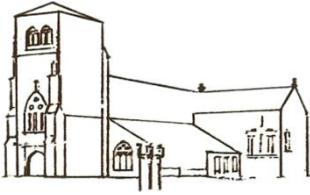


Newsletter for the parish of St. Anne & St. Bernard.



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Twenty Third Sunday of the Year 10.09.17

Revolution in kindness. Thought for this week from Jesus.

“Love your enemy. Do good to those who hate you. Pray for those who persecute you”

Today's **Scripture readings.** Clearly discipline played a major part in the early Church. It probably did in our post War Church as well but it is not something we tend to emphasise today.

To be a Christian there must be a Creed in which we believe and a leadership which we follow. There must be a way of life which the experience of past generations has found to describe what Christianity means. This is based on the traditions handed on to us through the Scriptures and through the Church. We are very conscious about the evil of sin and the destructiveness of self love. We have a Sacrament of self examination which demands that we are honest with ourselves and confess to a priest the evil in our lives. In the name of the Church we are reconciled back the community from which our sin has alienated us.

The key to genuine confession is repentance. True repentance leads a person to say, "I have sinned" and prove it with a total change of their direction. Repentance requires true brokenness so that we have only God to turn to. Repentance is not asking the Lord for forgiveness unconcerned whether we sin again. Repentance is an honest, regretful acknowledgement of sin with commitment to change. Repentance leads us to cultivate godliness while eradicating habits that lead into sin.

This unity within the Church, coming from reconciliation, was so vital in Scriptural days. Expressed in all sorts of ways unity in faith and life was and is seen as a reflection of our union to be experienced for ever in the presence of God. *“Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven”* is a plea to God to bring unity and harmony in to our world, to prepare us for the world to come, that what happens in heaven may be done on earth. We see in the first reading of Ezechiel the Prophet that he had the responsibility of ensuring each individual was aware that modelling his life on good teaching was to bring to fulfilment God's plan for a united people.

It really is summed up in the final part of the Gospel - that unity of mind and heart in the name of Jesus, will bring immeasurable good as we pray for those needs on which we are united.

“I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything in my name, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven

Mass this week is as follows -

Saturday	5.30 p.m.	Larkin family
Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Parishioners
Tuesday	12.00 noon	Bridie Casey
Wednesday	12.00	Joan (in thanksgiving)
Thursday	12.00	Mary McCauley
Friday	12.00	Niall Roy
Saturday	5.30 p.m.	Richard Johnson (ill)

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

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, 11th. Sept at 7.30 in St Bernard's. All men welcome

The next Justice and Peace is Thursday, 19th. October, at 7.30 p.m. in St. Bernard's

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

Tea, coffee and biscuits served after Mass every Sunday in the kitchen.

Please keep **our sick friends** in your prayer – Kathie Elliot, Josie Burger, Flo Coffey, Sister Win, Annie Barton, Ann McMahon, Eddie Barrett, Bernie Connolly, Andy Murphy, Trish Riley. There are other house bound people to whom we take Holy Communion weekly. 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, 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.

Very important. We are an **evangelising Church**. We have Good News to offer. All the difference between life and death. Isn't that what you believe? Well then the **Journey to Faith** programme will be starting again at the end of September. We are now 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 school other than St. Anne's, who wishes to be part of our 2018 first Holy Communion programme, please notify Deacon Francis. Please let us know asap. As you know we meet monthly with parents and children, and parents work with their children for the rest of the month.

Syrian Resettlement Programme: Community Sponsorship Scheme, to sponsor a Syrian family in conjunction with other parishes, working ecumenically. The aim is for the family to become independent and settled in the community. *We are grateful to those parishioners who feel they can give a little bit of practical help to volunteer to join a support group.*

Care for our common world. This week's **ECO tip** – Take shorter showers! It saves gallons of water, which saves you money and avoids wasting our precious water.

Money Report. The collection last weekend was **£625.58**. Add on £624.80 from standing orders and tax returns to make a total of **£1,250.38**. **Thank you**

A few weeks ago I mentioned that **Nagule**(swaran) (in Sri Lanka, formerly of this house before his deportation) had hoped to buy some land to grow spices. That proved to be far too expensive and I pulled out. Now there is another piece of land, a lot cheaper, this time growing coconuts. They bring in a good price and he could make a living out of it. His aunt in Norway, his only relative, has taken out a mortgage and is paying most of the money. I am trying to raise a couple of thousand pounds for him. If anyone would like to help I would be grateful.

Cafod has reported that its partners are responding in all three South Asian countries worst affected by heavy monsoon floods – India, Nepal and Bangladesh. More than 40 million people have been caught up in the floods and at least 1,200 people have died. Cafod and the Caritas network are providing emergency relief with an emphasis on preventing the spread of waterborne diseases through additional health, hygiene and sanitation support. Chris Bain, director of Cafod, has described the situation as “a hidden emergency as the world’s attention focuses elsewhere, but the Church has been at the forefront of the emergency response”. In India, where the financial capital of Mumbai was inundated, Cafod is working with Caritas India supporting families by providing temporary accommodation, food and water, and the distribution of personal hygiene and sanitation kits for women and girls. In Nepal, Caritas Nepal is providing families with cooked meals as well as clean drinking water and temporary shelter. In Bangladesh, where one third of the country is submerged, Caritas Bangladesh is providing emergency support in all eight dioceses.

