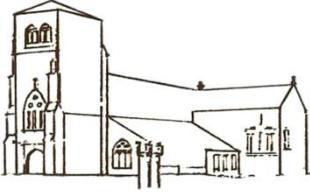


Newsletter for the parish of St. Anne & St. Bernard.



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Sixth Sunday of the Year

11.02.18

Revolution in kindness (as encouraged by Jean Vanier). Thought for this week - *Be the reason someone smiles today*

Lent begins this week with **Ash Wednesday**. There will be Mass at 12.00 noon and 7.30 p.m. Ashes will be blessed and distributed after the Gospel in both Masses.

It is a day of **fasting and abstinence** from any meaty products. What this means in practice is that all of us are required to eat very simply and plainly that day. Fish is a luxury. Those with health needs of course take whatever they need.

There is a Fasting tradition in all the world's Faiths and grounded in our own Church practice. Until the War Catholics fasted through the whole of Lent, and in some parts of the Church they still do. e.g. the Christians in Iraq. Wednesday's fast is penitential self denial. A full Lenten fast could mean abstaining from all those inbetween snacks, eating more simply and eating less. We do it to lose weight, how much more for our spiritual wellbeing. The Family Fast Day (next week) is a fast in solidarity with the world's poor and a means of raising money to alleviate at least a little suffering. Good Friday fasting takes on a different perspective. Jesus has been taken away - we are in mourning. Our fast unites us with his death. Really the Good Friday fast should overlap to Holy Saturday and finish with the Easter Vigil.

During Lent we will try and keep before our eyes the importance and significance of what Lent means. For my own part I need Lent as a renewed call to basics. Jesus prayed and fasted for forty days "driven by the Spirit" to work out what his ministry would entail. We need time set aside to be open to God, to listen and be led by the Spirit. We look at the addictions that creep up on us – new ones affecting people are games on the smart phone or the tablet. Many people look for suitable Lenten reading. We could well read the four Gospels as well. Alms giving is always a key element in Lent. If we save money by reducing our pleasures where does the money go to? You may well feel called to take part in the day's retreat on 3rd March, which Fr. Richard will be leading. A time to listen and reflect – and to pray. We will be using our new parish rooms.

Devotionally there will be STATIONS OF THE CROSS every Wednesday evening at 7.00 p.m., followed by Mass at 7.30 p.m. If you would like regular periods of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament other than those already in use just let me know.

Today's Scripture Readings. Jesus did not come to heal people physically. He came to proclaim the Good News of God's love and to give "his life as a sacrifice for us all." But



he did heal, and we get the clue as to why he healed from today's Gospel. The Leper says – *Lord, if you want to, you can heal me.*

Jesus replies – *Of course I want to, Be healed!*

Our translation of Mark's original Greek is so inadequate. It reads "feeling sorry for him, Jesus..." What it says literally is that *Jesus' bowels turned upside down* at the sight of the man. Jesus felt such deep compassion for him.

In English we use the word - *empathy*- to describe Jesus' reaction. It means he felt the pain of the man himself, such was his sensitivity for suffering people. He healed the man to stop his own pain.

Jesus complained at people wanting to see only *signs and wonders*. People don't come to faith because of miracles. They come to faith by seeing how people live, by the change they see in the lives of others, by the kindness they experience, by sensing in some special way God touching their lives. St. Paul says faith comes *by hearing*. The power of God's word, proclaimed with faith, changes people's lives. If people say they believe because of a wonderful sign they have seen, what happens when that kind of sign ceases? In fact miracles happen all the time, but only people who are sensitive to God recognise what they are.

If Jesus is so moved at the sight of suffering that he feels compelled to heal the victim, it must be the same for his friends, his followers, for us Christians. All the teaching about relationships which Jesus gives us, *to love the enemy, to do good to those who hate us, to pray for those who persecute us*, are not just words of encouragement. We see Jesus living them out himself. We profess our love for him, and it must be of love of him that makes us see people differently. Loving him makes us to want to do those things, to live in that way.

Many people are afraid to accept the consequences of really loving God because it appears very painful and very demanding. It can seem to be quite scary, almost entering the unknown. Do I trust what is happening to me? But it is joy, it is life giving and the only way we can fulfil the real yearnings of our hearts.

Mass this week is as follows -

Saturday	5.30 p.m.	Parishioners
Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Maria Evans' intentions
Tuesday	12.00 noon	Ted Rackham
Wednesday	12.00 noon	Nora Mallon
	7.30 p.m.	Parishioners
Thursday	12.00 noon	Requiem Mass for Andrea Lacey
Friday	12.00 noon	Joseph McManus
Saturday	5.30 p.m.	Deceased priests

Please note there are two Masses on Wednesday during which ashes will be distributed

Funerals this week. Monday at 9.30 a.m. Funeral service for Irene Geddes, and on Thursday there will be a Requiem Mass for Andrea Lacey.
Please pray for Irene and Angela and keep their families in your prayer.

