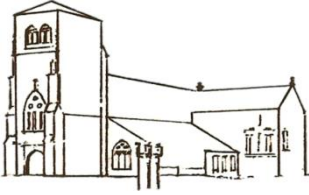


# Newsletter for the parish of St. Anne & St. Bernard.



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## Second Sunday of the Year

14.01.18

Revolution in kindness (as encouraged by Jean Vanier). Thought for this week -  
" God's dream is that you and I and all of us will realize that we are family, that we are made for togetherness, for goodness, and for compassion". Desmond Tutu

**Today's Scripture readings "Here am I Lord, since you called me"**. Words which have echoed down the millennia, first uttered by Samuel and repeated by countless others. This response to God's call encourages us in today's first reading and prepares us for the call of Andrew and Peter in the Gospel. That call is equally real to you and me- and our response must be the same.

The call of Samuel pre-figures the call of Jesus. He hears God's call as Jesus did at his Baptism and responds - *I am here to do your will*. That characterised the whole life of Jesus. Every day he did the Father's will. That is what we, the disciples, must do, every day, seek to do God's will.



*We have found the Messiah*

Andrew had been challenged by Jesus "*what do you want*"? That is the challenge facing us all. What do I want?

What is my life about? Then – am I listening? God is telling me but am I prepared to listen?

Andrew's reply was *Where do you live*? "*Live*" in John's Gospel, means far more than lodging. It is the same word used to describe how Jesus "*lives*" in the Father and Father "*lives*" in him. The following invitation means so much - "*come and see*", and after spending the day with Jesus Andrew sought out Peter and said "*We have found the Messiah*". That means that Andrew has experienced the "life" that Jesus gives and cannot keep it to himself. He has experienced conversion.

John telescopes into a single scene a whole process of God's revelation and the disciple's response. It is much more than an historical meeting. In it John sums up his whole Gospel message. One clear point from today's Gospel is that when we spend time with Jesus, listening to him, as we do both in reading Scripture and at prayer, he makes himself known to us. That is what being a disciple is, experiencing God's love and responding by the transformation of our lives.

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** which we celebrate every weekend -  
on Saturday, 4.15-5.15 p.m., and on Sunday, 9.15-10.15 a.m.  
There will be an opportunity for confession during these times.

**Mass** this week is as follows -

Saturday	5.30 p.m.	Tony Heslop
Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Vocations
Tuesday	11.30 a.m.	Requiem Mass for Linda Edwards
Wednesday	12.00 noon	Lisa McDermot
Thursday	12.00 noon	Joe O'Connor
Friday	12.00 noon	George Hindle
Saturday	5.30 p.m.	Ann (special intention)

**Funerals this week.** Tuesday at 11.30 a.m. A Requiem Mass for Linda Edwards on Tuesday at 11.30 a.m. Please pray for her family. May Linda rest in peace.

**Journey to Faith.** Meets on Tuesday at 7.00 p.m. in St. Bernard's House.  
Next **Co-ordination** meeting this coming Saturday at 10.00 a.m. in St. Bernard's  
**First Holy Communion** Class on Saturday, 13th. January at 12.00- noon. For children and their parents.

**Justice and Peace** meeting 22<sup>nd</sup>. February at 7.30 p.m. in St. Bernard's.

The next **Parish Assembly** will be held in 17th. March.

The **Prayer Group** will this week meet in St. Anne's House on Friday at 7.30 p.m.

The **Men's Group** will meet on Monday, 29<sup>th</sup>. January, 7.30 p.m. in St Bernard's

The **Messy Church** will recommence when the new rooms are available.

**Care for our common home.** Put curtain rails above draughty doors to hang curtains during the winter to provide insulation. Lots of curtains are in the sales at present.

**Money Report.** The collection last weekend was £501.20. Add on £624.80 from standing orders and tax returns to make a total of £1,126.00. Thank you all very much.

The **Fair Trade stall** is open every Sunday after 10.30 a.m. Mass.

**Tea, coffee** and biscuits are served after Mass every Sunday in the kitchen

**Please keep our sick friends in your prayer** –Selamawit, Saadat, Hannah McCollum, Ken Otu, John Donohoe, Flo Coffey, Sister Win, Ann McMahan, Eddie Barrett, Bernie Connolly, Andy Murphy, Trish Riley, Tim Smith and the many who have asked for our prayer this week. There are other sick and house bound people to whom we take Holy Communion weekly. We pray for people in pain – many among our congregation. We would like to know of anyone at all who is housebound. We also take Holy Communion to the Marmaduke Street Care Home (Lotus Care), Arundel Park Nursing Home, Greenheys Lodge, Redford House (Brain Injury Rehabilitation Trust) on Upper Parliament Street, to the Granby Hub, and to the Liverpool Women's Hospital. If you seek prayer for your sick family and friends please let us know. Also for us to take Holy Communion to them.

Please pray for those who have died recently - Linda Edwards, TeresaTansey

Anniversary - Tony Heslop

The book I am particularly concerned that we read and discuss is **Divine Renovation** (bringing your parish from maintenance to mission) by Fr. James Mallon, a Canadian priest from Halifax, Nova Scotia. Don't be put off by the title.

It is a very practical, down to earth book. It has lots of supportive comments from other people and it offers us "practical ways of injecting a new vibrant spirit into our parish". For me it is an answer to our parish prayer. Where it has been leading all these years.

I have five copies, priced £14.70. If you would like a copy please see me.

