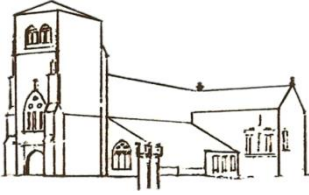


Newsletter for the parish of St. Anne & St. Bernard.



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Fifth Sunday of the Year

04.02.18

Revolution in kindness (*as encouraged by Jean Vanier*). Thought for this week -
“*Happy are the merciful, they shall have mercy shown them*” (Jesus)

Today's Scripture readings “*He cured manyand he cast out many devils...*”

Mark makes clear from the beginning why he has written his Gospel. The people in his community are attracted by Jesus and the way he exercised power, the wonders he did, his power over evil. They don't want to consider a *suffering Saviour* because that implies that they will suffer too, if they are to be faithful to him. Mark writes his Gospel to emphasise that unless we follow the suffering Christ we will never be true disciples.

In today's Gospel Mark shows Jesus, at the beginning of his ministry, in confrontation with the forces of evil. His power over evil was one sign that the Kingdom of God was at work within him. Notice how his disciples loved the adulation they received being associated with him. They resented it when Jesus left the crowds and went to pray, to go to a “quiet” place. “*Everybody is looking for you*”, the disciples said when they found him. But for Jesus his miracles were a subordinate part of his ministry, his main purpose was to preach. “*This is why I came*”.

Notice that the demons are not allowed to say who Jesus was. He always silences them. The reason is that the key to Mark's Gospel is that Jesus was crucified. To accept him without accepting the cross is to misunderstand him and his ministry. In accepting Calvary we accept him. Only then, looking on the dead Christ, can one truly say with the centurion that he was a “Son of God”. Now that is a challenge to the many who see success and public acclaim as the key to life. Follow a man who was crucified?? That is the ultimate Christian challenge.

The first reading from Job may well resonate with many people who feel Job's weariness with life, that life seems to have very little meaning, but it contrasts very strongly with the Gospel in which Jesus is always on the go. He is so enthusiastic for the Good News he preaches that there is too little time in the day to do what he has to do. As in every situation in the Old Testament Jesus is the answer, the fulfilment – the celebration.

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.	Elsie Hurley
Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Annie Price
Tuesday	12.00 noon	Maria Bassey
Wednesday	12.00 noon	Requiem Mass for John Shields
Thursday	12.00 noon	Kim Larkin (ill)
Friday	12.00 noon	Mary Joyce's intention
Saturday	5.30 p.m.	Parishioners

Funerals this week Wednesday. 12.00 noon. Requiem Mass for John Shields
Please keep John Shields in your prayer and pray for his family.

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, 19th. February, 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, 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 - John Shields, Maureen Brotherton, Tony Reynolds, Eileen Ungi

Lenten retreat. Saturday, 3rd. March. Tea/coffee at 10.00. Fr. Richard will start the day at 10.30 p.m. Lunch will probably be a shared table. The day will conclude with the Holy Hour at 4.15 and Fr. Richard will celebrate the 5.30 p.m. Mass. The day is open to everyone, but to give us some idea of numbers we will provide a sheet for names nearer the day.

A number of our parishioners have been on the St. Wilfrid's weekend *Living Christ* retreat. Sue, from the organising team, has asked will we host a shortened similar event on a weekday in May, maybe from 10.00 a.m.-2.00 p.m., directed to older people from ours and from other local churches in the deanery. Our new rooms will be very valuable and hopefully much used. I don't know whether this is just for one day or whether they intend it to run over two days.

Money Report. The collection last weekend was £544.021. Add on £624.80 from standing orders and tax returns to make a total of **£1,168.82** . Thank you all very much.

Your support of the **Fair Trade stall** every Sunday after 10.30 a.m. Mass, is much appreciated. We want to give a just price to producers of food and other goods in the developing world without anyone taking middle man profits.

Care for our common home. When you cook –curry, casserole, or a pie, why not do twice as much as you need and freeze the rest. That way we save energy and our own time when we just have to defrost and heat up our dinner. Next week we will have a delicious veggie recipe. If you would bring your own veggie recipes we can print them off and share them around. (I know a good one, Anne. We scousers know it as “blind scouse”).

The **Catholic Pic** this week tells us that a trip has been arranged, a retreat/break, to Northumbria, to **Holy Island** (Lindisfarne) and Durham Cathedral, staying in Ministeracres, where Fr. Austin spent much time as a student and a teacher, in late April, Tuesday 24th. to Friday, 27th. I have been asked to lead it. It is open to all Pic readers so if you wish to go phone Barbara on 0151 733 5492. There are 49 places. Do not delay.

