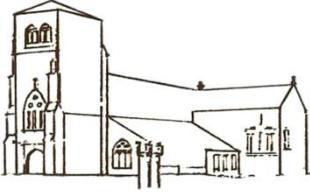


Newsletter for the parish of St. Anne & St. Bernard.



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First Sunday of Lent

18.02.18

Revolution in kindness (as encouraged by Jean Vanier). Thought for this week - *the best apology is changed behaviour*

Today's Readings. On this first Sunday of Lent, the Church always puts before us the memory of Jesus' temptation in the desert. Matthew and Luke present us with quite a full account, each with no fewer than three temptations. This year, however, it is Mark's version that we are given, very brief but powerful. The story immediately follows Mark's account of Jesus' baptism, when he has been told, "*You are my son, the Beloved with you I am well pleased*". Then, to our astonishment, we read: "*And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness*". There, we learn, he was "*for 40 days*", and Mark's first readers will not have needed reminding about Moses spending that length of time with God on Mt Sinai, or about Elijah, marching to Horeb, God's mountain or, come to that, the 40 years of Israel's desert wanderings.

There is more, however, for Jesus is being "*tempted by Satan*", the ancient adversary of humanity; and "*he was with the wild beasts*", which might either indicate a stark and menacing situation, or signal that the time envisaged by Isaiah has come, when "*the lion shall eat straw like the ox*" (Isaiah 11:7). The next line offers some cheer, though, for "*the angels waited on him*".

We cannot say, on the evidence that Mark gives us, what form the temptation took. What we do learn is the effect on Jesus. "*Now after John was arrested, Jesus came proclaiming the good news of God to Galilee,*" (1:14). This is the start of the journey that will end on that hillside in Jerusalem, and in the nearby tomb. It is significant that the start of the journey is linked to John's arrest. Later on, Mark will give us a dramatic account of John's death at Herod's hands, a stark warning to all who would join Jesus on the journey. Nevertheless, it is something that he has to do, now that "*the time is fulfilled*" (1:15). What is more, God is at work, "*the kingdom of God has come near; repent and believe in the good news*".

What is being asked of me and us, as a parish, this year, as we journey to Easter?

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 and kitchen. Only two weeks off. A list is on the table at the back of the church. If you wish to take part please sign it.

Lent Family Fast Day. Next Friday is Family Fast Day. Your offerings, the fruit of next Fridays' sacrifices, will be collected next Sunday after Mass and sent to CAFOD. It is reinforced this year by Pope Francis' plea to make next Friday a day of prayer and fasting for peace, especially in South Sudan and in Congo. (see leaflet)

A reminder that **Family Fast Day** gives us the opportunity to deny ourselves some pleasures –food, drinks, cinema, anything which gives pleasure and costs money, and give what you save to our CAFOD Charity. The idea is that we identify ourselves with the suffering victims of poverty. That we “feel” deprivation at least a little. The current crisis involving OXFAM will have an effect on other charities and undoubtedly the poor will be the main victims. Many projects in Africa and elsewhere are being cancelled, with very severe consequences for people dependent on them. The thought of being even more generous than usual will give extra spice to our Lent.

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.

Mass this week is as follows -

| | | |
|-----------|------------|------------------|
| Saturday | 5.30 p.m. | Deceased priests |
| Sunday | 10.30 a.m. | Parishioners |
| Tuesday | 12.00 noon | Thomas O'Toole |
| Wednesday | 7.30 p.m. | Rebecca Hammond |
| Thursday | 12.00 noon | Peter Olsen |
| Friday | No Mass | |
| Saturday | 5.30 p.m. | Bridget Hadley |

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.

First Holy Communion Class next Saturday, 24th. February, 12.00 noon in church.

Meetings This week

Journey to Faith. Meet on Tuesday at **7.00 p.m.** in St. Bernard's House, The **Prayer Group** will meet in St. Anne's House on Friday at 7.30 p.m. The **Men's Group** will meet tomorrow, Monday, 19th. February, 7.30 p.m. in St Bernard's

Justice and Peace meeting 22nd. February at 7.30 p.m. in St. Bernard's.