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.

Journey to Faith. Meet on Tuesday at **6.30 p.m.** in St. Bernard's House from where we will travel to Carmel,

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, 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 – Nancy Goss, 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. 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 - Irene Geddes, Andrea Lacey, Maureen Brotherton, 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.

Next Sunday the people on our **Journey to Faith** programme will be joining other new Christians and people, receiving Confirmation and making their first Holy Communion, at the Cathedral, to be presented to the Archbishop, at this annual service of welcome. Those from our parish who are to become Christians are Bahaador Sabetrasekh, Mehdi Ahmadi, Rassul Mohammed, Saeid Heydari and Uhana Bolivand. Those already baptised are Armin Muqaddam Yekta, Audrey Siebatcheu, Charlie Kouameko, Farzeneh Shayeghi, and Jhonn Leuffer. Please pray for them. This is leading up to the great service of the Easter Vigil when Baptisms and Confirmations will take place.
This Tuesday the group will be going to Carmel to experience something of the contemplative Religious life, an ancient part of our Christian tradition.

Stations of the Cross each Wednesday during Lent at 7.00 p.m.

There will be Mass at 7.30 p.m. every Wednesday during Lent, replacing the noon Mass.

Money Report. The collection last weekend was £538.00. Add on £624.80 from standing orders and tax returns to make a total of **£1,162.80** . Thank you all very much.

Care for our common home. You may like to join the ScouseVeg Monthly Gathering which meets in the Egg Café, 16-18 Newington. The next meeting will be on Friday, 2nd March from 8.00-11.00 p.m. Join them on Facebook. Blind Scouse for me is loading in whatever vegetables you fancy but you will all have your own recipe.

The **Catholic Pic** this week tells us that a trip has been arranged, a retreat/break, to Northumbria, to **Holy Island** (Lindisfarne), Durham city and Cathedral, and York and its Minster, 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.

Community Sponsorship Scheme. To welcome a family of Syrian refugees. Terry writes that last Tuesday's meeting went very well. About 25 people attended from three parishes. However, we still need more people (some of the 25 could not make the necessary commitment). Another meeting has been arranged for Tuesday, 27th. February, at 8.00 p.m. in St. Charles' parish hall, Aigburth Rd. All welcome.

Justice & Peace. Reflections on Laudato Si, Pope Francis's encyclical on the environment. Wednesdays during Lent, after the 7.30 p.m. Mass. We expect the new rooms to be ready for use by then

We still have copies of Fr. James Mallon's book. Divine Renovation, for sale

Dear Lord Jesus, On Wednesday the Lenten season begins. It is a time to be with you in a special way, a time to pray, a time to fast, and thus to follow you on your way to Jerusalem, to Golgotha, and to the final victory over death. I am still so divided. I truly want to follow you, but I also want to follow my own desires and lend an ear to the voices that speak about prestige, success, human respect, pleasure, power, and influence. Help me to become deaf to these voices and more attentive to your voice, which calls me to choose the narrow road to life. I know that Lent is going to be a very hard time for me. The choice for your way has to be made every moment of my life. I have to choose thoughts that are your thoughts, words that are your words, and actions that are your actions. There are no times or places without choices. And I know how deeply I resist choosing you. Please, Lord, be with me at every moment and in every place. Give me the strength and the courage to live this season faithfully, so that, when Easter comes, I will be able to taste with joy the new life which you have prepared for me. Amen. HENRI J.M. NOUWEN from THE LITTLE BOOK OF LENT

Little Mick's Spot (paws for thought). My big news – St. Valentine's Day is my birthday, and it falls on Wednesday, ASH Wednesday. No fasting for me I can tell you. And I will have meat.



Abstinence from meat? for me! No way! - I know how to twist TD around my little paw. I may send a St. Valentine's card to Mollie, my girlfriend. Oh dear, I shouldn't have said that. You don't know about her. Let's change the subject. Big changes are taking place in my house. Ever since I have been here Charlotte has had the tough job of keeping TD's house tidy – and my hairs under control. It has become just too much for her. Well, maybe not for that reason but she is leaving us. I join TD in being very grateful to her. Thank you so much Charlotte. You have been marvellous. Zeinab is taking over, and she and Kiara started on a Spring clean today. Welcome, Zeinab. I hope we don't make too much work for you. It will take a while but you will get used to TD eventually. I have no option. I have to make the best of my life. I can't opt out. What about dog's rights? My tip – let him think he is really is the Top Dog, but you and I know better. I'm easy to look after. He's the problem. Stick with me, watch me, and I will show you how to make him do exactly as you want. I am sure you will be happy here. I look forward to seeing you soon.