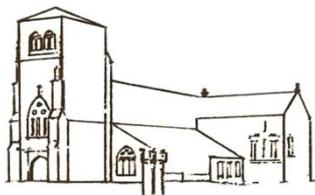


Newsletter for the parish of St. Anne & St. Bernard.



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The Twenty Second Sunday of the Year 02.09.18

Revolution in kindness (as encouraged by Jean Vanier). Thought for this week

When I say, "I am a Christian"
I'm not shouting, "I've been saved!"
I'm whispering, "I get lost sometimes"
That's why I chose this way"

When I say, "I am a Christian"
I don't speak with human pride
I'm confessing that I stumble –
needing God to be my guide

When I say, "I am a Christian"
I'm not trying to be strong
I'm professing that I'm weak
and pray for strength to carry on

When I say, "I am a Christian"
I'm not bragging of success
I'm admitting that I've failed
and cannot ever pay the debt

When I say, "I am a Christian"
I don't think I know it all
I submit to my confusion
asking humbly to be taught

When I say, "I am a Christian"
I'm not claiming to be perfect
My flaws are far too visible
but God believes I'm worth it

When I say, "I am a Christian"
I still feel the sting of pain
I have my share of heartache
which is why I seek God's name

When I say, "I am a Christian"
I do not wish to judge
I have no authority
I only know I'm loved. *(Carol Wimmer)*

Mass this week is as follows -

Saturday	5.30 p.m.	Jeanette Aurey
Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Parishioners
Tuesday	12.00 noon	Requiem Mass for Eileen Cullen
Wednesday	12.00	Carmen
Thursday	12.00	John Lynch
Friday	12.00	Sheila Potter
Saturday	5.30 p.m.	Lesley Rogers (ill)

There is a Nuptial Mass on Saturday at 1.30 p.m. between Ryan Devlin and Danielle Graham. We congratulate them and we all for a very happy marriage.

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 Adoration.

Funerals this week. There is a Requiem Mass on Tuesday at 12.00 noon for Eileen Cullen. Eileen was a very faithful Christian, very kind, faithful to her Saturday evening Mass at St. Bernard's and then at St. Anne's. She will be much missed. As we pray for Eileen we pray also for her family.

The next **parish assembly** will be on November 3rd.

The **Prayer Group** - 7.30 p.m. Fridays in the Parish Rooms. You are welcome.

The **Men's Group** will meet on Monday, 3rd. September, at 7.30 p.m. in St Bernard's.

Justice & Peace. Next meeting is 20th. September

Messy Church - 8th. September . Theme is the Eucharist. To meet every 2nd. Saturday

Please keep our sick friends in your prayer - Rose Coady, Frank Hall, Ann Marie Ashley, Luba Sajkalova, Jeanette Airey, Chloe Woo, John Reynolds, Steve Casey, Pat Brown, Pat Dalton, Adam Dean, Stephen Woo, Nancy Goss, Saadat, Ken Otu, Flo Coffey, Sister Win, Ann McMahon, 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 Eileen Cullen and Georgie Fitzgibbon who have died recently

Money Report . The collection last weekend was **£379.74**. Add on £624.80 from standing orders and tax returns to make a total of **£1,004.54**. Thank you all very much.

Alpha course. There are two sheets on the church table to be signed. The first invites you to commit yourselves to come to the parish rooms, every Tuesday evening for eleven weeks, and take part in the Alpha Course, starting on 11th. September at 6.00 p.m. As mentioned last week we will begin with a meal so you should not need to eat at home. Each session should last two hours. As mentioned last week the first theme is always asking the challenging question– is there more to life than this? The fundamental questions about why we are here.

The second theme asks who is Jesus, the third asks why did he die. Then there are taken up the themes of faith, prayer, the Bible, how does God guide us. After six or seven weeks there is a full day away somewhere when the Holy Spirit becomes the focus of interest, and question arises how can I make the most of the rest of my life. Then asking how can I resist evil and asking about God's healing and the Church. There are suggestions about how to follow up on the Alpha experience because that is what it is – an experience, and, please God, a life changer.

The second sheet is for people who wish to take part, but cannot come on Tuesday evenings. You are asked to say which day is better for you, and whether there is another day which suits you, and what time of the day suits you best. It may be morning or afternoon. We could start a second course on a different day, at a different time, as soon as you want. There is no age limit. No one is too old to get to know Jesus better.

Of course it will only be a parish life changer if we actually attend. Then, of course, those who have been on it will be inspirations to others to decide to take part. There will always be places for people who come without a faith back ground. The course was originally intended for them, but parishes have changed when parish members have taken part and with profound effects.

The **National Eucharistic Congress**, next weekend in Liverpool, is a call for the country to pray. The focus is on the Mass and the Blessed Sacrament. Please make next weekend special for the prayer we offer. Please note our own times for adoration in our church.

