



ST. BONIFACE



Bringing Christ to the people and people to Christ

Parish Priest
Fr. Tom Kleinschmidt, OMV

Assistant Priest
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March 10, 2024 –FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Listen Now: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Fourth Sunday of Lent - The Sunday readings in Lent have been showing us the high points of salvation history—God’s covenant with creation in the time of Noah; His promises to Abraham; the law He gave to Israel at Sinai. In today’s First Reading, we hear of the destruction of the kingdom established by God’s final Old Testament covenant—the covenant with David (see 2 Samuel 7; Psalm 89:3). His chosen people abandoned the law He gave them. For their sins, the temple was destroyed, and they were exiled in Babylon. We hear their sorrow and repentance in the exile lament we sing as today’s Psalm. But we also hear how God, in His mercy, gathered them back, even anointing a pagan king to shepherd them and rebuild the temple (see Isaiah 44:28–45:1, 4). God is rich in mercy, as today’s Epistle teaches. He promised that David’s kingdom would last forever, that David’s son would be His Son and rule all nations (see 2 Samuel 7:14–15; Psalm 2:7–9). In Jesus, God keeps that promise (see Revelation 22:16). Moses lifted up the serpent as a sign of salvation (see Wisdom 16:6–7; Numbers 21:9). Now Jesus is lifted up on the Cross, to draw all people to Himself (see John 12:32). Those who refuse to believe in this sign of the Father’s love condemn themselves—as the Israelites in their infidelity brought judgment upon themselves. But God did not leave Israel in exile, and He does not want to leave any of us dead in our transgressions. We are God’s handiwork, saved to live as His people in the light of His truth. Midway through this season of repentance, let us again behold the Pierced One (see John 19:37) and rededicate ourselves to living the “good works” that God has prepared us for.

2024 – Year of Prayer leading up to the Holy Year 2025. Pope Francis has inaugurated a Year of Prayer ahead of the 2025 Jubilee, calling on all the faithful “to intensify prayer to prepare us to live well this event of grace and to experience the power of God’s hope”. In remarks after the Sunday Angelus, the Holy Father explained that the Year of Prayer is dedicated “to rediscovering the great value and absolute need for prayer, prayer in personal life, in the life of the Church, prayer in the world.” Pope Francis would like 2024 to become “a great symphony of prayer. First of all, to recover the desire to be in the presence of the Lord, to listen to Him and adore Him.” It would be helpful to look back at the 38 catecheses on Prayer that Pope Francis presented from 6 May 2022 to 16 June 2021. You can find these on the Vatican website – vatican.va. A series of booklets entitled, “Notes on Prayer”, is being published by the Vatican publishing house, Libreria Editrice Vaticana. The 8 titles are designed to put the need for a profound relationship with the Lord back at the centre of people’s lives, through the many forms of prayer to be found in the rich Catholic tradition of prayer. The first title or booklet is called “Praying Today”. There is also a guide for the Year of Prayer available online – “Teach us to Pray – Living the Year of Prayer in Preparation for the Jubilee 2025”. A digital version can be downloaded free from the website iubilaeum2025.va. Here are the contents in the index: Pope Francis’ teaching on prayer, “Teach us to pray” (Lk 11:1): towards a school of prayer; Prayer in the parish community (the Eucharist, the Liturgy of the Hours, Hours for the Lord, Eucharistic Adoration); Prayer in the family ;Young people’s prayer ; Retreats on prayer; Catechesis on prayer ; the Prayer of the Cloistered ; Prayer in Sanctuaries; the Prayer of the faithful for the 2025 Jubilee.

Lenten programme at St Boniface: we pray for a deep spiritual renewal, as we undertake this beautiful journey to prepare for the celebration of Easter. Jesus asks us to deepen our prayer life, to practise self-denial and to give special attention to works of charity. **Exploring the Book of Genesis:** every Friday in Lent at **6:30pm in the church hall**. This will be followed by **Stations of the Cross** at **7:15pm** in the church. We will then have **Eucharistic Adoration until 8:30pm**, with the **opportunity for individual confession**.

Mothering Sunday – We wish all mothers a very happy day! Bishop Philip Egan reminds us: “In mediaeval England, this day was a holiday from work when people went home to the mother church in which they were baptised. As families gathered, they gave gifts to their mothers, hence Mothering Sunday, a day we pray for our mothers too. Please remember to say a prayer to the Blessed Mother on Sunday for your mother and grandmother.”