Please keep our sick friends in your prayer – Anne Traylor, Nancy Goss, Bill Whitehead, Selamawit, Saadat, Hannah McCollum, Ken Otu, John Donohoe, Flo Coffey, Sister Win, Ann McMahon, 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 - Peninah Wambui, Maureen Brotherton, Kevin McGuinness

Last Tuesday the **Journey to Faith** team went to Carmel to experience something of the Religious life and to talk about prayer. From left to right they are, Jhonn, Daniel, Bobby, Solomon, Nagma, Neil, Sister Mary from Carmel, Charlie, Denis, Farzeneh, Peter, Uhana, Rassul, Solomon (2), Bahaadar, Mehdi, Saeid, Armin.

Today the whole group will be in the Cathedral at 3.00 for the **Rite of Election** when the Archbishop welcomes the new Christians, and authorises me to proceed to celebrate their Baptism and Confirmation at Easter. Everyone is welcome to come. You are asked especially to pray for them.



After the evening Mass on Wednesday 27th February, we will be having reflections inspired by **Laudato Si** and the Gospel reading for the First Sunday of Lent, (hopefully in the new rooms? – we'll need to wait and see).

The next **Parish Assembly** will be held in 17th. March.

Money Report. The collection last weekend was £495.40. Add on £624.80 from standing orders and tax returns to make a total of **£1,120.20** . Thank you all very much.

Care for our common home. Come and bring the family to join the Princes Park Bird Walk. Find out more about our wonderful wild life and how to protect it. Guided tour on Saturday, 24th. February from 11.30 -12.30. Meet at the Sunburst Park gates, ie. the gates facing Princes Avenue, at 11.30 a.m.

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 Minsteracres, 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, currently in a refugee camp. Terry says that we still need more people. We need a group of about 25 people to take this forward and we are working with some neighbouring parishes. Another meeting has been arranged for Tuesday, 27th. February, at 8.00 p.m. in St. Charles' parish hall, Aigburth Rd. All welcome.

The Men's Rites of Passage 25th - 29th July 2018 The Bield at Blackruthven, Nr Perth, A 5-day life-changing program for men devised by **Richard Rohr OFM** which has been undertaken by over 5000 men across the world. This is not about religion, but about spirituality. About age-old traditions that guide men into manhood. About coming to trust that there is something much greater at work in your life than you could ever imagine. Taking you sometimes OUT of your comfort zones, but more deeply back into your own life. You may find yourself mentally, intellectually, emotionally and spiritually challenged. This is part of the experience for some men: it may feel risky or uncomfortable; you may not always feel in control. Throughout the 5 days you will be held by an experienced team of male elders who have all previously undertaken the Rites themselves. As the Elders take you through the process of the Rites you will experience drumming, ritual, fire, silence, small groups, wilderness, solo-time, teaching ... and more. The Men's Rites of Passage are suitable for men of all colour, age (even 80 year olds go), sexuality, ethnicity and faith tradition (or no faith); men with more severe physical disabilities are asked to provide more details of their restrictions during the application process and we will provide further advice. <http://www.malejourney.org.uk/rites> or speak to Fr. Richard Sloan (If it involves the two Fr. Richards it must be special)

The Archbishop has asked for younger people, men and women, to help support the sick at Lourdes, during the annual Archdiocesan pilgrimage in July. Those helping at present have put in many years of valiant service and are feeling the need to slow down and need younger help. For more information please see me.

Parish Rooms. The handing over date is getting close. The structural changes in the building have been almost completed. The new entrance looks really good and the restructuring of wall where the old door stood is excellent. Maybe just one more week is required.

Little Mick's Spot (paws for thought). That's me with my birthday cards, at my sentry post on the top stairs. See how I keep an eye on everything, all the comings and goings in my house. What a to do at the moment! We currently have no bell – some good men are trying to sort out this new fangled camera they have bought us. There is a message on the door telling people to use the knocker – which no one can hear - except me. I bark of course, my *answer the door at once* bark, and so TD knows some one is there. So I am very important. The work could not go on without Little Mick! Did you have a good St. Valentine's day? One of my birthday cards doubled up as a Valentine. That's little Mollie. Did you get any valentines? Don't you feel sorry for these old fellas like TD who never get one – at least as far as I know! He'd have boasted to me if he had had one. My birthday had its disappointments. TD wasn't well and the promised long runs in the park didn't happen. But they will, he says. I had lots of tasty bits though. I am getting rather used to them. Don't spoil him, TD says. He must stay fit and not lose his figure. Thanks for your pressies. They even came by post. Thanks so much. God bless you all.



