



# ST. BONIFACE

Bringing Christ to the people and people to Christ



Parish Priest  
Fr. Tom Kleinschmidt, OMV

Assistant Priest  
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## March 24, 2024 –PALM SUNDAY of the Passion of the Lord

**Darkness at Noon: Scott Hahn Reflects on Passion Sunday** – Crowned with thorns, our Lord is lifted up on the Cross, where He dies as “King of the Jews.” Notice how many times He is called “king” in today’s Gospel—mostly in scorn and mockery. As we hear the long accounts of His Passion, at every turn we must remind ourselves—He suffered this cruel and unusual violence for us. He is the Suffering Servant foretold by Isaiah in today’s First Reading. He reenacts the agony described in today’s Psalm, and even dies with the first words of that Psalm on His lips (see [Psalm 22:1](#)). Listen carefully for the echoes of this Psalm throughout today’s Gospel—as Jesus is beaten, His hands and feet are pierced; as His enemies gamble for His clothes, wagging their heads, mocking His faith in God’s love, His faith that God will deliver Him. Are we that much different from our Lord’s tormenters? Often, don’t we deny that He is King, refusing to obey His only commands that we love Him and one another? Don’t we render Him mock tribute, pay Him lip service with our half-hearted devotions? In the dark noon of Calvary, the veil in Jerusalem’s temple was torn. It was a sign that by His death Jesus destroyed forever the barrier separating us from the presence of God. He was God and yet humbled Himself to come among us, we’re reminded in today’s Epistle. And despite our repeated failures, our frailty, Jesus still humbles Himself to come to us, offering us His body and blood in the Eucharist. His enemies never understood: His kingship isn’t of this world (see [John 18:36](#)). He wants to write His law, His rule of life on our hearts and minds. As we enter Holy Week, let us once more resolve to give Him dominion in our lives. Let us take up the cross He gives to us—and confess with all our hearts, minds, and strength that truly this is the Son of God.

### 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 Mass on that day has been 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.

**Maundy Thursday** – No 10am Mass! Mass at 7:30pm. Washing of Feet. Church opens 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.

**Last Call to All St Boniface Stewards, Readers & Eucharistic Ministers** to please sign up for duties during the Holy Week services.

**Last Practice with St Boniface Sunday 11am Choir** has been changed to **Monday 25 March (7:30pm-8:30pm)**. Please message **Mike Wood**: [mikejwood2@gmail.com](mailto:mikejwood2@gmail.com) if you wish to participate. Note that there is **NO** practice on Tuesday 26 March.

**St Boniface Parish Welcomes** the following babies to our community as they are baptised on the afternoon of 24<sup>th</sup> March: **Harika Letizia Navarro Tugas & Contessina Maria Gogan**. We pray for them and their families as they receive this sacrament.

**Our First Holy Communion Children** who have prepared over the past months will be making their **first confession on Saturday afternoon 23 March**. Please keep them and their families in your prayers as they receive this wonderful **Sacrament of Mercy**. They will be leading the **Children’s Stations of the Cross on Good Friday Morning at 10am** – **all are welcome to join them!**

**Link to St Boniface Clergymen’s Easter Giftings** 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.

**What is “Tenebrae”?** The word means ‘darkness’. On **Wednesday 27 March, at 8pm**, we will once again be celebrating the service of Tenebrae. This ancient service, which was reintroduced into our parish by Fr David Sillince, makes powerful use of the symbolism of light and darkness through a series of hymns, readings, psalms, and responses. The church is unlit, apart from the individual candles held by the congregation. 15 candles will also be burning on a triangular stand on the altar, and as the service advances, they are gradually extinguished one by one, as a clear visual representation of the growing dark as Christ’s Passion draws near. At the end, only the single light of Christ remains as a symbol of abiding hope. This is an intimate and powerful service, held only once a year. All are welcome.

**Maundy Thursday 28 March: Washing of Feet:** Fr Tom invites 12 members of the congregation to take part in this beautiful ceremony, which will take place during the 7:30pm Mass. As Jesus washed His disciples' feet, so in modern times priests still perform this traditional act as an example of humility and service to others. **Twelve volunteers are needed.** Please sign the sheet in the church porch.

**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, 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 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](http://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."

**Funeral Mass for Elizabeth Noeline Cristina White is on Friday 5 April at 11.30am at St Boniface Church.**

**Another Sad Loss: please pray for the soul of Margaret Quantrell. Her funeral details will be announced in due course.**

**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](mailto: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](mailto:fhc@st-boniface.org.uk). All payments to be made to the parish secretary.

**School Chaplain - St Annes's Catholic School is urgently seeking a new Chaplain.** For details go to <https://st-annes.uk.com/joining-us/as-a-member-of-staff>.

**Second Collections:** the collection on **Good Friday is for Holy Places of Palestine;** and the collection on **Easter Sunday is for our own priests at St Boniface** (offerings may also be made by using the CDP Oblates of the Virgin Mary account below), or via the **Give As You Live Link** shown on the previous page set up by the Diocese for your convenience. Please support our Priests 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](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)