Alan Coppen’s funeral service will be held on Wednesday, 20 March, at 11.30am. We express our sincere condolences to Eileen Coppen and her family. We give thanks to God for all the good that Alan did for the parish. He was a dedicated member of the finance committee, a steward at Mass and a reader. He will be dearly missed.

The St Boniface Sunday 11am Choir are looking forward to preparing music for the Holy Triduum. There will be 3 more practices respectively on: **Thursday 14 March (8–9pm); Thursday 21 March (8–9pm); and Tuesday 26 March (7:30–8:30pm)**. If you would like to sing or play music to help with this, please message **Mike Wood: mikejwood2@gmail.com** or speak to him after 11:00am Sunday Mass or any of the music group leaders at Church.

Come and join us for a Quiz! All are welcome! Proceeds will go to CAFOD. Where: **Church hall**. When: **Saturday 16 March**. Time: Please arrive **7.45pm for an 8pm start**. Finishing 9.30pm (approximately). Teams should be a maximum of six please. You can come as a ready-made team or be joined to a team on arrival. £1 per person entry. Raffle. Bring your own drinks and we will provide the glasses!

Mass Times for Holy Week:

Palm Sunday – Vigil Mass at 6.30pm, Sunday 9am, 11am and 5.30pm

Chrism Mass in St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth – Tuesday 26th March at 11am.

Tenebrae Service – Wednesday 27th March at 8pm.

Maundy Thursday – no 10am Mass! Mass at 7.30pm. Church open for adoration until 10pm.

Good Friday – Children's Stations of the Cross at 10am. Celebration of the Lord's Passion at 3pm.

Holy Saturday – Blessing of Easter baskets at 4pm. No Masses at 10 am or 6.30 pm. Easter Vigil 8 pm

Easter Sunday – Masses at 9am, 11am and 5.30pm.

Altar Server Training!! – **Sunday, 24 March, 3pm**. Very important – we need to practice for the different services during Holy Week, especially the Easter Vigil. Thanks to our amazing young people for their service as altar servers!!

Mike Wood shares his experience of doing the Ignatian retreat in daily life – “It can be quite difficult to take time out to go on a spiritual retreat. Fortunately, here at St Boniface for the last two years Fr Tom has led a parish group through the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises in daily life. Both Angela and I took part in these and really benefitted from the daily prayer and meditation as well as listening to other parishioners share their own experiences. As a direct result of this we met another couple (Dudley and Francine Plunkett) and have since then regularly prayed together once a month. During these meeting we agreed that we wanted to do the Spiritual Exercises again but in more depth. So, we asked Fr Tom for help, and he very kindly gave us the notes he uses when leading 4 week Ignatian retreats. We met together and split the four weeks up into 11 weeks of 1-hour sessions. After starting in the week of Ash Wednesday we have just finished the first week of the spiritual exercises (it has taken us three weeks !!). Initially we all met with Fr Tom, and he guided us as to the purpose of the first week and how to get the most out of the exercises. Angela and I speak with each other daily to discuss how the retreat is going and once a week we meet up with Dudley and Francine to share how the exercises are impacting our prayer life and spiritual growth. We are due to meet Fr Tom this week to reflect on the first week and then he will support us with any questions we may have regarding the next week of exercises. This regular commitment to prayer; support from another couple and Fr Tom, as well as the beautiful structure of the exercises is really beginning to impact on our lives in a transformative way. The ideas of consolation and desolation; examen; guide to discernment; have all been very valuable in this endeavour. If you would like to deepen your spiritual life, then we thoroughly recommend the Ignatian retreat in daily life. Please get in touch if you would like to know more.”

St Boniface Lenten Soup Lunches 2024. Two soup lunches have been taken place with good turnouts. There will be a soup lunch every Friday until 22 March, at 12 noon. All proceeds will go to CAFOD. Please try and support this worthy venture and meet up with fellow parishioners. Soup-makers are urgently needed to make a 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

St Boniface Table Tennis Group meets twice a week every week throughout the year (apart from if there are parish activities, and not on Good Friday) on **Tuesday & Friday afternoons 2-3pm in the Hall**. For details contact the Parish Office. All are welcome.

St Boniface Knit & Natter Group meets every Monday morning 10am-12noon, at the St MC Room. All are welcome.

St Boniface Parish Toddlers' Group meets every other Tuesday (school term times only) in our Church Hall. Donations of £1 per family is welcome.

Stewards, Readers and Eucharistic Ministers: please sign up for duties during the Holy Week services. The sheets are in the porch.

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,
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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

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Safeguarding Officer: Angela Braga
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