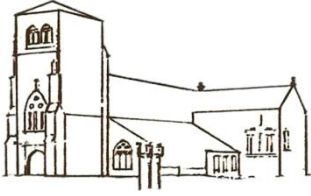


Newsletter for the parish of St. Anne & St. Bernard.



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The Fifteenth Sunday of the Year

15.07.18

Revolution in kindness (as encouraged by Jean Vanier). Thought for this week –
- *"I'm so proud of you. I just wanted to tell you in case no one has."*

Today's Scripture readings. The apostles are sent out to preach, two by two. In describing things as he does Mark is both warning and encouraging his own church. The apostles, like the Church which they were to found, are given exactly the same mission as Jesus, and they must be faithful to the message of Jesus, despite opposition from many quarters. Whatever happens they must always be faithful to the Gospel. Rejection will inevitably follow but they must never change the key Gospel message just because people do not accept it.

They will often fail in their mission as does the prophet Amos in the first reading, but they are not to be dismayed because it is all God's work. What matters is that they are themselves faithful.

The first reading presents one of the pitfalls that has faced Christians over the ages. Amaziah is a priest who sees his mission in "civil" terms, the state religion, to promote loyalty to the King, the power and secular structural centre. Bethel is the King's sanctuary, Amaziah almost a royal Chaplain, to make the King feel good about God, to salve his conscience. Amos is the outsider, sensitive to God and not sucked into the self interested concerns of the secular life. He challenges the comfortable, especially the unjust and corrupt government which the court prophet does not want to see.

Church history has revealed how easily Church people have lost sight of their God in the helter skelter of the Institution. How easily concern for "the Church" and its "security" have meant the loss of the spiritual and the Church's ultimate purpose.

The second reading in its origins is probably a Baptismal hymn, an act of thanksgiving. A key theme in the letter to the Ephesians is to teach how God wants Jews and Gentiles to be one people, leading to the overall message that all peoples, all things, all creation are **united** in Christ. The words of this passage from St. Paul are worthy of hours of reflection and prayer - the insight they give into God's love for us. It is all God's free gift. None of it is earned by us. That is what God's love means. Then it concludes "*you too have been stamped with the seal of the Holy Spirit of the Promise, the pledge of our inheritance which brings freedom to those whom God has taken for his own, to make his glory praised*".

Mass this week is as follows -

Saturday	5.30 p.m.	Eileen Sweeny
Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Parishioners
Tuesday	No Mass (Pray for Bahaador)	
Wednesday	12.00	Carmen
Thursday	12.00	Tony Doyle
Friday	12.00	Becchu family
Saturday	5.30 p.m.	Gerry & Tricia Riley

Adoration 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 are **confessions** every Saturday and Sunday during the Exposition.

Deanery Holy Hour. St. Anne's will host the Deanery Holy Hour adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, in preparation for the Eucharistic Congress, on Thursday, 9th. August..

Money Report . The collection last weekend was **£477.21**. Add on £624.80 from standing orders and tax returns to make a total of **£1,020.01**. Thank you all very much.

Please keep our sick friends in your prayer - Peter Knowles, Chloe Woo, Eileen Cullen, John Reynolds, Peter Nash, Philip Wrench, Kelly Wilson, Steve Casey, Pat Brown, Pat Dalton, Adam Dean, Stephen Woo, Nancy Goss, Saadat, Ken Otu, Flo Coffey, Sister Win, Ann McMahan, Bernie Connolly, Andy Murphy, 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. We can take Holy Communion to them and celebrate the Sacrament of the Sick.
Please pray for Daniel Jamieson, Fr. Peter Kelly, Fr. Michael McCarthy, Fr. Matthew O'Callaghan who have died..

The **Archdiocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage** leaves on 20th. July. The annual pre-pilgrimage Mass is today, Sunday at 5.00 p.m. in the Cathedral.

The **Co-Ordination** group meets next Thursday, 19th. July, at 5.00 p.m.
The **Prayer Group** meets in **St. Anne's House** on Friday at 7.30 p.m.
The **Men's Group** will meet on Monday, 23rd. July at 7.30 p.m. in St Bernard's.

Holy Land Pilgrimage -21st-28th. February 2019. Forms are available in the sacristy. Numbers seem to be growing quickly.

There's still time to share the journey! with those seeking sanctuary wherever they can find it. Please see Ann today and clock up your mileage. Well over fifty people from our parish alone took out time to contribute to the 24,900 miles, the world's circumference, we are trying to total. It is something which has touched the hearts of many all over the world and so our total will be made up of the struggling yards of the disabled to the many miles of the young and healthy – and maybe the not so young.

Parish Centre and rear grounds and car park Clean-Up. And let's include tidying up the church as well. Peter Crowe and Barry Brown are organising a final clean-up of the new parish rooms and the grounds at the rear of the church and in the new car park. Maybe the mucky candle sticks as well. This will take place **next Saturday**, 21st July, between 9am and 1pm. We need a group of happy people, twenty or more if possible. There is work for people of all ages no matter how young or how old. If you would like to help out please see Peter or Barry, or ring Peter on 07988 376 638 or Barry on 07737 101 157 – or just come. Cups of tea, coffee, whatever you fancy – and for sure a lot of fun. There is a list at the back of church. It will help us if you write your name, but please come even if you haven't signed up.

