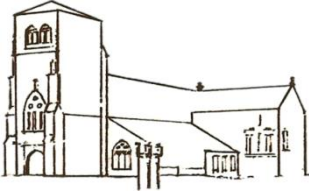


Newsletter for the parish of St. Anne & St. Bernard.



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Fourth Sunday of the Year

28.01.18

Revolution in kindness (*as encouraged by Jean Vanier*). Thought for this week -
“*be kind, for everyone is fighting a harder battle*” Plato

Today's Scripture readings “*I want you to be free from worry...and to give your undivided attention to the Lord*”. (2nd reading)

If only life could be so simple!! It might be if, like Paul at the time he wrote this letter, we thought the Lord's coming was very soon. As we heard last week from Paul, and again this week, it is possible, in the short term, to live a single life, focussed upon God. When that short term becomes a full life time, however, and the Gospel demands that all the time we inter-relate with each other, that we love each other and respond to each other's and our own human needs, then we must adjust to the circumstances in which we live. Paul does puzzle me here because even if the Lord were coming to-morrow we must still spend today helping each other, and inter-acting with each other.

Paul wants us to be “*free from worry*”, in this he is echoing the words of Jesus, and the reason we are to be free from worry is that we must “*trust in the Lord*” in all things. In order to give our “*undivided attention to the Lord*”, which is what every good Christian wants, each one of us has to face God honestly, and see how, in the circumstances of my particular life, I can become more faithful, more loving, more compassionate, more prayerful.

In the Gospel note Mark's emphasis on the “*authority*” of Jesus' teaching. More important than the wonderful things Jesus did, for Mark, it was the “*authority*” with which he spoke, which made a “*deep impression on them*”. As we continue with Mark's Gospel we will see that Mark attempts to emphasise that what Jesus *taught* was much more important than the miracles he worked, and that the miracles themselves stem from his “*authority*”, something deep and personal within himself which the person of faith sees to be of God.

The “*word*” Jesus speaks to us, people of faith, is the word of God. John, in his Gospel, speaks of the “*Word*” taking on a human nature (*became flesh*), that the “*Word*” expresses the presence of God in Jesus. For us today the Word we read in the Gospel, the *authority* with which Jesus speaks, is the teaching, healing, faith giving communication of God with us. As is proclaimed at the end of the Scripture reading – “*The Word of the Lord*”, to which we respond “*thanks be to God*”.

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.	Bob Hodges
Tuesday	1.30 p.m.	Requiem Mass for Teresa Riley
Wednesday	9.00 a.m.	Pia, Anthony & Chiemi's intention
Thursday	12.00 noon	Freddie & Lizzie Burke
Friday	12.00 noon	Parishioners
Saturday	5.30 p.m.	Rita Lawrence

Please note the time of Wednesday's Mass – 9.00 a.m.

Funerals this week Tuesday 1.30 p.m. Requiem Mass for Teresa Riley
3.00 Funeral service for Kathleen Bowen
May they rest in peace. Please pray for their families

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 this Monday, 29th. January, 7.30 p.m. in St Bernard's

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

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 - Maureen Brotheton, Tony Reynolds, Teresa Riley.

Lenten retreat. At the request of some parishioners Fr. Richard will lead us in a Day's retreat, on Saturday, 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. I think we should give it a try – we could even try our catering.

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, this coming Tuesday, 30th January, at 7.30 pm.**

Money Report. The collection last weekend was **£468.71**. Add on £624.80 from standing orders and tax returns to make a total of **£1,093.51** . 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.

Care for our common home. Let's go veggie – at least a little.

We are being asked to cut down on our meat consumption for two main reasons

To reduce the number of factory farms where animals are kept in cramped and dirty conditions to produce the cheap meat we have come to expect.

Because livestock contributes hugely to global warming, and a shocking 75% of our agricultural land is devoted to crops to feed livestock. So could we try one or two days a week without meat. (why not go the whole way - many do).

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. Ideas will be appreciated. (Copies are available to buy)

The Priests (the singers) **in concert** 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.

62 Falkner St. Like many others I thoroughly enjoyed my Thursday evening programme. Everything was positive about our city, the presenter clearly delighted to open up our hidden history - and explain a great deal more as well. Talking about Liverpool, our thanks to Neil for enabling to see the wonderful simulation of the Overhead Railway on our Parish Facebook. That brought back memories – and nostalgia! I strongly recommend you to apply to join our parish Facebook.

The **new parish rooms** are making good progress. Another couple of weeks, said Dave who is managing the project, and they should be ready. We already have the comfortable chairs, the gift of Springwood Crem, you see them by the original sanctuary in church, but we are also getting moveable tables and chairs. There will be a projector and screen, and a very good sized kitchen. The three new toilets will be ready too, including the accessible toilet. Two are by the church entrance to the cloister, one by the new rooms.

Tea, coffee and biscuits are served after Mass every Sunday in the house kitchen. Again anyone who wishes to help will be appreciated. Soon we move into our own kitchen.

World Communications Day. Pope Francis released a message condemning "**fake news,**" saying that it's a "sign of intolerant and hypersensitive attitudes, and leads only to the spread of arrogance and hatred." The Vatican says the message is part of the Pope's World Communications Day presentation, but some at St. Peter's Square say the Pope was probably sending a message to Donald Trump and other world leaders who have been using the phrase "fake news" when they are reported negatively.

The tragic history of human sin, the Pope says in his message, is the first "fake news" and it dates back to the book of Genesis, when the "crafty serpent" lied to the woman. In the present day the fast digital world helps fuel the spread of "fake news" -- which he defines as "the spreading of disinformation on line or in the traditional media."

"Spreading fake news can serve to advance specific goals, influence political decisions and serve economic interests".

The Pope's message blames the difficulty in unmasking and eliminating fake news to people listening to opinions that suit them, rather than listening to differing perspectives and opinions.

"Disinformation thus thrives on the absence of healthy confrontation with other sources of information that could effectively challenge prejudices and generate constructive dialogue; instead, it risks turning people into unwilling accomplices in spreading biased and baseless ideas,"

To combat fake news - Journalism that seeks the truth is the way to overcome this "fake news" phenomenon. And hence his dedication of World Day of Communication to the words of Jesus *'The truth will set you free', fake news and journalism for peace.*"

"Praiseworthy efforts are being made to create educational programs aimed at helping people to interpret and assess information provided by the media, and teaching them to take an active part in unmasking falsehoods, rather than unwittingly contributing to the spread of disinformation."

Catholics have been observing World Communication day since 1967. The Pope's message is traditionally published on January 24 during the day of the feast of St. Francis de Sales, the patron saint of journalists. Catholics don't celebrate World Communication Day until May 13, but the announcement is made early to give bishops and priests time to prepare for local and national celebrations.

Little Mick's Spot (paws for thought). I do realise that I am a very lucky little dog. Lots



of people come to my house and they all seem to like me, even when I get a bit noisy. It does upset me when I hear of dogs being badly treated. I keep on hearing about this good "dog's life". OK, TD say that when he makes his bed in a morning he always wants to get back in, and he looks at me, just curling up in one of my day time beds, which is under his bed, and he is so jealous. I am gradually losing more and more land on my field as the building continues next door. I have spent so much time with the builders that I think I could do their job for them. Most of them seem to have dogs at home so they play with me. The scaffolding is going up now, then the timber frames. But I still have until may to use the garden space. That'll do me. Then the hall will come down – and I will have some serious hunting to do. Varmints!!