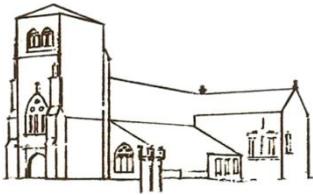


Newsletter for the parish of St. Anne & St. Bernard.



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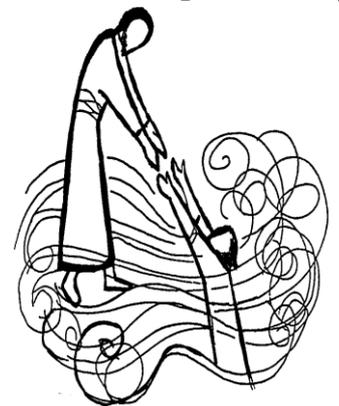
Nineteenth Sunday of the year 13.08.17

Revolution in kindness. Thought for this week

*A person who thinks only about building walls, wherever they may be,
and not building bridges,
is not Christian. This is not in the Gospel. (Pope Francis)*

Today's Scripture readings discuss where and how I, the disciple, meet God. Very often it is in the storms of life when we are least prepared to recognise that God is there. Like Peter we are invited to walk across the water, to go out into the storm, to do the impossible by trusting entirely in God.

In presenting the passage as he does, Matthew has in mind the persecutions the Church is going through in his own time. People are reminded that trying to do anything by ourselves is bound to end in failure. No one ever said it would be easy – just the opposite. In time of need we must call on Jesus. Peter is rebuked for his little faith, even when attempting what humanly is impossible. God is master of the ocean, all the powers of nature. There is nothing we cannot ask him. The talk was about carrying the cross, even to dying on it. For many, in unknown numbers, that is the consequence of embracing Jesus as their Lord.



Lord, save me

Note that Jesus sent them out in the boat. That tells us that leading a good life and doing God's will does not exempt us from trouble. We will never be free from turbulence. The image of the Church as the boat is as old as the Church itself. To be part of the Church, even more to have Jesus at the heart of everything in my life, is to be in the eye of the storm. Jesus is there constantly rebuking us for our little faith and demands that we trust him. What matters also is that the storm is not of our own doing – as are many of the problems facing the Church today. Even so the challenge is there – *why are you afraid, man of little faith?*

But then, even when the problems arise out of our own misbehaviour and are our own doing God can turn them to good if only we love him and let him.

Remember the prayer from the Book of Esther, "...save us by your hand and come to my help, for I am alone, and have no one but you, Lord." Yes, Lord. I am alone. The pressures on me are much bigger than I am. But you are bigger than all of them.

Mass this week is as follows -

Saturday	5.30 p.m.	Nancy Golding
Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Monica & James Morgan
Monday	<u>6.00 p.m.</u>	Mary Loh
Tuesday	12.00 noon	Parishioners
Wednesday	12.00	Margaret Meany
Thursday	12.00	Mary Dawless & family
Friday	12.00	Billy & Agnes Waldren
Saturday	5.30 p.m.	Paul Golding

The Assumption of the Blessed Mother into Heaven. A Holy Day when we are expected to celebrate the feast by attending Mass. The first Mass for the feast will be on Monday at **6.00 p.m.** with the Mass at 12.00 noon on the feast day itself.

You will find elsewhere in this newsletter an article on Mary and her Assumption by Fr. Leonard S.J. which I found very interesting and thought it would be a good reflection for the feast day.

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 the times of Exposition – and any other time you need

We pray for Hannah McDonald and Andrew Webb who marry in St. Anne's on Thursday at 1.30 p.m. God bless them.

The next **Co-Ordination meeting** will be on 23rd. September

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

The **Men Group** will meet on Monday, 21st. August at 7.30 in St Bernard's. All welcome.

The **Fair Trade stall** is open every Sunday after 10.30 a.m. Mass

Tea, coffee and biscuits served after Mass every Sunday. Volunteers needed for August

Fair Trade Stall. In the last month parishioners have purchased £300 worth of Fair Trade products which is wonderful, as this is a practical way of helping small farmers and their communities in developing countries. Thank you. Please keep up the support.

The **Journey to Faith** programme will be starting again at the end of September. We should now be inviting people to seek Baptism and Holy Communion. Those who have not received the Sacrament of Confirmation are invited to join us. Journey to Faith programmes for Farsi and Kurdish speakers have already begun. Both groups meet on Wednesdays.

The **First Communion programme** will be starting soon. We need to order the booklets used. Any parent with a child in another school than St. Anne's, who wishes to be part of our 2018 first Holy Communion programme, please notify Deacon Francis.

Money Report. The collection last weekend was **£461.68**. Add on £624.80 from standing orders and tax returns to make a total of **£1,086.48** **Thank you**

We are looking for **more musicians** for our Sunday choir. We would love to have many more and different instruments. Lol is anxious that we have a wide variety of instruments. I would love a cello, wind instruments and a bit of brass on occasion. We have three bag pipe players and we do hear from some of them occasionally. Lol is encouraging younger musicians. Also of course more singers. But don't forget the choir does not replace the community singing. The choir is to encourage all of us to sing as well as we can and all for the glory of God.

Tuesday is the feast of Our Lady's bodily Assumption into heaven. Fr. Richard Leonard S.J. has written this very interesting reflection

Now is not the time to throw out devotion to Mary, but to reclaim a relationship with her. On 15 August we celebrate Mary's Assumption. There is nothing in the doctrine that says Mary didn't die. Of course she did – she was a human being. The Eastern Church celebrates the feast of Mary's Dormition, of her falling asleep. The doctrine holds simply that Mary's body did not know the corruption of the grave.

