discover and understand more deeply the gifts and charisms God has richly bestowed upon us and then to put those gifts at His service and the service of others. Please consider joining us on a special teaching day that will be held on **9 September 2023** in the church hall. This will be followed by **one-to-one discernment conversations** via Zoom or in-person with a trained facilitator to help us unlock our potential charisms. Finally, we will be encouraged to begin "experimenting" with our discerned charism by putting it into **concrete practice**. There is a minimal fee involved. We will give you more details as we get closer to the teaching day. Please consider taking part in this special event.

"What you are is God's gift to you, what you become is your gift to God." "Man is the creature with a mystery in his heart that is bigger than himself." **Hans Urs von Balthasar, Prayer**

Time to register!! You can now begin signing up for the Called & Gifted programme beginning in September. To register please contact Jane Stephenson (07941755323) or Augustine Odukoya (07883014954) or send an email to: calledandgifted@st-boniface.org.uk. Please give your full name and contact details.

Eileen Aylett would like to thank the PPC for their generous gift and kind words. She also thanks her friends in the Music Group for their most thoughtful gift and for preparing and sharing a lovely lunch together. She wishes to correct one misconception in that she is no master of the flute but will (as always!) try to do her best!

ADVANCE NOTICE! – Our Lady of Good Health Velankanni Novena!

See here for its Running Programme from 29/8 to 8/9: Rosary Every day 6:30pm Followed by Mass & Novena at 7pm, except Saturday Timing Dated 2/9: Rosary at 6pm followed by Mass and Novena at 6:30pm. Sunday Timing Dated 3/9: Rosary at 5pm and followed by Mass and Novena at 5:30pm. Feast Day Friday Dated 8/9, Procession at 6:30pm, followed by Mass at 7pm. Feast Day Dinner Party: after the 7pm Mass at the St Boniface Church Hall! All are welcome!

FAREWELL TO THE DOBELL FAMILY – At the end of August, we say goodbye and a huge thankyou to the Dobells, a long-standing parish family, as they move to Cumbria. Alison Dobell has received a new position, which is why the family has to make this move. Patrick Dobell has served the parish loyally in numerous roles, as Reader, Steward, Eucharistic Minister, and he has in particular played a key role on the Finance committee. His expert support for Canon Mac, Fr Eddie, Fr David and lately Fr Tom has been absolutely invaluable and so reassuring to the clergy as they then can focus on their Spiritual responsibilities. Boniface Dobell is a senior altar server, a role he has performed loyally for many years, and he has recently been involved in training for the new recruits. We wish the whole family many blessings as they start their new life. They will be very much missed!

From Fr Tom, “Hello everyone! As I am the current coordinating pastor of the Southampton Pastoral Area, here’s an update on the Diocesan Ten-Year Mission Plan – As you all well know, the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth has embarked on a Ten-Year Mission Plan (see the document “You will be My Witnesses”), which will merge the 87 current parishes across the Diocese into 24 Parishes. What does that mean for us here in Southampton? The current parishes of Holy Family, Immaculate Conception, St Edmund, St Joseph, St Boniface, St Vincent de Paul, and St Theresa of the Child Jesus (Totton) will become **One Big Parish**. This will not happen immediately, but rather over the next three to five years. A priest of the diocese will be appointed as Parish Priest, and he will be assisted by a team of assistant priests and deacons. Eventually a new parish pastoral council and a new finance committee will be formed made up of lay representatives from the now current seven parishes. I imagine that each of our seven parishes will still have a pastoral council and a finance committee, but these will be overseen by the larger pastoral council and finance committee. Fr Benjamin Theobald can fill us in on any of the technical canonical law details when the time comes. At this moment, we are still in the discerning phase of our journey. The pastoral area clergy, the chairs of the finance teams and pastoral councils/ESTs and a few other parishioners have met on three occasions in 2023 – in January, April, and June. The parish secretaries/administrators were invited to the last meeting on 1 July and will continue to take part in future meetings. Our next scheduled meeting is on 16 September 2023. We have simply been considering our local context and options for the future. Though all of us at the meetings expressed some of our legitimate concerns, we have all embraced the reality that we have to move in this direction. The very positive thing is that the Diocese welcomes our suggestions and proposals and wants all of us to be part of the planning process. We want to keep you informed about any plans as we move along, so that you all have the chance to offer your feedback. It is important that all parishioners are part of the dialogue. So, stay tuned for more information. In the meantime, let’s keep praying for God’s help and guidance.”

HEALING MASS: Important! Please note that there will NOT be a Healing Mass on the First Friday of August (August 4th). Healing Masses will resume in September.

The St Boniface Parish Picnic – is going to be on **17 September 2023 1pm onwards**. Details will follow nearer the time.

The Parish Office will not be open during the first week in August, and so if you have an urgent matter, please contact Fr Jufel via the church when you come for Mass, or write to him at: jbaldado@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk Thank you.

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**.

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

office@st-boniface.org.uk Tel: 023 8077 3640

Safeguarding Officers: Sarah Studzinski/Angela Braga

safeguarding@st-boniface.org.uk

Parish Pastoral Council: ppc@st-boniface.org.uk