



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

March 3, 2024 –THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Spiritual Sacrifice: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Third Sunday of Lent - Jesus does not come to destroy the temple, but to fulfil it (see [Matthew 5:17](#))—to reveal its true purpose in God’s saving plan. He is the Lord the prophets said would come—to purify the temple, banish the merchants, and make it a house of prayer for all peoples (see [Zechariah 14:21](#); [Malachi 3:1–5](#); [Isaiah 56:7](#)). The God who made the heavens and the earth, who brought Israel out of slavery, does not dwell in sanctuaries made by human hands (see [Acts 7:48](#); [2 Samuel 7:5](#)). Nor does He need offerings of oxen, sheep, or doves (see [Psalm 50:7–13](#)). Notice in today’s First Reading that God did not originally command animal sacrifices—only that Israel heed His commandments (see [Jeremiah 7:21–23](#); [Amos 5:25](#)). His law was a gift of divine wisdom, as we sing in today’s Psalm. It was a law of love (see [Matthew 22:36–40](#)), perfectly expressed in Christ’s self-offering on the Cross (see [John 15:13](#)). This is the “sign” Jesus offers in the Gospel today—the sign that caused Jewish leaders to stumble, as Paul tells us in the Epistle. Jesus’ body—destroyed on the Cross and raised up three days later—is the new and true sanctuary. From the temple of His body, rivers of living water flow, the Spirit of grace that makes each of us a temple (see [1 Corinthians 3:16](#)) and together builds us into a dwelling place of God (see [Ephesians 2:22](#)). In the Eucharist we participate in His offering of His body and blood. This is the worship in Spirit and in truth that the Father desires (see [John 4:23–24](#)). We are to offer praise as our sacrifice (see [Psalm 50:14, 23](#)). This means imitating Christ—offering our bodies—all our intentions and actions in every circumstance, for the love of God and the love of others (see [Hebrews 10:5–7](#); [Romans 12:1](#); [1 Peter 2:5](#)).

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 beginning **16 February 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**. (“Nothing brings peace to a soul like a confession that’s well prepared: clear, concise, contrite, and complete. If we haven’t been to confession in a while – and even if we have – we should make every effort to make the practice habitual”, Scott Hahn in *Signs of Life*). Bishop Philip Egan: “I often recommend to penitents that they avail themselves of the Sacrament of Penance every few weeks, say once a month or every two months. “Without being strictly necessary, confession of everyday faults (venial sins) is nevertheless strongly recommended by the Church. Indeed the regular confession of our venial sins helps us form our conscience, fight against evil tendencies, let ourselves be healed by Christ and progress in the life of the Spirit” (*Catechism* 1458). Regular confession helps fight the temptations we struggle with. One of the secrets of a good confession is a thorough examination of conscience. To see in a dark room, we need a light. So before setting off to meet the priest, we need to pause and ask the Holy Spirit to shine the light of Christ in our heart and mind, that we may know our sins and make a good confession. I was always taught to remember a list of things in my mind, but these days it’s often easier to make a simple note or list on a piece of paper, as this helps keep things focused without drifting away into unnecessary contexts and explanations etc.”

Our Sad Loss: it is with greatest sadness to announce that Alan Coppen, a faithful parishioner of St Boniface, has quietly passed on Friday 23 February having had bravely fought cancer. His absence will be sorely felt by many. News of his funeral details will be announced in due course.

St Boniface Lenten Soup Lunches 2024. Two soup lunches have been taken place so far with good turn out’s. There will then be a soup lunch every Friday until 22 March, at the same time. 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 Thank you.

The St Boniface Sunday 11am Choir are looking forward to preparing music for the Holy Triduum. There will be 5 practices respectively on: **Thursday 29 Feb (8–9pm); Thursday 7 March (8–9pm); 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.

RCIA Updates: Adrian, Lynda, Christopher, Matthew, Lewis, and Deborah (now known as the Elect) continue in their preparations to either join the Church or come into full communion in Confirmation this Easter through the RCIA programme. They have started a time of preparation, a time of coming closer to God by eliminating what is weak and sinful and affirming what is holy. For the next three Sunday's they will undertake rites to help them in their preparations, these are called Scrutinises. Prayers are offered asking God to strengthen the elect and protect them from all temptation and deceit. Please pray for them.

Meeters & Greeters Update: Meeting for all stewards and welcomers Sunday 17th March at 4pm in the Church hall. In preparation for Easter, it would be most helpful if all stewards and welcomers could attend this meeting. If you would like to volunteer as a welcomer/steward for Sunday Masses, you would be most welcome to attend this meeting to find out what is involved.

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!

St George Catholic College Alumni Reunion: 3-5pm Sunday 28 April 2024! Did you attend or work at St George Catholic College in the 1960s, 70s or 80s? To celebrate the school's recent outstanding Ofsted report, we are inviting past pupils and staff in the 60s, 70s or 80s to join us for a reunion afternoon tea and cakes and a tour of the school. Please spread the word and save the date! Email Jeanine Bonavia at jbonavia@stgcc.co.uk or call 023 8067 0104 to book a place by Friday, 26 April, so we know the numbers attending. All are welcome.

The Funeral of Philomena Moore is on Tuesday 5 March, at 11am at our Church!

Regular Group Update: the St Boniface Senior Citizens' Bingo Group meets every Wednesday afternoon in the St MC Room and are currently recruiting new members to join them. For more information, please contact the leader: Sue Mintram on 07920 7936 15

St Boniface Table Tennis Group meets twice a week every week throughout the year (apart from if there are parish activities and 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. Their next meeting is on **5 March 9:30am**.

The Parish Office will be closed Monday 4 – Friday 8 March, due to the parish secretary being on leave that week.

Family Day of Recollection: Saturday 23 March, 10am-3:30pm: Join the Dominican sisters in the New Forest for a family day! There will be teaching for all the family, games, craft, food, Mass, and a walk. This day is aimed at families with children up to the age of 8. For more information or to book a space, email catholicmotherssoton@gmail.com. Suggested donation of £20 per family.

Diocesan Liturgy News Update: "We are pleased to announce that we will be organising two training days in 2024 - one for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and one for Readers. These will be held at **St Bede's Church and Hall in Basingstoke** as follows: the **Day for EMHC – Saturday 4 May**; and the **Day for Readers – Saturday 19 October**. Both days will run **from 9:30am to 2:30pm** and will include some light refreshments. Please enrol now if you would like to by emailing: liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. We will send further reminders with precise details nearer each date. If you need any guidance or assistance with liturgy in your parish, please do reach out to us, and we would be happy to support you. Kind regards, Fr Anthony Fyk, Director of Liturgy, by contacting Mary Anne Normand, Administrator to the Vicariate for Vocation: manormand@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk".

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.

Next Second Collection is on 3 March and is for the **Diocesan Clergy Assistance Fund (Obligatory)**. Please support generously.

Diocesan Recruitments: please follow the link <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/about-us/other/jobs> for current vacancies throughout the Diocese. This is a permanent link which will be kept up dated with all current vacancies throughout the year.

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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