**Adoremus** – the Eucharistic Congress takes place in Liverpool, 7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> September. There will be 10,000 delegates from all over the country, most of them needing accommodation for one or two nights. Our deanery has been asked, so far, to take in ten people from some parishes in London for the Friday night. If any of you feel able to help in some way please let me know.

Our own deanery has been asked to send thirty six delegates. Given that we are six parishes that should mean six from each parish. What exactly a delegate is meant to do other than attend the talks and whatever else happens in the Echo Arena I don't know. It is, after all and above all a prayer event. It is not like the synod when decision are made and promulgated. Meanwhile we will need to decide how our delegates are selected.

I think above all the Eucharistic Congress is a call to prayer. It is an act of faith. At the time there will be exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in every church for extended periods. There will also be prayer leading up to it. The Archbishop is leading the way, visiting every deanery, leading a holy hour before the Blessed Sacrament. For our deanery that day will be 12<sup>th</sup>. April – in a church yet to be decided.

Other months we will have a holy hour in each of our churches in turn. We already have Holy Hours twice a week in St. Anne's, before each of the weekend Masses. This time it will be an invitation to all the other parishes to spend an hour in prayer, probably on a weekday evening. This surge for prayer is essential if we are to grow into a vibrant Christian community. We all need to pray a great deal more – and start giving God some more of our time. We are not to be afraid of quiet. The Scriptures offer everything we could ever need if we are to pray as we should, but other books can help. Maybe during these months we can have some sessions of teaching about prayer and helps how to pray.

**Lenten retreat.** At the request of some parishioners I have asked Fr. Richard could he lead us in a Day's retreat, one Saturday during Lent. He suggests 3<sup>rd</sup>. March. I have now to contact Sandymount to see whether they can accommodate us. On the other hand it could be a very good way of launching our own parish rooms. Let me know what you think of that idea.

**The parish rooms.** Happily good progress is being made on the restructuring and refurbishing of the parish rooms and the building of the new toilets., They should be ready within four weeks. I am very grateful to everyone who came to this morning's meeting. Good things are happening.

**GodCalls app.** There is a new application for phones and tablets. The new app is a 'spiritual tool-kit' The vocations office of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has launched a new app to lead people "on a journey of spiritual adventure and discovery". The app, **God Calls**, promises to "help you explore your ultimate purpose, and discover your unique path to heaven". Organisers describe it as a "spiritual tool-kit", offering snapshots of the lives of the saints, a journal to track spiritual growth and listings of Catholic retreats, study days and other events as well as prayers for dawn, noon, and night. It is geared towards young people but is valuable to us all.

**Mass for vocations** today at 10.30 a.m. at the request of the Catenians. This is the third year that the Catenians have asked to have their annual Mass here at St. Anne's. Some members are here today with members of their families. You are all very welcome.

**A Spiritual thought.** St. Augustine always sees the spiritual journey, not as a going out, to find God outside, but as a journey inwards. "he bade me shut the door of our secret chamber and pray in secret," he writes. "That is, in the soundless secret places of our hearts, for we pray to him in the silence of our hearts." The basis of true prayer for Augustine is the promise Jesus gave that he would live in us, when he said to his disciples, "Make your home in me as I make mine in you." and after his last meal with his disciples Jesus told them: "I shall not leave you orphans. I shall come to you. In a short time the world will no longer see me; but you will see that I live and you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my father and you in me and I in you" (John 14: 18-20) ... Which is why Augustine urges us: "Wheresoever you are, wheresoever you may be praying, he who hears you is within you, hidden within. For he who hears you is not merely by your side, and you have no need to go wandering about, no need to be reaching out to God as though you would touch him with your hands.  
(Benignus O'Rourke OSA)

More than 3,000 Christians were killed worldwide last year for their faith, twice as many as the previous year, a report by the charity **Open Doors** has found. Of the 11 worst countries for Christians to live in, all are now classed as places of extreme persecution – more than ever before in 26 years of the World Watch List, which is published annually by the charity. Open doors compiles data on five spheres of life – private, family, community, national and church life – to reach a list of 50 countries where persecution of Christians is most extreme.

North Korea remains number one for Christian persecution in their 2018 report, followed closely by Afghanistan and Somalia, where Christians are routinely targeted by violent Islamic militants.

Their latest report highlights in particular unprecedented levels of persecution in Egypt, where last year more than 200 Christians were driven out of their homes and 128 were killed for their faith. Egypt is home to the largest Christian community in the Middle East, the majority of whom are Orthodox. On Christmas Day, Christians attended services across the country accompanied by soldiers amid rising threat levels. Last Easter two church bombings killed 49 people. (from The Tablet)

**Little Mick's Spot** (paws for thought). A very kind lady had read about my liking for meat, and when TD called to her house with Holy Communion, she gave him a lovely piece of roast beef, not for him - but for me. TD complained, as usual. This is better than anything we get, he said, and here this meat, this beautiful piece of meat is for the –the dog. I thought I was his best friend not just the –dog! But I'll put up with anything for a nice piece of meat,



even TD. Anyhow, thank you so much, Alice, it was delicious. I was given it in two portions – and did I enjoy it! Meanwhile I have been learning all about building houses from the site next door. Those foundations are so solid. I did some exploring underneath the flooring – I got a good telling off. I think TD thought I wouldn't come back. Lots of people come to my house – and nearly all of them pick me up and give me a cuddle. What a loveable little thing I must be – not that he thinks so. A lady came and I licked her face, her hair, her nose – and she laughed, TD just went from puce to purple. His tongue, he said, you must know where it has been. And she just laughed. Good for you, Pauline. I hope he learned something from that.