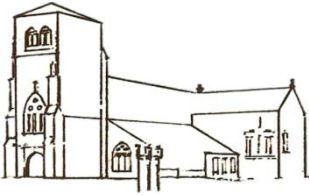


Newsletter for the parish of St. Anne & St. Bernard.



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Third Sunday of the Year

21.01.18

Revolution in kindness (as encouraged by Jean Vanier). Thought for this week -
"Today I bent the truth to be kind, and I have no regret, for I am far surer of what is kind than I am of what is true." — Robert Brault

Today's Scripture readings *"Follow me and I will make you fishers of men"*.

Today's Scripture readings tell us that *now* is the time to "*repent*", to re-orientate our whole attitude to God. The promises of the past are now beginning to be fulfilled. "*To believe the Good News*" carries with it the call to "*repent*". Our whole attitude to God must change in the face of the coming kingdom of God.

The call of the apostles serves to illustrate what it means to repent and believe the Gospel. It is not the arid intellectual acceptance of timeless truths but to be attached to the person of Jesus, to go along with him to the end – which is the cross. Note here the refrain of today's psalm : "*Lord, make me know your ways*".



*Follow me and I will make
you fishers of men*

Paul had been asked questions by Corinthian converts about marriage and sex. For Paul, believing that Christ would be coming soon, it was important to live in a spirit of detachment from the world. In typical Hebrew style he deliberately exaggerates in order to make his point. The Kingdom of God is here. We must seek God's kingdom first. Don't get involved in anything which distracts you from embracing God when he grabs you. Surely this is part of the same motivation behind people seeking the Religious life today. It is in finding God in our lives that we find our true selves and are able to sort out all our relationships.

A further thought. The call of Jesus was not a command. It was an invitation. Jonah had refused God's first invitation but later repented. The apostles accepted their first invitation but later reneged on it. In both cases running away seems to have come more naturally than accepting the invite. Just consider the nature of the call and where it is coming from. The power of the invitation to follow Jesus does not lie in being compelled by some great force, rather it comes from being drawn to the person of Jesus, seeing how he has affected other people's lives. Other people will be drawn to him when they see his presence in 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. | Thomas Cullen |
| Sunday | 10.30 a.m. | Ronnie McCrae |
| Tuesday | 11.30 a.m. | Noel Murphy |
| Wednesday | 12.00 noon | Kathryn Guenard's intention |
| Thursday | 12.00 noon | Monica Jones |
| Friday | 12.00 noon | Ann (special intention) |
| Saturday | 5.30 p.m. | Parishioners |

Journey to Faith. Meets on Tuesday at 7.00 p.m. in St. Bernard's House.

The next **First Holy Communion** Class on Saturday, 24th. February at 12.00 noon. For children and their parents.

Justice and Peace meeting 22nd. February at 7.30 p.m. in St. Bernard's.

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

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

The **Men's Group** will meet on Monday, 29th. 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 on your thermals and reduce the heating in the house.

Money Report. The collection last weekend was £612.83. Add on £624.80 from standing orders and tax returns to make a total of £1,237.63. Thank you all very much.

The **Fair Trade stall** is open every Sunday after 10.30 a.m. Mass. We are always happy to get new volunteers. The principle behind the stall is a good one, to give the best financial returns to the producers in the developing world. We have a loyal set of customers whom we value and who help to give us a good return.

Tea, coffee and biscuits are served after Mass every Sunday in the kitchen. Again anyone who wishes to help will be appreciated.

Please keep our sick friends in your prayer – Bill Whitehead, Eileen Ungi, Selamawit, Saadat, Peninah Wambui, 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 - Philip Browne, Teresa Riley.

Anniversaries - Thomas Cullen, Marie Antionette

Community Sponsorship Scheme

As you will be aware our parish has expressed interest in taking part in this scheme to welcome a Syrian family from one of the refugee camps. We need a group of about 25 people to take this forward and we are working with some neighbouring parishes. If you would like to become involved in this welcome, there is a meeting for all those interested in St Charles and St Thomas More parish hall, Aigburth Road, L17 9PG on Monday 30th January at 7.30 pm

Justice and Peace Annual Memorial Lecture

'Towards Social and Solidarity Economies', Dr Pete North, University of Liverpool.
Sunday, 21st January from 2pm until 4pm (doors open at 1.30pm), at LACE, Croxteth Drive, Sefton Park, Liverpool L17 1AA

