



ST. BONIFACE



Bringing Christ to the people and people to Christ

Parish Priest
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March 17, 2024 –FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

The “Hour” Comes: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Fifth Sunday of Lent - Our readings today are filled with anticipation. The days are coming, Jeremiah prophesies in today’s First Reading. The hour has come, Jesus says in the Gospel. The new covenant that God promised to Jeremiah is made in the “hour” of Jesus—in His Death, Resurrection, and Ascension to the Father’s right hand. The prophets said this new covenant would return Israel’s exiled tribes from the ends of the world (see [Jeremiah 31:1, 3-4, 7-8](#)). Jesus too predicted His passion would gather the dispersed children of God (see [John 11:52](#)). But today He promises to draw to Himself not only Israelites, but all men and women. The new covenant is more than a political or national restoration. As we sing in today’s Psalm, it is a universal spiritual restoration. In the “hour” of Jesus, sinners in every nation can return to the Father—to be washed of their guilt and given new hearts to love and serve Him. In predicting He will be “lifted up,” Jesus isn’t describing only His coming Crucifixion (see [John 3:14-15](#)). Isaiah used the same word to tell how the Messiah, after suffering for Israel’s sins, would be raised high and greatly exalted (see [Isaiah 52:3](#)). Elsewhere the term describes how kings are elevated above their subjects (see [1 Maccabees 8:13](#)). Troubled in His agony, Jesus doesn’t pray to be saved. Instead, as we hear in today’s Epistle, He offers himself to the Father on the Cross—as a living prayer and supplication. For this, God gives Him dominion over heaven and earth (see [Acts 2:33](#); [Philippians 2:9](#)). Where He has gone, we can follow—if we let Him lead us. To follow Jesus means hating our lives of sin and selfishness. It means trusting in the Father’s will, the law He has written in our hearts. Jesus’ “hour” continues in the Eucharist, where we join our sacrifices to His, giving God our lives in reverence and obedience confident He will raise us up to bear fruits of holiness.

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.

St Boniface Mass Times for Holy Week:

Palm Sunday 24 March – Vigil Mass at 6:30pm, Sunday 9am, 11am and 5:30pm. Altar Server training at 3pm!!

Chrism Mass in St John’s Cathedral, Portsmouth – Tuesday 26 March at 11am. **St Boniface’s own morning Mass on that day is changed to an earlier time at 8:30am**, to allow our priests to make it to the Chrism Mass on time. The Cathedral’s Mass is open to all the faithful.

Tenebrae Service –Wednesday 27 March at 8pm. The 10am Mass is on as usual.

Maunder Thursday – No 10am Mass! Mass at 7:30pm. Church open for adoration until 10pm.

Good Friday – No 10am Mass. 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, as usual.

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.

Another Sad Loss: please pray for the soul of Margaret Quantrill, a faithful servant of the parish for many years, who died on 10 March. A Reader and Eucharistic Minister, she will be greatly missed. We send our sincere condolences to Brian and the family. Funeral details will be announced in due course.

The St Boniface Sunday 11am Choir are looking forward to preparing music for the Holy Triduum. There will be 2 more practices respectively on: **Thursday 21 March (8-9pm); and Monday 25 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. Note: the final practice session has been changed from Tuesday the 26th to Monday the 25th, at the same time & same place.

HELP NEEDED TO DEEP-CLEAN OUR CHURCH IN READINESS FOR EASTER! On Saturday 23 March, we need as many volunteers as possible from **11.30am to 1.30pm** to give our beautiful church an extra-special clean to get it ready for Easter. If you can help, and particularly if you have recently volunteered to help with cleaning, please aim to arrive at 11.30am to offer your services. All welcome! The more helpers we have, the sooner we can get the cleaning done. Thank you!

The Link to St Boniface Clergymen's Easter Collections is here: <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/southampton-st-boniface-catholic-church-easter-collection-2024> As you know, this collection forms part of the major annual incomes so please show your appreciation for their hard work by giving generously. Alternatively, you can give it to them in person when you come for Mass.