Messy Church next Saturday as part of the **Eucharistic Congress**. The Messy Church is an evangelising action for the whole family. It appeals to the unchurched and opens up their minds to the Gospel. Help is desperately needed if we are to go ahead. Key helpers are on holiday. While help is needed for the long term, next week is the key moment when visitors will come, prepared to start it in their own parishes, once they see what a successful activity it is. All the planning is done. But people are needed to help. Please see Frances or me.

Throughout the time of the Congress there are activities taking place throughout the city. All the information is in this month's Catholic Pic and also in the leaflet to be collected with our parish newsletter.

Today's readings *For it is from within, from men's hearts, that evil intentions emerge...All these evil things come from within..* (To day's Gospel)

*"Pure, unspoilt religion, in the eyes of God our Father is this:
coming to the help of orphans and widows when they need it,
and keeping oneself uncontaminated from the world"*

(St. James in today's 2nd. reading)

How vital it is to keep our minds focused on the essential – the heart. It is the easy way to see the law, in whatever religion, as the essential thing which must be kept, forgetting that law touches only on externals. What comes from the heart is the key.

Moreover, so much religious law is man made, as Jesus points out, and is only useful in responding to the specific need for which it was made. The first reading today warns us against adding to God's law. It is so important to distinguish between the commandments of God and our human traditions. Then Jesus himself is critical of the law when it is used as a cloak for disobedience to God. The Scriptures emphasise that love is the driving force, and that directs the intention.



Don't get bogged down, Jesus says, in rituals of any kind. St. James tells us to accept and submit to God's Word that *is planted within us* and act on that Word. Some rituals are obviously very helpful and full of meaning. The main example given today is washing. Water has a deep significance in the rituals of all religions, but when it signifies only external cleanliness then it has lost its religious meaning. We can all give examples from our own lives and many of them are bound up in superstition. We can suffer from OCD (Obsessive compulsive disorder) and try and justify it on religious grounds. This in turn reflects a twisted view of God. It is our inner purity that matters which must affect our outward behaviour.

Care for Our Common Home. Whenever you make sandwiches remember to wrap your sandwiches in Greaseproof paper or foil rather than in plastic.

The Big Concert. Associated with the Eucharistic Congress there will be a concert in our church, St. Anne's church, on the evening of Friday, 7th. September. **It will be free** and thoroughly enjoyable. Do please come. It will be our opportunity to welcome visitors from all over the country. Cardinal Nicholls, once a priest in St. Anne's, has been invited. We will be needing help with refreshments. I am looking forward to it.

LGBT and the Church. In a much anticipated address, American Jesuit Fr James Martin told a packed 1,000-seater auditorium at the World Meeting of Families Pastoral Congress in Dublin, that gays have often been treated like "lepers" by the Church. Fr Martin, who is an author and editor-at-large of America magazine, is trying to build a bridge between the LGBT community and the Church. He said that gay Catholics have felt excluded from the Church for so long that any experience of welcome can be life-changing. He highlighted some double standards in the attitudes of Catholics. "Even though Jesus condemns divorce outright, most parishes welcome divorced people. Do we treat LGBT people with the same understanding?" he asked. He also urged people to be willing to apologise to LGBT Catholics or their families if they have been harmed in the name of the Church by homophobic comments, attitudes or decisions. An apology, he said, "doesn't solve everything, but it's a start". He stressed that LGBT people do not choose their orientation. "Sadly, many people still believe that people choose their sexual orientation, despite the testimony of almost every psychiatrist, biologist and, more important, the lived experience of LGBT people," he said. "You don't choose your orientation or gender identity any more than you choose to be left handed." He said he had heard appalling stories from LGBT Catholics who had been made to feel unwelcome in parishes, including the case of a 30-year-old autistic gay man who came out to his family, and was not in any relationship. He recounted to Fr Martin how a pastoral associate had told him he could no longer receive Communion because even saying he was gay was a scandal. (*the Tablet*)

School Holidays. All good things come to an end. We hope all our children and staff have had a wonderful, restful holiday. We pray for the coming term, that it be happy, fruitful and successful in every way. Those young people starting new schools, colleges or universities – all the very best from us all. Remember – God loves you. You are never alone.

It is good to see the church **car park** is now at it full size. We will mark the parking bays so as to get the maximum of cars in. All church members and visitors are invited to use it.

Little Mick's Spot (paws for thought). We saw your paw marks, Mick, the builder said.



The LHT houses are more or less completed and our new neighbours should be in soon. The soil is down in the gardens and grass is to be laid. The soil is so neatly raked – or it was until I got to work. Watch it, Mick,

I was warned. It's not your field any more. Those houses and the gardens, with their sheds, are really smart. We're waiting for the soil for our new garden – and the concrete too. TD wants a greenhouse. Nothing there for me. The barbeque could be ok, though. I hope I would get my share of the meat. TD's bound to drop the odd bit (or two) of burger.

Though I can hear him now – don't drop any chicken bones. Do you know what my idea of heaven is? To be free to smell every square inch of our local pavements and all the weeds by the walls. Come on, Mick, TD says, you've been there long enough. It's just as well I am so patient with him. I always go. Keep him happy, I say.