It is, however, another death that reawakened my adult devotion to Mary. On 15 August 1975 the entire parish council of a village a few hours' travel from Santiago, the capital of Chile, was arrested by the military police. For months the other villagers tried to find out where the men had gone and why. Abduction, torture and illegal imprisonment were daily realities under the regime of General Augusto Pinochet. Word finally arrived in November that the councillors' corpses could be found in Santiago's morgue.

My friend Catherine, a religious sister, was working in the parish. She drove the mothers of the eight men to the morgue. Catherine later wrote to me: "You could not imagine what we found in the morgue. There were over 100 corpses piled high on each other, and each mother had to roll someone else's son over in an attempt to find her own. And as the mothers searched they began to weep loudly, realising how evil we can be toward one another.

As they wept they prayed the rosary. As one mother, and then another, found her son, they called out more desperately, 'Holy Mary, Mother of God. Pray for us sinners now, and at the hour of our death.'" Catherine's letter continued, "For years I rejected devotion to Mary because I felt oppressed by the way generations of men in the Church presented her – blue veils, white skin, always smiling, a perpetual virgin and yet also a mother, an ideal I could never achieve, but one to which I was told I should aspire. In the experience of the village mothers, however, the distortions of who Mary was for a poor and suffering world faded away. Far from feeling distant from their devotion, I found myself praying with them, knowing that Mary was with us in our shock, anger and grief."

Catherine then went on to describe their journey home. "It was harrowing. My pickup truck could not take all the mothers and their sons in the back, so I had one of them in the front with me, cradling her son in her arms all the way back to our village. I asked on the long trip home about their prayer to Mary. She said, 'We can only pray with Mary at times like this because she knows what it's like to bring a child into the world and claim his dead body in her arms.'"

In 1989, Catherine died of hepatitis. Her family had been trying to get her to come back to Australia for months, but after 25 years that village in Chile had become home. Soon after, the family received a letter from the mothers in the village. When it was translated into English it read: "We want you to know that we were with Sister Catherine when she died. We would never have let her die alone for she was one of our children, too. We often prayed the rosary with her in recent weeks. She seemed to like that, thumbing the beads she used ever since she brought us back with our boys. We have buried her next to our sons and put on her tombstone the line she asked us to inscribe: 'Mary my friend, my companion and mother of the poor, pray for me.'"

In 2001 I attended a conference in Chile. On our only day off I caught a bus into the mountain range behind Santiago. Nearly three hours later I alighted in the village in the noonday sun. Six surviving mothers greeted me like a long-lost son and took me to Catherine's grave, which was immediately adjacent to those of their sons. We stood. We wept. We embraced. One of them asked me to pray. I don't speak Spanish. They had little English. Then I began singing that ancient Latin love song in honour of Our Lady: *Salve Regina*. And as soon as I started they all joined in. Something was reborn in me that day and it's flourished ever since. Now is not the time for us to throw out devotion to Mary, but to reclaim a relationship with her under whatever title works best: mother, first among the saints, prophet, friend, companion in faith. If we are in touch with the fact that we are poor in spirit, we know she meets us there and always journeys with us to her Son: now, and at the hour of our death.

Caring for our common world – this week's eco tip. For urban driving having half a tank of petrol rather than a full tank is more economical because your car will weigh less. Anything that saves fuel is eco friendly

UN prohibition of nuclear weapons. 7th. July 2017. More than 70 years after the world witnessed the devastating power of nuclear weapons, a global treaty has been approved to ban the bombs, a move that supporters hope will lead to the eventual elimination of all nuclear arms.

The treaty was endorsed by 122 countries at the [United Nations](#) headquarters in New York on Friday after months of talks in the face of strong opposition from nuclear-armed states and their allies. **All of the countries that bear nuclear arms and many others that either come under their protection or host weapons on their soil boycotted the negotiations.** The most vocal critic of the discussions, the US, pointed to the [escalation of North Korea's nuclear and ballistic missile programme](#) as one reason to retain its nuclear capability. The **UK did not attend the talks** despite government claims to support multilateral disarmament.

The **Catholic Truth Society**, CTS, has made many books available as ebooks. Please take an explanatory card from the back of the church. They are available on kindle, kobo and iBooks. Visit www.ctsbooks.org/ebooks

The **Nugent Charity Shop** on Allerton Road is in urgent need of stock consisting of clothing, books, bric-a-brac, shoes and handbags. If you have any unwanted items please consider donating them to our Charity Shop and these can be dropped off at Nugent Charity Shop, 73 Allerton Road, Liverpool, L18 2DH from 9am – 5pm, Monday to Saturday. Thank you. They are also looking for a volunteer driver.

Called Beyond

This is a new initiative developed by the **National Office for Vocations**. It is an opportunity for all Catholics to celebrate the call of Christ in our lives.

This Pastoral Area has been chosen to launch a pilot scheme which will take place in October of this year. It will explore the vocation of all of us from youth, young adults, married people as well as those called to religious life and the priesthood.

More information will be given in due course.

Little Mick's Spot (paws for thought). I remember TD said goodbye to me before he left me last week but I had no idea he was deserting me. I know it was only for five days but it seemed like forever - he said that to me as well. Uncle Bob was great with me but TD and I do certain things together. People told him I was rather quiet over those days. We missed each other. Anyhow, I was pleased to see him last Tuesday and I made a great fuss of him. I have followed him everywhere ever since. I heard him telling someone that he couldn't pack a case when his last dog, Jack, was about. Jack knew he was off and would get very upset. I think I must have been in bed when he packed his case this time. I know I haven't given him any peace since he came back. I'll teach him to leave me. Incidentally my field has lots of blackberries. If you want to pick them just let us know. I'm not keen but TD loves them with ice cream. They won't last for much longer so come now.



