



ST. BONIFACE



Bringing Christ to the people and people to Christ

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May 5, 2024 – SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Begotten By Love: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Sixth Sunday of Easter – God is love, and He revealed that love in sending His only Son to be a sacrificial offering for our sins. In these words from today's Epistle, we should hear an echo of the story of Abraham's offering of Isaac at the dawn of salvation history. Because Abraham obeyed God's command and did not withhold his only beloved son, God promised that Abraham's descendants, the children of Israel, would be the source of blessing for all nations (see [Genesis 22:16–18](#)). We see that promise coming to fulfilment in today's First Reading. God pours out His Spirit upon the Gentiles, the non-Israelites, as they listen to the word of Peter's preaching. Notice they receive the same gifts received by the devout Jews who heard Peter's preaching at Pentecost—the Spirit comes to rest upon them and they speak in tongues, glorifying God (see [Acts 2:5–11](#)). In His love today, God reveals that His salvation embraces the house of Israel and peoples of all nations. Not by circumcision or blood relation to Abraham but by faith in the Word of Christ, sealed in the Sacrament of Baptism, people are to be made children of Abraham, heirs to God's covenants of promise (see [Galatians 3:7–9](#); [Ephesians 2:12](#)). This is the wondrous work of God that we sing of in today's Psalm. It is the work of the Church, the good fruit that Jesus chooses and appoints His Apostles for in today's Gospel. As Peter raises up Cornelius today, the Church continues to lift all eyes to Christ, the only one in whose name they can find salvation. In the Church, each of us has been begotten by the love of God. But the Scriptures today reveal that this divine gift brings with it a command and a duty. We are to love one another as we have been loved. We are to lay down our lives in giving ourselves to others—that they too might find friendship with Christ and new life through Him.

May Month of Our Lady – everyone is warmly welcome to join in and pray the rosary **on all Sundays of May at 5 pm**. For more information, please approach any of the church volunteers or email office@st-boniface.org.uk. **Please note that we will also be praying the Rosary before the 10am weekday Masses during the month of May.**

St Teresa of Calcutta on devotion to Mary – “Even Almighty God cannot fill what is already full. We must be empty if we want God to fill us with fullness. Our Lady had to be empty before she could be full of grace. She had to declare that she was the handmaid of the Lord before God could fill her. So also, we must be empty of all pride, all jealousy, of all selfishness before God can fill us with His love.” In the Mother of God, Mother Teresa clearly saw that fully compassionate woman who kept loving Her Son so much that she humbly and generously received His testamentary will of being our Mother as He was dying on the Cross. And Mary does fulfil Her Son's wish not from a legal standpoint, but from her tender motherly heart she has for you and for me. Mary loves us so much that, by her loving closeness, she wants to transfer on us the immense richness of grace she receives continually from the Father, through Her Son in the Holy Spirit. Feeling herself as being Mary's loving daughter through Jesus' will, Mother Teresa always looked to Our Lady for guidance, strength, and hope. (Minn Fr Mario Attard OFM Cap)

Why was the Rosary Pope St John Paul II's favourite prayer? Popes don't always reveal their personal preferences in public, but St. John Paul II wasn't afraid to reveal his favourite types of prayer. In the second [Angelus message of his pontificate in 1978](#), St. John Paul II said plainly, “**The Rosary is my favourite prayer.** A marvellous prayer! Marvellous in its simplicity and in its depth.” St. John Paul II affirmed this statement in his Apostolic Letter, [Rosarium Virginis Mariae](#) in 2002, pointing out how he revealed this aspect of his spiritual life so early on in his pontificate and how it continued to comfort him in good times and bad. “**The Rosary has accompanied me in moments of joy and in moments of difficulty.** To it I have entrusted any number of concerns; in it I have always found comfort. Twenty-four years ago, on October 29, 1978, scarcely two weeks after my election to the See of Peter, I frankly admitted: “The Rosary is my favourite prayer.” In a certain sense, if you want to know all the reasons why St. John Paul II loved the Rosary, all you need to do is read [Rosarium Virginis Mariae](#). It contains an in-depth study of the Rosary and the many reasons why the Polish pontiff loved it. St. John Paul II does list one of the primary reasons why he loves it, explaining how the Rosary is a **path of contemplation**. “**The most important reason** for strongly encouraging the practice of the Rosary is that it represents a **most effective means of fostering among the faithful that commitment to the contemplation of the Christian mystery**, which I have proposed in the Apostolic Letter [Novo Millennio Ineunte](#) as a genuine “training in holiness”: “What is needed is a Christian life distinguished above all in the *art of prayer*” ... The Rosary belongs among the finest and most praiseworthy traditions of **Christian contemplation**. For St. John Paul II, not only did the Rosary provide a way to contemplate of the mysteries of the Gospel; it also looked to Mary, whom he believed was a “model of contemplation.” St. John Paul II did all that he could to promote the Rosary during his pontificate, sharing with the world its impact on his life, hoping that it could help us in our own spiritual journey. (Philip Kosloski)

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.

Diocesan Vocations Prayer Newsletter May 2024: the “Come Away With Me” Retreat – are calling for young adults (18–35ish) to a **Summer Retreat Day** with the theme: “**God’s Call to Missionary Discipleship and Living Our Vocation**” scheduled to take place on **Saturday June 8, 2024, at 10:30am, at St Philip Howard Church/Hall, Fareham PO14 1ND**. There is no fee to attend the day but upon registration, details will be forwarded to the interested applicants. For catering reason, booking is required. For more information please email: vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

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.

Note: there will be no Children's Liturgy this Sunday 5 May.

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.’ Starting on **Friday 12 April till 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: the parish of St Boniface is organising a pilgrimage to Aylesford priory to ask for God’s blessing and in honour of Our Lady. As you may know, there is also a relic of St Simon Stock, who had an apparition from Our Lady while in Cambridge, promising that whoever died wearing the brown Carmelite scapular would be saved. We will celebrate Holy Mass at Aylesford. After visiting the shrine and lunch we will travel to Canterbury where those who wish can visit the Cathedral (Entrance fee is not included in the pilgrimage fee). **Cost £33/ person. Deposit £20.00 by the 15th of May. Final payment by the 31st of May.** Please contact Diana Agacy to register or for any other inquiries via email to: fhc@st-boniface.org.uk. All payments to be made to the parish secretary.

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 fares 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.

Second Collection for this weekend (4–5 May) is for Catholic Communications Network. Please support us where you can!

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

Safeguarding Officer: Angela Braga

safeguarding@st-boniface.org.uk

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

Newsletter deadline 9.00pm on Wednesday for inclusion on following Sunday, space permitting. This Parish is within the Southampton Pastoral Area. Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Registered Charity: 119956