Why Do We Cover the Crucifixes and Statues During the Final Week of Lent? The Church recommends this practice to heighten our senses and build within us a longing for Easter Sunday. But why go through such lengths to cover up images that are designed to raise our hearts and minds toward heaven? First of all, we use veils to alert us of the special time that we are in. When we walk into church and notice everything is covered, we immediately know that something is different. These last two weeks of Lent are meant to be a time of immediate preparation for the Sacred Triduum and these veils are a forceful reminder to get ready. Secondly, the veils focus our attention on the words being said at Mass. When we listen to the Passion narrative, our senses are allowed to focus on the striking words from the Gospel and truly enter into the scene. Third, the Church uses veils to produce a heightened sense of anticipation for Easter Sunday. This is further actualized when you attend daily Mass and see the veils each day. You don't want them to be there because they are hiding some very beautiful images. And therein lies the whole point: the veils are not meant to be there forever. The images need to be unveiled; it is unnatural for them to be covered. The unveiling before the Easter Vigil is a great reminder of our own life on earth. We live in a "veiled" world, in exile from our true home. It is only through salvation that the veil is lifted, and we are finally able to see the beauty of everything in our lives. This tradition that should not only be carried out in our local parish but can also be a fruitful activity for the "domestic church" to practice. Families are also encouraged to imitate this practice and veil prominent religious images in their homes. It is also a beautiful tradition to pass down to our children, who will be intrigued by it, and it will make this time of year truly special for them. We go through great lengths to decorate our homes for Easter, so why not prepare for the great feast by using veils? (From aleteia.org).

What Some Saints Say about this Grace-filled Time of Lent: St Maximilian Kolbe: "Lent is a time of grace, a time for conversion, a time to come home to God." St Teresa of Calcutta: "Lent is a time for us to empty ourselves of worldly distractions and allow God to fill us with His love, His grace and His peace." Pope St John Paul II: "The purpose of Lent is not to force on us a few formal obligations, but to 'soften' our heart so that it may open itself to the realities of the spirit, to experience the hidden 'thirst' for communion with God."

DO YOU HAVE GREAT COMMUNICATION SKILLS? ARE YOU GOOD AT I.T.? The parish is in urgent need of someone to coordinate the Communications group. This group works with other teams in the parish to spread the word about parish activities, both by digital means and via posters, website, and newsletter. It plays a vital role in ensuring we all know what's happening. If you feel you could help, or would like to find out more, please email the PPC on ppc@st-boniface.org.uk. Thank you!

Special Event!! Pilgrimage to The Friars, Aylesford (Kent), and Canterbury on Saturday 6 July 2024: the parish of St Boniface is organising a pilgrimage to Aylesford priory to ask for God's blessing and in honour of Our Lady. As you might know there is also a relic of St Simon Stock, who had an apparition from Our Lady while in Cambridge, promising that whoever died wearing the brown Carmelite scapular would be saved. We will celebrate Holy Mass at Aylesford. After visiting the shrine and lunch we will travel to Canterbury where those who wish can visit the Cathedral (Entrance fee is not included in the pilgrimage fee). **Cost £ 33/ person. Deposit £ 20.00 by the 30th of April. Final payment by the 31st of May 2024.** Please contact Diana Agacy to register or for any other inquiries via email to: fhc@st-boniface.org.uk. All payments to be made to the parish secretary.

A Diocesan News! The Launch of a New FREE Will Scheme Can Benefit Every parish. To mark the national **Free Wills Month**, the Diocese has partnered with market-leading solicitors and will-writing providers to offer anyone over 18 to easily write or update a basic simple or mirror Will **for free**. Whether you would like to write your Will in-person, online or over the 'phone, you will be expertly supported through the process. You are under no obligation to leave our Parish a gift in your Wills, but a gift of this kind is an opportunity to make a lasting gift to our Church and we hope many of you will choose to do so and help to sustain our Church in the future. We are helping to promote this FREE service by featuring the digital posters below in our parish newsletters, websites and social media posts: [Digital Landscape.png](#) [Digital Portrait.png](#) More information can be found at: [Make your FREE Will – Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth](https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/make-your-free-will), ([portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)).

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

Second Collections: Sunday 23 March - St Boniface Building & Maintenance; Collection on Good Friday for the Holy Places; Collection on Easter for the priests at St Boniface (offerings may also be made by using the CDP Oblates of the Virgin Mary account below). 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.

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