Care for our Common world. It's often been said "There's more than enough for our need, but never enough for our greed". Maybe we could bear this in mind when shopping and not worry about stocking up so much.

DR. A very fruitful programme for renewing a parish has been developed in Canada and has been used by a number of parishes over here. It is based on the book *Divine Renovation* by Fr. James Mallon. The main feature is a series of Alpha courses made available to everyone in the parish. We hope to start in September. We want to tailor these programmes to suit everyone. We will be asking you which is your best day of the week and your best time of day. So we expect to have them morning, afternoon and evening. What follows is part of a report of the Parish Priest of the parish of St. Elizabeth in Richmond, Surrey.

What are some of the fruits you are seeing so far?

We have seen a 20% increase in Mass attendance: up from 380 to just shy of 500 most weeks. A lot of young adults have joined our parish. Our giving has also increased substantially - so much so that the diocesan Finance Office rang when I submitted the annual return to ask me to check the figures as they thought I had made a mistake! We have had, and continue to have, people asking to join the Church, more people are involved in ministry in one way or another, and a lot more people are actively engaged with their faith. We recently repeated the ME25 and found that 30% of our parishioners are now engaged and those disengaged has slipped to 23%.

The Nugent Care Society, on behalf of the **Eucharistic Congress**, has asked to use our premises for three events. On the Friday evening, 7th. September, the Church will be used for a concert, mainly of Liverpool traditional music, and on Saturday the new Rooms will be used for a programme for disabled young people. This will be followed by a special Messy Church.

This **Messy Church** programme will need **a great deal of help from many people**. We will be making appeals for volunteers to support us,. There will be visitors coming and it is important for many reasons that this be a great success.

It is also launching our new Messy Church programme, to meet every second Saturday from 2.00 to 4.00 p.m.

Eucharistic Congress. There are now many tickets available for the Congress and these can be obtained on line. It will be a very worthwhile day, hopefully very prayerful, - Bishop Barron from the USA is the main speaker and renowned worldwide.

A third retired bishop has spoken out backing calls for the Church to look again at married clergy and the ordination of women. Former Bishop of Brentwood, Thomas McMahon, writes in a letter to *The Tablet* that he “very much” shares the view expressed by retired bishops Crispian Hollis and John Crowley. With growing secularisation as well as the shortage of priests, he speculates that the Holy Spirit “is pressing us into new ways of thinking”.

Bishop McMahon writes that through the ordination of former Anglican clergy as Catholic priests, and the subsequent ministry of many in the Ordinariate, Catholics have now been able to experience married priests in parishes. “On the whole they have been extremely well received by the people and bring a whole new dimension to their ministry,” he says. On women priests, he suggests Pope Francis should set up a commission like that looking at women deacons, then debate it in a council of the whole Church.

An evening with Jimmy McGovern. Jimmy said he would be happy to come and spend an evening with us in our new Rooms. We have so much to ask him and he has so much to share with us. He is always happy to explain to people why he writes as he does, what drives him. His latest success, *Broken*, was watched by many millions and was received so favourably. Jimmy has left it to us to arrange the day sometime in September/October. If this goes well there are other celebrities we can invite for similar evenings.

Pope Francis communicated more with one hand, on June 27, than many in the audience had seen in a long time from a church leader. With a smile on his face and his right arm raised in the air, Francis placed his two middle fingers in his palms and signed “I love you.” It was a message for the dozens of young people from North America and Central America who are both Catholic and deaf, and one that has made the life’s work of the Rev. Joseph Mulcrone well worth it. A priest in the Archdiocese of Chicago, Father Mulcrone has been working with deaf Catholics for four decades and said that introducing Catholics who often feel marginalized in the church to the pope ranks at the top of his career. (*America Magazine*)

Reflection. Many are avidly seeking, but they alone find who remain in continual silence... every man who delights in a multitude of words, even though he says admirable things, is empty within. If you love truth, be a lover of silence. Silence like the sunlight will illuminate you in God and will deliver you from the phantoms of ignorance. Silence will unite you to God himself... more than all things love silence: it brings you a fruit that tongue cannot describe. In the beginning we have to force ourselves to be silent. but then there is born something that draws us to silence. May God give you an experience of this “something” that is born of silence. If only you practice this, untold light will dawn on you in consequence... after a while a certain sweetness is born in the heart of this exercise and the body is drawn almost by force to remain in silence. (Isaac of Nineveh)

Little Mick’s Spot (paws for thought) . I’ve just come back from a really good run in the Park. Only two other dogs, one big, one tiny. “Bully” TD called after me when I played with the tiny dog. The tall one was a big softy. I think a mouse would scare him. He loped away when I tried to play. People complain at the rats. They’re living under the concrete slabs. I sniff all around and get very cross with them but you can’t blame me. I can’t lift the slabs. Nor can TD for that matter. Any self respecting rat wouldn’t dream of coming near me. Tho’ I did get a young one yesterday. They see the big fellas. TD speaks about getting Jimmy, the rat man, vermin control. That would really upset me. That’s my job. Imagine - someone watched the England game in our house – wearing a Croatian shirt!! He escaped in one piece. The drilling and noise is constant at present. The men are cleaning up and sorting out the brickwork where the hall and house were joined together. TD wants his little garden and a fence. I love the open plan we have at present even if there is lots of dust and noise. He’ll get his own way eventually. He always does. I’m just “little” Mick.

