



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

September 17, 2023 –TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The Debt We Owe: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Mercy and forgiveness should be at the heart of the Christian life. Yet, as today's First Reading wisely reminds us, often we cherish our wrath, nourish our anger, and refuse mercy to those who have done us wrong. Jesus, too, strikes close to home in today's Gospel with His realistic portrayal of the wicked servant who won't forgive a fellow servant's debt, even though his own slate has just been wiped clean by their master. It can't be this way in the kingdom, the Church. In the Old Testament, seven is frequently a number associated with mercy and the forgiveness of sins. The just man sins seven times daily; there is a sevenfold sprinkling of blood for atonement of sins (see [Proverbs 24:6](#); [Leviticus 16](#)). But Jesus tells Peter today that we must forgive not seven times, but seventy times seven times. That means: every time. We are to be merciful as our Father in heaven is merciful (see [Luke 6:36](#); [Matthew 5:48](#)). But why? Why does Jesus repeatedly warn that we can't expect forgiveness for our trespasses unless we're willing to forgive others their trespasses against us? Because, as Paul reminds us in today's Epistle, we are the Lord's. Each of us has been purchased by the blood of Christ shed for us on the Cross (see [Revelation 5:9](#)). As we sing in today's Psalm, though we deserved to die for our sins, He doesn't deal with us according to our crimes. The mercy and forgiveness we show to others should be the heartfelt expression of our gratitude for the mercy and forgiveness shown to us. This is why we should remember our last days, set our enmities aside, and stop judging others. We know that one day we will stand before the judgment seat and give account for what we've done with the new life given to us by Christ (see [Romans 14:10, 12](#)). So we forgive each other from the heart, overlook each other's faults, and await the crown of His kindness and compassion.

Becoming Intentional Disciples – Sherry Weddell, a key Catholic writer today, says that a core issue facing the Church in our time is how to foster a culture in which all Catholics consciously see themselves as disciples of Jesus living according to His will and as apostles sent into the world to proclaim Him to others. She speaks of five stages of spiritual growth that typify the experience of conversion. Conversion is not simply for “converts” – i.e. non-Catholics joining the Catholic Church. Not just Scott Hahn, G.K. Chesterton or Saul of Tarsus experienced conversion. “Cradle Catholics” like Ignatius of Loyola, Francis of Assisi, Blaise Pascal and Teresa of Avila also had profound conversion experiences that transformed them. We, too, are called to a deeper, ongoing conversion. In a sense, conversion never ends, because there will always be hidden areas of our minds and hearts where we have not fully surrendered to the Lord, where we are not loving Him above all else, or where we are not truly loving and forgiving others as Jesus did. In the next few newsletters we will look at what Sherry Weddell calls the thresholds of conversion. These thresholds are focused upon one's lived relationship with God rather than one's baptismal status or knowledge of the Faith. The first threshold is **Initial Trust**. Here a person has a positive association with Jesus, the Church, a Christian believer, or something identifiably Christian. Trust is not the same as active personal faith. I can believe in Jesus, but still remain distant. Trust makes me get closer to Him, closer to the Church, closer to my fellow parishioners. The first task of forming intentional disciples is to create bridges of trust between each person and Jesus and between fellow believers. Lives lived in joy, generosity and integrity – not for show, but for the glory of Christ – can and will break down walls of distrust and give off a sweet aroma of beauty that people follow. In this coming week, let's examine the quality of our trust.

“In Leon Bloy's novel *The Woman Who Was Poor*, the heroine famously declares, ‘There is only one sadness, it is to not be a saint.’ The tragedy of not being a saint is both global and personal, temporal and eternal. A saint's life sends out ripples of grace that bless many within the Church and outside of it. When the fruit of a saint's life is missing, all of us are impoverished, because the impact of the presence or absence of the power of the Holy Spirit doesn't stop at the borders of an individual's earthly life” (Sherry Weddell, *Forming Intentional Disciples*)

Inter-religious Dialogue Conference: “Dear Fathers, I am part of Bishop Philip's newly established Inter-religious Dialogue Team (led by Canon Vincent Harvey), and we are holding our first conference on November 4 at St Bede's Church, Basingstoke. We have a few speakers lined up who are known internationally. I would be most grateful if you would be so kind as to display the attached poster about our conference on your noticeboard. I would also be

appreciative if you could flag up the conference in your newsletter should you have any space available. Both clergy and lay people are warmly invited to attend. To register for this event, go to <https://shorturl.at/mvFOY> Thanking you in advance, Dr Yvette Harrington”.

List of November Names 2023! The parish office is now open to accept submission for names of the deceased. Please email names directly to the office: office@st-boniface.org.uk. Or give names to any Priests to pass on to the office if you attend weekend Masses. Or hand in the names to the office if you only attend weekday Masses. If the submissions are handwritten ones, please make sure that the names are written in CAPITAL LETTERS for maximum clarity.

New Toddler Group!! A new Baby & Toddler group is starting! Meetings will be in St Boniface Parish Hall 9:30am – 11am on alternate Tuesdays of school term time only; and so for this quarter of the year, we are meeting on Sep 26; Oct 10 & 31; Nov 14 & 28; and Dec 12. The fee is only £1 per family. For more information please contact: catholicmotherssoton@gmail.com

Parishioners are invited to join Fr Mark Hogan and the Dominican Sisters on 30 September for a free day of thanksgiving, prayer, fellowship, and formation in Winchester. To register: [Diocesan Day for Catechists Registration, Sat 30 Sep 2023 at 10:00 | Eventbrite](#)

The Diocese, in Partnership with the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales is hosting an online seminar on Tuesday 21 November, at 6 pm, led by Evangelist Sherry Weddell, for Catholics wishing to bring people closer to Christ. Tickets are £10 per person from [Engaging the Disengaged \(How to Accompany Non-religious persons\) Tickets, Tue 21 Nov 2023 at 18:00 | Eventbrite](#)

St Boniface Parishioner Database Needs Updating!!!

“Hello, if you’re new, or newish to us, it will be most helpful if you can pick up a parishioner registration form from the church porch, fill it in and hand it to any Priests, or hand it to the Parish Office; or you can do so via our website: www.st-boniface.org.uk. It is very important that you’re formally & accurately accounted for. It also means that you will get a lower hire rate when you book our venues for your functions. Thank you, Margareta”.

Please leave some room in your diary for a special **Citywide ecumenical prayer event** taking place at St Boniface on **Sunday, 1 October, at 7.30pm**. Fellow Christians from various denominations throughout the city will be joining us to pray and focus on God’s presence among us and to celebrate what unites us in our Christian faith. There will be prayers, songs of worship and a moment of witness.

Catholic Home Care is looking to recruit new carers to join a friendly and supportive team undertaking general domestic support, helping older people in their own homes. If you like elderly people and have time to spare during the week, this is the job for you, with a good rate of pay. Car driver is an advantage (but not essential) and full training given. Success at interview will lead to an enhanced DBS check before appointment. Permanent and holiday cover carers required. Full details from Xanthe Hackett or Marina Joyce 023 8017 0498 **Closing date for application – Monday 9 October 2023. Interviews on 17th October 2023**

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.

The next Second Collections are for Home Mission to be collected on Sunday 17 September; and for St Boniface Building & Maintenance on 24 September. Please give generously. Thank you.

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: Margareta Livingstone
office@st-boniface.org.uk Tel: 023 8077 3640

Safeguarding Officers: Sarah Studzinski/
Angela Braga

safeguarding@st-boniface.org.uk

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