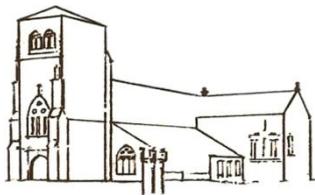


# Newsletter for the parish of St. Anne & St. Bernard.



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## Twelfth Sunday of the Year

25.06.1

Parish  
Mission  
Statement

*We aim to be prayerful listening people, filled with hope,  
Nourished and empowered by Word and Eucharist,  
Seeking to enable each other to develop our God given gifts  
For liturgy and service to others,  
Sensitive and responsive to the joys and pains around us,  
Open to all within the local community and beyond  
We work together for the building of God's kingdom*

When we worked out and, together, owned our Mission Statement nearly seventeen years ago, we intended to make it our guiding light in all that we do. Good things have happened. The Scriptures are influencing the lives of many people. Some people's prayer life is deepening. The use of parish premises for the asylum seekers and other needy groups is a very positive and there is a Christian response to some major needs. There are people within our parish groupings who are at the heart of local initiatives which benefit the wider community. But there is so much more which needs to happen if we are genuinely to respond to what God is asking of us.

Without spelling things out here in detail each one of us needs to look at our own lives, at our prayer, at our attitudes, at the quality of our relationships, at our readiness to take action. We need to listen to God and take to heart what he is telling us. Yes, I can do that. It will cost me – but whoever said the Christian life would be easy.

The key to it all is what goes on in the **Church worship**. For most of us it is from there that the inspiration comes. There is one area of worship which is very neglected and that is the position we give to the **Word of God**.

The readers at Mass are exercising their own priesthood. They are proclaiming God's truth. We must find some way of presenting the Word of God for what it is, worthy of the same veneration that we give to the Holy Eucharist. But this will only come about when the Gospels become part of our daily reading. We must be inspired to read the Scriptures daily so that our lives are changed. Let us reflect upon this because nothing will change until our attitude to the Scriptures change.

You were inspired when you designed that parish mission statement. It is prominent in our website but even more it needs to be prominent in our minds and hearts. We could do with spending some shared time reflecting on it.

***Do not be afraid*** – today’s Gospel. These words are to encourage the disciples, and the new missionary Church, as well as Christians in this 21<sup>st</sup>. century, to remain faithful to Jesus and to the mission of the Church, no matter what the adversity.

Each saying is introduced by the words *Do not be afraid*, and confronts the fears which cause the disciples to abandon their mission. The first saying appeals to the inevitability of the coming of God’s kingdom and Jesus’ witness to it. Then the hypocrisy of Jesus’ opponents will be revealed.

The second saying refers to God’s detailed care for Jesus’ disciples. If every hair on our head has been counted then God has every portion of me in his loving care. If each sparrow is sacred to God how much more are we “*you are worth more than hundreds of sparrows*”.

The third appeals to our judgment before God which will be based on the disciples’ faithfulness to Jesus during the conflicts that are part of their mission. And if Jesus is appealing to them he is appealing to us. I often wonder what God says to us drifters – “we don’t anyone any harm” – but each of us is here to make a difference, at least in the life of somebody.

The **Feast of Ss. Peter and Paul** falls on Thursday. It is a Holy Day. As it happens I am in the immigration court in Manchester on Thursday with one of our new Christians, and so I have asked Fr. Cliff to celebrate the Midday Mass. We usually have a vigil Mass on the eve of holy days, but this year, I hope you don’t mind, the evening Mass, at 6.00 p.m., will be on the holy day itself, not on the vigil.

**Mass** this week is as follows -

Saturday	5.30 p.m.	Josie Byrne (birthday)
Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Parishioners
Tuesday	12.00 noon	Phena’s intention
Wednesday	12.00	Requiem Mass for Kathleen Stevens
Thursday	12.00	Sr. Margaret Gaitskill (50 <sup>th</sup> . anniv)
	6.00 p.m.	Parishioners
Friday	12.00	Gloria Castanza
Saturday	5.30 p.m.	Wally Quinn

**Funerals** this week. There will be a Requiem Mass on Wednesday for Kate Stevens at 12.00 noon. Please pray for her family and for her eternal rest. May she rest in peace.

There will be **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** on Saturday 4.15-5.15 p.m. and on Sunday 9.15-10.15 a.m.

**Confessions** are heard during those times – and any other time you need

**Parish Assembly** – next Saturday, July 1<sup>st</sup>. in the Sion Room in St. Anne’s.

The next **Co-Ordination meeting** will be on 23<sup>rd</sup>. September

Next **Men’s meeting** 26<sup>th</sup>. June. St. Bernard’s. 7.30 p.m. All men welcome

**Prayer Group** every Friday at 7.30 p.m. in the Sion Room

**Money Report.** The collection last weekend was **£517.48** Add on £624.80 from standing orders and tax returns to make a total of **£1,142.28** **Thank you**

**Id al-Fitr** is the Muslim feast day bringing to an end the fast of Ramadan. It is usual to send cards, greetings and presents. Earlier this week Jon Jones and I went to the Al Raqma Mosque, in our parish, to offer our condolences and concerns after the Finsbury Park atrocity. This followed the initiative of two of our women parishioners last weekend. The welcome we received could not have been more open and gracious. We were invited to come along to the Mosque that evening, after sunset, to break the fast with the community. This second welcome was even more gracious and genuine than the first, and, although I had to leave for while over an urgent sick call, a seat was kept for me and everyone was so very kind. The Lord Mayor was there that evening and two senior police officers. There is such a concern within the Muslim community to be open and involved.

