



ST. BONIFACE



Bringing Christ to the people and people to Christ

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October 29, 2023 –THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Love Commanded: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Jesus came not to abolish the Old Testament law but to fulfil it (see [Matthew 5:17](#)). And in today's Gospel, He reveals that love—of God and of neighbour—is the fulfilment of the whole of the law (see [Romans 13:8-10](#)). Devout Israelites were to keep all 613 commands found in the Bible's first five books. Jesus says today that all these, and all the teachings of the prophets, can be summarized by two verses of this law (see [Deuteronomy 6:5](#); [Leviticus 19:18](#)). He seems to summarize the two stone tablets on which God was said to have engraved the Ten Commandments (see [Exodus 32:15-16](#)). The first tablet set out three laws concerning the love of God, such as the command not to take His name in vain; the second contained seven commands regarding love of neighbour, such as those against stealing and adultery. Love is the hinge that binds the two tablets of the law. For we can't love God, whom we can't see, if we don't love our neighbour, whom we can (see [1 John 4:20-22](#)). But this love we are called to is far more than simple affection or warm sentiment. We must give ourselves totally to God—loving with our whole beings, with all our heart, soul, and mind. Our love for our neighbour must express itself in concrete actions, such as those set out in today's First Reading. We love because He first loved us (see [1 John 4:19](#)). As we sing in today's Psalm, He has been our deliverer, our strength when we could not possibly defend ourselves against the enemies of sin and death. We love in thanksgiving for our salvation. In this we become imitators of Jesus, as Paul tells us in today's Epistle—laying down our lives daily in ways large and small, seen and unseen, our lives offered as a continual sacrifice of praise (see [John 15:12-13](#); [Hebrews 13:15](#)).

Becoming Intentional Disciples – Sherry Weddell reminds us that the purpose of evangelization is not waking up a generic “faith”. We are called to bring people to an encounter with the Person of Jesus of Nazareth, born of the Virgin Mary, crucified under Pontius Pilate and risen from the dead. Our own personal witness can help illuminate and make living, compelling and believable aspects of Jesus' story, but it cannot take the place of Jesus' story. St Paul writes: “How are they to believe in Him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone who proclaims that Jesus suffered and died for us on the cross and then rose again on the third day to save us?” We can no longer presume that people around us know the story of Jesus. And if they know something, a good deal of what they “know” may be wrong. They might not know how the parts of the story fit together to make a whole and what the story means for them personally. Many don't have an understanding of what salvation really is and how that gift is received. Jesus began his earthly ministry in his first century Jewish context by proclaiming the Kingdom of God. What first-century Jews found compelling can also be surprisingly intriguing in the 21st century. God is love and He created us for a life with Him full of love, peace, truth, beauty, goodness and meaning that begins now, lasts forever and cannot be taken away. It is this life that Jesus preached and called the Kingdom of God. Jesus Himself is the presence of the Kingdom. We can help people encounter the actions and teachings of the Kingdom in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus reveals the love of the Father and the nature of God's Kingdom through His every word and action. Jesus' ministry resulted not in “success” as the world understands it but rather in the mystery of His rejection, betrayal, crucifixion, and death. Yet it is for us that Jesus embraces the cross in obedience to the Father, as the means of our salvation and access to God's life. But the cross is not the end. Jesus rose from the dead! And He has opened the way to our own resurrection and to a new life. Jesus is now asking us to follow Him. Discipleship is not something that just “happens” but is a real decision and turning point requiring all the resources of heart, mind, and strength we can muster. Discipleship is expressed by repentance of personal sin and baptism into Jesus' life, death, resurrection, and body on earth – the Church – or by the renewal of baptismal grace through confession and return to the regular practice of the Faith. One newly baptized woman once said: “I wish that lifelong Christians, especially lifelong Catholics, could understand just for a minute what it is like to be lost. Maybe they would be least afraid to evangelize. It may be hard to explain...9Before I started this process, I thought of myself as a happy person, reasonably confident, proud of my life and how I lived it. It's not like I saw myself as stumbling around in a pit. I But from where I stand now, wow”. Being without God is a terrible kind of being alone. Let's muster the courage to begin speaking of Jesus more!

