



ST. BONIFACE



Bringing Christ to the people and people to Christ

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May 12, 2024 – SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

The Good News: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Ascension of the Lord - In today's first reading, St. Luke gives the surprising news that there is more of the story to be told. The story did not end with the empty tomb, or with Jesus' appearances to the Apostles over the course of forty days. Jesus' saving work will have a liturgical consummation. He is the great high priest, and he has still to ascend to the heavenly Jerusalem, there to celebrate the feast in the true Holy of Holies. The truth of this feast shines forth from the Letter to the Hebrews, where we read of the great high priest's passing through the heavens, the sinless intercessor's sacrifice on our behalf (see [Hebrews 4:14-15](#)). Indeed, his intercession will lead to the Holy Spirit's descent in fire upon the Church. Luke spells out that promise in the first reading for the feast of the Ascension: "In a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit" ([Acts 1:5](#)). Ascension is the preliminary feast that directs the Church's attention forward to Pentecost. On that day, salvation will be complete; for salvation is not simply expiation for sins (that would be wonder enough), but it is something even greater than that. Expiation is itself a necessary precondition of our adoption as God's children. To live that divine life we must receive the Holy Spirit. To receive the Holy Spirit we must be purified through baptism. The Responsorial Psalm presents the Ascension in terms familiar from the worship of the Jerusalem Temple in the days of King Solomon: "God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord" (Psalm 47). The priest-king takes his place at the head of the people, ruling over the nations, establishing peace. The Epistle strikes a distinctively Paschal note. In the early Church, as today, Easter was the normal time for the baptism of adult converts. The sacrament was often called "illumination" or "enlightenment" (see, for example, [Hebrews 10:32](#)) because of the light that came with God's saving grace. Saint Paul, in his letter to the Ephesians, speaks in terms of glory that leads to greater glories still, as Ascension leads to Pentecost: "May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened," he writes, as he looks to the divinization of the believers. Their "hope" is "his inheritance among the holy ones," the saints who have been adopted into God's family and now rule with him at the Father's right hand. This is the "good news" the Apostles are commissioned to spread—to the whole world, to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem—at the first Ascension. It's the good news we must spread today.

May Month of Our Lady – thank you to all of you who attended the special Prayer for the Rosary on Saturday the 4th. Please note that we will also be praying the Rosary before the 10am weekday Masses during the month of May. All are welcome.

Novena in preparation for Pentecost – This past Thursday we celebrated the feast of the Lord's Ascension, when at the end of His earthly life and mission Jesus ascended into heaven (cf. Acts 1: 1-11). The Ascension, as St. John Paul II put it, "indicates the goal to which personal and universal history is hastening", namely, to the glory of heaven. We are bound for heaven, and the Ascension of Christ reminds us to fix our gaze on Him in glory, as we labour tirelessly for Him here on earth. On Ascension Thursday we also began the Great Novena or Nine Days of Prayer, with Mary, Peter and the Apostles in the Upper Room, for the Coming of the Holy Spirit and the beginning of the Church's mission to the world. *Adveniat regnum tuum* we pray in the Our Father: 'Thy Kingdom come.' During this Novena, Catholics are invited to join with Anglican and other Christians in the "Thy Kingdom Come" initiative. Just as in January we have the Week of Prayer for the Unity of Christians, so in this week, we join ecumenically with our brother and sister Christians in the other communities to pray for the mission of the Church and the spread of the Gospel in our land. During this novena, why not pray each day the great Prayer to the Holy Spirit for this intention:

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and enkindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created, and You shall renew the face of the earth. Let us pray. O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the gifts of the same Spirit they may be truly wise and ever rejoice in His consolations. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

To Celebrate Pentecost - there will be tea and cake served after 11am Mass on 19 May in our hall - please come and join us! If you would like to organise additional cakes for Pentecost after a different Mass, please contact Helen by emailing social@st-boniface.org.uk.

Celebration of The Feast of St Boniface: Sunday June 9, 2024 - Everyone is invited to join in the hall for a **Bring and Share** to celebrate this important feast day. Please come along and bring with you a dish from your cultural heritage or simply a favourite that you would like to share. If you have a national dress, please feel free to wear this too. **Where: St Boniface Church Hall. When: Sunday 9th June 12.30 to 3pm. Who: All Parishioners!**

Caritas Portsmouth is hosting an online Dementia Friends Information Session on Tuesday 21 May at 7pm for anyone interested in supporting people with Dementia in their parishes, community, or family. Everyone welcome. Please register at <https://tinyurl.com/4ysur27w>.

