



# ST. BONIFACE



**Bringing Christ to the people and people to Christ**

Parish Priest  
**Fr. Tom Kleinschmidt, OMV**

Assistant Priest  
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## September 3, 2023 –TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**For Your Life: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time:** Today's First Reading catches the prophet Jeremiah in a moment of weakness. His intimate lamentation contains some of the strongest language of doubt found in the Bible. Following God's call, he feels abandoned. Preaching His Word has brought him only derision and reproach. But God does not deceive—and Jeremiah knows this. God tests the just (see [Jeremiah 20:11–12](#)) and disciplines His children through their sufferings and trials (see [Hebrews 12:5–7](#)). What Jeremiah learns is what Jesus states explicitly in today's Gospel. To follow Him is to take up a cross, to deny yourself—your priorities, preferences, and comforts. It is to be willing to give it all up, even life itself, for the sake of His Gospel. As Paul says in today's Epistle, we have to join ourselves to the Passion of Christ, to offer our bodies—our whole beings—as living sacrifices to God. By His Cross, Jesus has shown us what Israel's sacrifices of animals were meant to teach: we owe to God all that we have. God's kindness is a greater good than life itself, as we sing in today's Psalm. The only thanks we can offer is our spiritual worship, giving our lives to the service of His will (see [Hebrews 10:3–11](#); [Psalm 50:14, 23](#)). Peter doesn't yet get this in today's Gospel. As it was for Jeremiah, the cross is a stumbling block for Peter (see [1 Corinthians 1:23](#)). This is our natural temptation, as well: to refuse to believe that our sufferings play a necessary part in God's plan. That's how people think, Jesus tells us today. But we are called to the renewal of our minds—to think as God thinks, to will what He wills. In the Mass, we once again offer ourselves as perfect and pleasing sacrifices of praise (see [Hebrews 13:15](#)). We bless Him as we live, confident that we will find our lives in losing them, that with the riches of His banquet our souls will be satisfied.

### **You still have time to sign up for the Called & Gifted programme!**

This has been the main focus of the newsletter in the last several weeks. 28 parishioners have already signed up (about 4.1% of the parish). If you are interested but still a bit hesitant, please let the Holy Spirit give you that last little push. I know that all the participants will benefit greatly from this. It would be a shame to miss out on this wonderful opportunity. Pope Francis keeps challenging all the members of the Church to deepen their faith commitment and find concrete ways to serve God and others. This challenge comes directly from Jesus himself, who compared the Kingdom of God to a treasure buried in a field and to a pearl of great price. Those who discover this treasure, and this precious pearl are willing to set other things aside to take full possession of this treasure. Sometimes all that Jesus is asking of us is to spend a little less time in front of the TV, the computer, and our mobile devices, so as to make time for deeper prayer and discernment. This is not always easy, as these devices keep calling out to us: You need me! Spend your time with me. You cannot survive a moment without me! But someone else is calling us at the same time – the Lord. His voice is often a quiet whisper deep in the depths of our heart, saying: "Come to Me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest." Spending time with Jesus always brings about deep inner peace, something that our mobile devices simply cannot give us. If you are looking for this deeper peace and joy, consider signing up for the Called & Gifted programme. If you cannot participate, please pray for those participating in it, that they may discover in greater depth the beauty and uniqueness of their individual gifts and talents. Thank you!

**Please sign up by contacting Jane Stephenson (07941 755323) or Augustine Odukoya (07883 014954) or send an email to: [calledandgifted@st-boniface.org.uk](mailto:calledandgifted@st-boniface.org.uk).** Please give your full name and contact details. Here are the bank details for payment of the programme fee: **CDP Southampton St Boniface; Sort code: 30-93-04; A/c number: 00888002.**

Since I am fully aware that many parishioners may still be struggling financially due to the current recession, I am more than willing to help any parishioners to help cover the £40 fee. I would not want the fee to keep anyone from attending the programme. If you do feel that you need help, please contact me directly at [tkleinschmidt@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:tkleinschmidt@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) We can discuss this very confidentially. Let's pray that this programme may be a source of immense blessing for the parish! Fr Tom

**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 21st 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](#)

**Due to Deterioration in the Leadwork of the St John's Cathedral West Window**, specialist contractors have removed the glass for restoration costing more than £100,000. Local parishioners and the wider Diocese are encouraged to help fundraise and donate to help with the costs. People may text WINDOW to 70560 to donate £10 to the appeal.

**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 to the Parish Office; or you can do so via our website: [www.st-boniface.org.uk](http://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. Thanks!"

**Details for the Parish Picnic 2023 Are In!** Date: Sunday 17 September; Time: 1pm, for 1.30pm; Where: Whitefield Moor, Rhinefield Road, Brockenhurst, New Forest. Directions are posted on the website. Sat-nav postcode is SO42 7QD. On site car park and toilets. You are ALL warmly invited to join with fellow parishioners at a Parish Picnic in the New Forest. If you need a lift, contact [social@st-boniface.org.uk](mailto:social@st-boniface.org.uk) If there is sustained rain, then it would have to be cancelled – so please keep an eye on the Parish website: <https://www.st-boniface.org.uk>

**Shoebox Appeal 2023!** "Hi All, we are again sending shoeboxes of presents to children in Ukraine and other countries this September. Please support us by collecting suitable items during the summer for the boxes, which will be given out **16 and 17 September!** Nearer the date, there will be photos and website coverage of last year's appeal to support our appeal. Each box is such a precious gift sharing God's love with a special child. Thank you, Carole & Tom Olding."

**Due to the special Novena in the first week of September, we will resume the Healing Mass on every First Friday at 3pm from October onwards.** As we continue to implore Mary's intercession, we recall these inspiring words of St Bernard of Clairvaux: "All of you, who see yourselves amid the tides of the world, tossed by storms and tempests rather than walking on the land, do not turn your eyes away from this shining star, unless you want to be overwhelmed by the hurricane. If temptation storms, or you fall upon the rocks of tribulation, look to the star: call upon Mary! If you are tossed by the waves of pride or ambition, detraction, or envy, look to the star, call upon Mary. If anger or avarice or the desires of the flesh dash against the ship of your soul, turn your eyes to Mary. If troubled by the enormity of your crimes, ashamed of your guilty conscience, terrified by dread of the judgement, you begin to sink into the gulf of sadness or the abyss of despair, think of Mary. In dangers, in anguish, in doubt, think of Mary, call upon Mary. Let her name be ever on your lips, ever in your heart; and the better to obtain the help of her prayers, imitate the example of her life. Following her, you do not stray; invoking her, you do not despair; thinking of her, you do not wander; upheld by her, you do not fall; shielded by her, you do not fear; guided by her, you do not grow weary; favoured by her, you reach the goal. And thus you experience in yourself how good is that saying: "And the Virgin's name was Mary".

**The next Second Collection is for Home Mission to be collected on Sunday 17 September.**

**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.

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Presbytery: St. Boniface House, 413 Shirley Road,  
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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

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