The daily breaking of the fast is a very important and prayerful moment during Ramadan. It would be very important for us, next year with our newly ordered rooms and kitchen, to offer hospitality one evening, for the breaking of the fast. I am sure that meets with your approval. Meanwhile I am sending this letter to Sheik Abu Usama, the senior Imam, on this feast of Eid which falls on either Sunday or Monday.

*To the Liverpool Muslim Community.*

*I wish to send you my best wishes and the best wishes of my parish community for 'Id al-Fitr with which the month of Ramadan closes.*

*I was so touched that you invited Jon and me to share a moment of conviviality with you last Wednesday. That sign of friendship is appreciable, especially at this time when there is so much unrest and tension.*

*How sad it is when members of the same family do not speak to one another, avoid looking at one another, avoid meeting! How sad it is when Muslims and Christians, who are part of the one human family, ignore one another, no longer exchange greetings! And yet, how beautiful it is to live in peace with everyone, to meet together, to speak of our joys and sorrows, our fears and hopes! How can we not see in the dialogue between believers, and in particular between Muslims and Christians, a sign of hope for the present and for the future?*

*My friends and I are convinced that if we join hands in the name of God we can accomplish much good. We can work together for harmony and national unity, in sincerity and greater mutual confidence. I want to commit myself to this today and extend this invitation to you.*

*May our friendship inspire us always to cooperate in facing the many challenges with wisdom and prudence. In this way we will help to diminish tension and conflict, and advance the common good. We will also demonstrate that religions can be a source of harmony for the benefit of society as a whole.*

*Because we share God's mercy and responsibility for our society, we also share your joy as you celebrate the completion of Ramadan, and we pray for the whole Muslim community in Liverpool. As God has been with you in your fasting, may he also be with you in your feasting.*

*May the Almighty and Merciful God turn his face towards you and bless you. May he guide you. May he fill you with his peace and give joy to your hearts.*

**Parish Assembly**, next Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup>. July, 11.00-12.15 p.m. Do come, everyone. We are coming of age with the rich assortment of materials we have to discuss, and decisions to make. We can see things about to happen, get the latest and most up to date information. It is so important that every part of our parish is represented. The parish assembly, of its nature, is an OPEN FORUM. People do not have to speak. It is your presence and personal involvement which matters. We don't have votes. We believe in consensus, reaching an agreed position by discussion. It has worked very well so far. So EVERYONE, do please come. I will be delighted if we have to move into a bigger room.

**Planned Giving donors** please collect your letter from the church table.

**Catholic Pic**, special edition. To celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the opening of the Metropolitan Cathedral the Catholic Pic is producing a bumper edition, and we have been sent extra copies. Please take an extra copy to give to a Catholic who would not normally receive one.

Thank you for supporting our **Fair Trade Stall**. One reason for its success is that, thanks to you volunteers, we are able to open it every Sunday. With holidays and other reasons we do need **more people** to help. You would only be needed once a month.

Sister Eleanor says that, next Sunday, after Mass, tea and coffee will be served in the kitchen with cakes which the altar servers have made.

Good news from the Church in the USA. Reports coming out of the Bishops' conference is that, thanks to recent appointments by Pope Francis, key issues of immigration, social cohesion, health care are coming high on the discussion agenda and positive action being taken to implement them. Very different from previous years when every effort was made to avoid contentious issues.

Angela Merkel has just had her FIFTH meeting with Pope Francis. The daughter of a Lutheran Pastor she clearly enjoys meeting him, grateful for someone to whom she can speak freely and honestly. Apparently leaders are queuing up to see him. While avoiding political games he focuses on the big issues, climate change, refugees, social inequality

**From dating scams to auction fraud, Which magazine exposes the biggest scam hotspots in England and Wales.** Under the Freedom of Information Act, Which? requested and obtained thousands of fraud reports made by victims during 2014-16 to Action Fraud.

**Our analysis revealed that 2,177 people in Merseyside reported an online shopping or auction scam - the most commonly reported type of fraud in that area.**

Across the UK, 264,204 scams were reported to Action Fraud in 2016 – up by 10.7% on 2015. As rates soar, we're calling on the new government to prioritise fighting scams.

**Little Mick's Spot** (paws for thought). You all know I am only a little dog but I am all muscle with no fat



– at least the vet agrees with me. I got a good report, “fit, handsome and with fine teeth”. I know how strong my teeth are – I can be lifted off the ground by the rubber ball in my mouth. There was talk of an operation. I don't fancy that. Mind you, I don't think TD does either. So I am safe for the time being. I was able to show off my muscular physique at the great get together in Princes Park last Saturday in memory of Jo Cox. My main interest tho, as usual was the ball. No squirrels, rabbits or rats to chase. Nothing like the real thing. Somebody brought a plate of Baklavas to the house, from that spotlessly clean Syrian shop on Lodge Lane. They all dug into them - but as always with sweet things, no one gave me a second glance even though my tongue was hanging out. I have had some tasty bits this week, but I wanted a lot more. But then like everyone I have to make a choice - keep my handsome, muscular figure and be admired, or become a fat indolent dog. TD, help me.