Our parish sadly mourns the death of Ron Smith. As a long-standing parishioner he was active in the SVP, Catenians, a money counter, an Extraordinary Eucharistic minister and keen member of the parish walking group. He supported his wife, Katie in her parish activities- flower arranging and as a member of the UCM and later caring for her until her death. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2024 - The dates for the annual Pilgrimage to Lourdes have been **confirmed as 22 – 26 July 2024**. If wishing to take part, a Booking form and digital poster for newsletters can be found at: [2024 Booking Form - Diocese of Portsmouth v2.pdf](#); [2024 UK Lourdes Poster - Diocese of Portsmouth v2.pdf](#)

Special Notice! We would like to renew the sick list on a quarterly basis: on the Mass Intention sheet we always include a list of persons struggling with illness, who need our prayers. To ensure that this list is always kept up to date, we will renew it every three months. If you would like to add your name to the list, or if you would like your name added back onto the list, then simply get in touch with the parish office. You can also submit a request through our website.

Special Event for all Readers! On Sat 18 May, 1.30 pm to 3.45 pm in our Church Hall: there will be a Readers' Refresher session for all current Readers, led by Tina Quinn and Claire Tickell. We will be welcoming the Readers from City Centre parish for this joint event. The afternoon will start with tea and coffee. Anyone who is not currently a Reader in the parish but would be interested to find out more about what is involved, is also welcome to attend.

Read, Pray, Share, Action - Acts of the Apostles - Following on from our Lenten programme of the introduction to the story of our Salvation in the first 11 chapters of the book of Genesis, we will prepare for Pentecost by exploring the book of the Acts of the Apostles through reading, praying, and discussing this inspiring book about the infancy of the Church, AD 33 to the present. The Holy Spirit descends on the followers of Jesus, filling them with wisdom and strength. The apostles and disciples boldly proclaim the Gospel to all who will listen, and Christianity spreads to the gentiles and to many nations. Under the leadership of Peter, the Church begins its mission, which continues to this day.' Final session: **Friday 17 May from 6:30 to 7:30 pm**.

Youth Conference! Youth Conference!! Youth Conference!! The Parish Youth Formation program titled 'Explore' starts with a youth conference on **Saturday, June 15, 2024, from 11 am in our Church Hall**. For anyone who is aged between 12-18, please come and explore your Catholic faith and get answers to many questions on the Christian living and the Catholic faith. It is going to be an exciting experience. Attendance is free. You can sign up today on the parish website: www.st-boniface.org.uk. Or contact any of these people for further inquiries: Augustine 07883014954, Petronella 07730622425, or Hannah 07565972106. Looking forward to seeing you!

Special St Boniface Event! Pilgrimage to The Friars, Aylesford (Kent), and Canterbury on Saturday 6 July 2024: we will celebrate the Holy Mass at Aylesford. After visiting the shrine and lunch we will travel to Canterbury where those who wish can visit the Cathedral (the entrance fee is not included in the pilgrimage fee). **Cost is £33 per person payable in full by the end of May**. Please contact Diana Agacy to register, or via email to: fhc@st-boniface.org.uk. All payments to be made to the parish secretary.

Latin Summer Festival 2024 - Come join us on **Saturday 1 June 1 to 5pm, at the Polish Club, 507 Portswood Road, Southampton**, for a day filled with vibrant music and dance, and delicious Latin American food and drink. We will have a free salsa lesson and Argentine tango demonstration. Hosted by St Edmund's & St Joseph's Catholic Parish, LASO.org.uk and Fiesta 95 FM. Tickets: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/latin-summer-festival-2024-tickets-854477654667? More details can be found on our own parish website: www.st-boniface.org.uk.

Springhill Catholic Primary School Summer Fete & Festival is on Saturday June 15, from 12-3pm! Extra volunteers are being called to join them if you feel you can help. There are lots of different ways to help e.g. you can pay to run a stall selling your own wares by emailing springhillpa@gmail.com for your pitch; or by contributing to the tombola or grand raffle by leaving a donation of alcohol, in-date sweets, jars, toiletries, or new gifts in the box labelled "Springhill Donations" at the back of the church. Thanking you in advance.

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