Lent starts next week. During Lent I hope to produce a paper suggesting a way forward for our parish, for us to become more prayerful, to deepen and enrich our faith, for us to become deliberate, conscious, “intentional” disciples of Jesus, missionary in outlook, sensitive to issues of truth and justice, resolved to act on injustice. Probably our greatest sin as Catholics is that we are satisfied with what we are doing? That is why, as a Church, we are stagnating. Many ask, sadly even more do not ask – what does a “relationship with Jesus” mean? I go to church on a Sunday, what more does God want me to do? We have the one message of hope in our world, the one thing that makes sense of everything. I am getting old - 80 this year - I cannot put off any longer what God has sent me here to do. But we need each other so much to spread the Good News of God’s presence in our hearts, and intended for everyone else’s heart as well.

We still have copies of Fr. James Mallon’s book. Divine Renovation, for sale
Remember the Bob Marley song *You gotta lively up yourself and don’t be no drag.*

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.

The **new parish rooms** are making good progress. The new toilets are fitted, all they need now is the flooring and painting. The new entrance to the cloister will be established next week. The kitchen is looking really good, plenty of room for cooks and bottle washers. The furniture is coming, the crockery is here – the vast amount of storage space is being constructed. We owe so much to Dai and to Barry. They continue to do far more than could ever be asked of them. God bless them and everyone involved. Once it is completed, probably the Sunday after next, we can process from the church after the 10.30 Mass and bless the whole project, giving everything a good dose of holy water! Then have our first cup of tea together in our own place – the first of very many.

Next Saturday, to celebrate the feast of **Our Lady of Lourdes**, there will be Mass at Christ the King Church, Queens Drive, at 12.00 noon.

Human slavery. The fight against human trafficking is being lost because the “collective response is uncoordinated and fragmented”, Cardinal Vincent Nichols has warned. Writing the foreword to a report that was launched in the Westminster parliament on Tuesday, as part of *The Independent* and *Evening Standard* newspapers' “Slaves On Our Streets” campaign, Cardinal Nichols described modern slavery as an evil crying out to heaven: “*There are more slaves today than at the height of the Atlantic slave trade in the 18th century. And the number is growing as international criminal gangs increase their influence and reach.*”

The report is the culmination of a three-month investigation by the Evening Standard and The Independent, in partnership with the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, Kevin Hyland. As part of the investigation, Cardinal Nichols convened a round table of experts from business, media, law, finance, philanthropy, law enforcement and victim support. Their recommendations will be put forward at the Santa Marta conference at the Santa Marta Conference due to take place in Rome at the Pontifical Academy of Sciences from 8 – 9 February. The report calls on the government to put victim support on a statutory footing, saying long-term support for victims is the key to “breaking the cycle of slavery and should be available irrespective of immigration status”.

Victims of Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery are to be found all around us. Closer than you think! We are invited for a moment of reflection, repentance and solidarity in the midst of our busy daily lives

The occasion is St. Josephine Bakhita Feast Day. She was a young Sudanese slave who found faith in Christ in the midst of her chains. She is Patron Saint of Slavery Victims

Where: The Gilbert Scott Suite, Liverpool Cathedral 4.00 pm Thursday, 8th.February 2018

Information, readings, reflection and re-commitment to the eradication of Modern Slavery

Followed by... Refreshments and exhibitions from the **Medaille Trust** & the Clewer Initiative (including a craft stall with items for sale)

Followed by ... an opportunity to continue the prayers for the day with the beautiful service of Evensong in the quire of the Cathedral at 5.30pm

A moment of reflection, repentance and solidarity in the midst of our busy city, our daily lives

The **Medaille Trust** comprises of a group of men and women Religious who are sharing their resources, human and financial, to support the victims of trafficking.

Rest in **centring prayer** provides us with profound healing. To be really healed requires that we allow our darkside to come to full consciousness, and then let it go and give it to God. The divine therapy is an agreement that we make with God. We recognise that our own ideas of happiness are not going to work, and we turn ourselves completely to God. Thomas Keating in ‘The Human Condition’ .

Little Mick's Spot (paws for thought). I do love that morning cuddle. As soon as TD comes down I always greet him, in a very friendly way, and he has to pat me and stroke me, and speak nicely to me. Then before his breakfast he always has to take me on my first walk. I can then do my various jobs in comfort, notably sentry duty. Our strong stance of not opening the door in the dark has definitely discouraged the money seeking regulars, so of an



evening now I come off sentry duty and curl upon a cushion. Keep it quiet, I don't want my hair pulled, as happens in church, but it is my second birthday on St .Valentine's Day. But this year it falls on Ash Wednesday, a fast day. I don't want to fast any day – but especially on my birthday!! Once I am two I am a mature dog, and must act in a grown up way, TD says. I don't like the sound of that. Maybe he has something else in mind. Come on, you Blues. There were lots on smiles on Wednesday night after the match. They won, for a change. And I got a nice tasty bit. Come on you Blues. (Anything for chicken)