From the Diocese: Bamenda Sunday 2023: On Bamenda Sunday (4/5 Nov), we celebrate and give thanks for our Diocesan link with the Archdiocese of Bamenda, Cameroon. Please pray for peace in Bamenda and for their five priests serving us here in the Portsmouth Diocese. Our second collection is the main source of annual income for the projects the Bamenda Fund will be able support in 2024, the 50th anniversary of the formation of the link! Please read the attached Bamenda News for an update. Please be as generous as you can to support our sisters and brothers in Bamenda in these very challenging times. ANY contribution of ANY size is most welcome, as together we can make a big difference! Donations can also be made securely online: <https://www.bamendaandportsmouth.com/donate.php> where gift aid and standing order forms can also be downloaded and bank details can be found for direct transfers. If you already have gift aided your donations to Bamenda, please complete and submit a new form to address the change of name to CDP Bamenda Commission. Thank you for your generosity!

St Boniface Wedding: Anton Wood and his fiancé Maddy will be married here at St Boniface on Saturday, November 4, at 12 noon. They would love to share this special occasion with their parish friends – all are welcome!

St Boniface Baptisms: we warmly welcome the following children into God's embrace: Ellias Cabreza's on the 28th, and Grace Paterson on the 29th of this month. Please pray for them and their families.

Shoobox Appeal – Wonderful Result! Congratulations to everyone for supporting our appeal this year and giving an amazing 240 boxes of presents for the children of Ukraine! Sponsored boxes were all made up and all our boxes and large number of knitted hats and other items will join Rotary Club's despatch in the next few weeks. To everyone who helped us in any way- thank you **so much** for your kindness and care! Tom and Carole

Soup Lunch Friday, 3rd November from Midday in the Church Hall. Great opportunity to meet up with fellow parishioners.

There will be no Adoration after the 10am Mass on Saturday 4 November 2023 as there is a wedding at 12 noon.

List of November Names 2023! Please email names of your deceased loved ones to the parish office: office@st-boniface.org.uk. Or to any Priests to pass on to the office if you attend weekend Masses. If the submissions are handwritten ones, please ensure they are in CAPITAL LETTERS for maximum clarity. **The deadline to submit these names is 31 October.**

St Boniface Calling Ministry - For the past three years, a group of volunteers, along with our priests, have felt that some of our housebound parishioners could be feeling isolated, anxious, and lonely. Keen to support these vulnerable parishioners we began to contact them to see if they would like someone to call them on a regular basis. And so the "Calling Ministry" was formed. A team of callers will ring, or visit, once every one or two weeks to keep in touch with, chat or pray with the parishioner so that they feel that they have not been forgotten by the parish community. Some request a visit from one of our priests or to receive the newsletter which we then arrange for them. If you would like to join us and be part of this worthwhile ministry, or know of anyone who would like to be called, please contact **Irena Sachrajda** by email: callingministry@st-boniface.org.uk or via the parish office.

St Boniface Parish Toddler Group is meeting in St Boniface Parish Hall 9:30am -11am on alternate Tuesdays of school term times only. The next meeting is on Tuesday 31 October. For more details contact catholicmotherssoton@gmail.com Everyone is welcome!

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 the Parish Office, or to any Priest; 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 can enjoy a lower hire rate when you book our venues for your functions. Thank you".

We Welcome Enquiries for Baptism here at St Boniface Church: just complete the form on the Parish website www.st-boniface.org.uk. Please note that we're no longer using paper application forms. If this is a problem, visit the Parish Office.

St Boniface Knit & Natter welcomes all abilities to join every Monday morning 10am – 12 noon at the St MC Room (school term times only). Fee: a token charge of £1 per person with refreshments included.

News from the Parish Office: the Parish Secretary will be away for three weeks i.e. 9 – 29 November coming back on Thursday 30 November. In the meantime if you have an urgent matter, please contact the Priests.

I Mark: to be performed in St Edmund's at 7pm on Friday, 24th November (£5 per person: any 'profit' will go towards the Organ Fund). Listening to a gospel in its entirety in one sitting enables us to grasp the whole picture and message. The Eventbrite link to book is: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/i-am-mark-tickets711430175807?aff=oddtcreator>

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 Second Collection for this Sunday 29 October is for St Boniface Building & Maintenance. The Bamenda collection is on Sunday 5 November. Please give generously.

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 Officers: Sarah Studzinski/Angela Braga
safeguarding@st-boniface.org.uk
Parish Pastoral Council: ppc@st-boniface.org.uk