Our **new parish rooms** will be completed within the next three weeks. What will we use them for? Various suggestions have been made but we need people to run with these suggestions. It would be good if people came to the Alpha course we hope to start. We need group sessions for Scripture study, prayer groups, other sessions, perhaps with visiting speakers. social justice issues, Messy Church, Children's Liturgy, First Communion/Confirmation groups, Catechist meetings and teaching, baptism preparation, day retreats/conferences, the Good Shepherd catechesis (young children), young people groups and social activities, maybe organise groups like YCW, young adults meetings, film nights, social activities – general, pensioners, Mums and toddlers, maybe reading groups, socialising tea/coffee after Sunday Mass, and any other time. Above all it is somewhere where we, as a parish community, can meet together, be good to each other, to celebrate who and what we are, and on occasion be hospitable to other parish and local groups. Certain issues have still to be sorted out – like keys, opening, closing etc., cleaning, things of this sort. Wouldn't it be wonderful if the Rooms were busy every night, and even better during the day as well. It is ours – and we will use it well.

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 3rd. March. Our own parish rooms would make an excellent centre. Are you happy with that? or maybe you feel we need to move somewhere else, just to be away? With our rooms there would be no travel or expense.

Lent is early this year, Ash Wednesday falls on St. Valentine's Day. While we will continue to have the Stations of the Cross and Mass on Wednesday evenings, you may like to suggest other talks/teachings/discussions we could host as well. I am thinking of finding some time during Lent to discuss the issues raised in the book I suggested we read – Divine Renovation, by Fr. James Mallon, about the renewal of our own spiritual lives and of the parish. (I still have copies left) Ideas will be appreciated.

Congratulations to St. Anne's School for getting a gold award from the City under the *Liverpool Counts Award Scheme*, a maths encouragement project. It stems from the school embracing the credit union and becoming a saver point for the children and their parents. Not only does it encourage saving but the children work out the various maths issues arising, using computers and other aids. Our thanks to the staff for their initiative and ongoing support and to the Lodge Lane and District Credit Union.

The Priests (the singers) **in concert** (it is quite a while since I have heard about them) at the Liverpool Philharmonic Hall on Friday, 1st. June. This is in support of the work of Nugent Care and organised by the friends of The Metropolitan Cathedral. Tickets from £16, available from the Phil box office or the Cathedral Book Shop

The migrant aid charity, **Seeking Sanctuary**, marked the **World Day for Migrants and Refugees**, by calling upon Catholics to pressure local authorities to treat migrants as human beings. We hope that good things will come for some young people from the recent agreement over Calais. Pope Francis said being concerned about the impact of migration is not a sin. What is a sin is to let those fears lead to a refusal to help people in need - “the sin is to allow these fears to determine our responses, to limit our choices, to compromise respect and generosity, to feed hostility and rejection”.

A Franciscan church in New York has taken to supporting newcomer immigrants in a very public way. Over twelve million people face removal from the United States. It runs a migrant centre to minister “to people who are alienated, displaced or persecuted. The “pilgrims and strangers” in our midst”.

L'Osservatore Romano, the Vatican newspaper has accused president Trump of using particularly harsh and offensive words about immigrants in his recent Oval Office outburst. It criticised “the growing tension in the United States on the theme of immigration which has risen noticeably under Trump”. It is very unusual for the paper to publically criticize another nation’s democratic leader but clearly it felt that the words used were of such a serious nature they could not be let go without comment.

We have celebrated our **Journey to faith** for many years but this coming year we will be using the **Alpha course** for the first part of the programme. I am suggesting that we do this, not to bring in new Catholics with him may deepen. Here is the response of a priest who has been using Alpha for many years.

“Outcomes from the Alpha Course were fascinating. Through a questionnaire, we discovered that, of those already attending church, 77 per cent made new friends, 57 per cent had their faith strengthened, 46 per cent were open to a personal relationship with Jesus, and 43 per cent found greater peace in the faith. Other aspects of the survey were equally encouraging. There is nothing else like it in parish life; in fact, I doubt if there is any other course or initiative that could generate such positive results in three months. It would be interesting to ask the same questions in 12 months’ time.”

Little Mick’s Spot (paws for thought). Alice was delighted with my appreciation of her



kind gift and was happy with my public recognition. I think TD regretted being so harsh on me because he has been kinder to me this week. At least a little less gruff and he gave me a few more tasty bits. He was telling me what lovely people there are in the parish. Maybe they are rubbing off on him. What is so special is that people seem to appreciate each other, not jealous or anything like that, and so kind. They work very hard for each other and for the parish. TD was telling me of a priest who has a big Airedale, a lovely dog, he said. I felt jealous because I want to be the only dog in his life. Don’t worry, he said, there is only one Little Mick. Anne was saying that they are getting a little pup, a Chihuahua, - is that how you spell it? Much better than these “eat you for tuppence” dogs. Big or little we dogs don’t like all this rain, but have you noticed? – the days are getting longer. Roll on Spring and aASummer.