FOR THE first time, more than half of the British population now describe themselves as having no religion, according to a new survey. The decline in religious affiliation has hit the Church of England particularly hard with the number of Anglicans falling by 50 per cent in under two decades, the British Social Attitudes survey revealed. By contrast the number of Catholics – at around 10 per cent – has remained relatively stable over the same time period. (will it be the same after Brexit when Catholic Europeans have to return home?) The number of people saying they have no religion (53 per cent) is at its highest ever level, up from 48 per cent in 2015, NatCen Social Research found in its survey of 2,942 people. The fall in religious affiliation has been driven, at least in part, by young people, reveals the survey. In 2016, about three quarters or 71 per cent of young people aged 18-24 said they had no religion, up from 62 per cent in 2015. Within the Church of England young people are particularly underrepresented, according to the survey. Just three per cent of those aged 18-24 described themselves as Anglican.

Little Mick's Spot. (paws for thought) Now we know the bad news. I will lose my field



on 25th. September. And I thought what a nice man he was when he called to the house until I heard him tell TD he was Ian and he had the contract to build the six new houses next door. Just what am I to do? Over the past year I have had such fun there. Well I don't like it when that cat just sits on the wall and leers at me. All I can do is to bark at him. But good other than that. At least it makes TD laugh. But all the hunting, the ball chasing, and so many visitors who have taken me out and play with me. No more. More park runs then! It's got to be. TD has stopped opening the door after dark. He says it is always for money. And why come when it is dark? I let him know people are there from my sentry lookout. People can be very persistent with their ringing so I bark all the louder and for longer. I'm glad we have those big men loving in the house. I look after them too – in my little way

The Church leaders in Liverpool are each contributing a reflection on the

500th Anniversary of the Reformation

Here The Revd Dr Sheryl Anderson, Chair of the Liverpool Methodist District writes on repenting :

When I was a child, growing up in the east end of London, one treat was a trip to Walthamstow Market. The market street was lined with stalls selling exotic fruit and vegetables, or clothing, or brightly coloured fabric, and halfway down was the best ice cream parlour in the world. There was also the old man wearing the placard that proclaimed, 'Repent - the end is nigh!' This would always draw a comment from my mother, who remembered him being there when she was a child. I used to puzzle about the word 'nigh' (near) as it clearly did not mean 'near' like tea-time, but near like Christmas, which was always a long time coming. I knew from Sunday School that the word 'repent' meant saying sorry for something you had done wrong. If I quarrelled with someone at school, sooner or later an adult would tell us we had to say sorry and make up, which we usually did – more or less willingly. Now I am older I understand just how much more there is to repenting than simply saying sorry.

The 500th anniversary of the reformation is a difficult occurrence to categorise. Certainly, we are marking a significant historic event. However, where we would normally celebrate an anniversary, given the violence and suffering that this division in Christian unity initiated, perhaps commemorate is the better word. The question to consider is, what is a suitable tone to adopt in our commemorating? For, as David Cornick¹ points out:

The legacy of Luther's quest for the peace of God and his 're-discovery' of justification by faith led to the invention of Protestantism, the division of Europe into religious blocs, and a consequent series of religious wars which wrecked and scarred almost every European nation for the next century and a half.

Perhaps then, it is appropriate to suggest that a significant part of our commemorations might involve us repenting. Not simply in the sense of saying sorry and making up (although that might be a good start) but in the sense that Jesus intends when he proclaims in Matthew 4:17, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.'

The word in the Hebrew Bible that we translate as 'repent' – שׁוּב (shub) – means to turn back or return. Similarly, in New Testament Greek – μετανοέω (metanoëó) – means to change one's mind, to think differently. This is pertinent to our commemorations because, over the last 500 years, the divisions in our unity have permitted us to construct and maintain such caricatures of each other's beliefs and traditions, that we run the risk of becoming as anachronistic as the man in the market with the placard. It is only through a turning back of our prejudices – repenting in the true sense of the word – that we will be set sufficiently free to focus on our primary calling as proclaimers together of the love and mercy of God in Jesus Christ.

Courses at LACE

1. **Catechist Course** Monday 18th./25th. September
2. **Living Fully.** A day of study, worship and workshops exploring how life is a gift of God and how each living person has a valued and dignified place in the Body of Christ. Saturday 23rd. September 10.00-4.00 p.m.
3. "Come and drink from the water" – a morning of reflection for **Eucharistic Ministers.** Saturday 30th. September 9.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.
4. **Bereavement** – the ministry of consolation. Wednesdays 18th.-25th. October at Holy Rosary Parish Centre, Aintree.