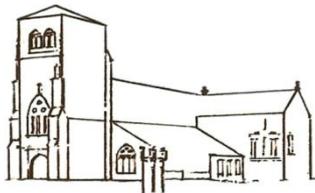


Newsletter for the parish of St. Anne & St. Bernard.



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The Twenty Third Sunday of the Year 09.09.18

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

"How might your relationships with others change if you responded with kindness?"

Corey Gladwell

*It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed"*

Today's Scripture readings. In the Gospel today Jesus cures a deaf and dumb man. The first reading has been chosen to accompany the Gospel because early Christians saw this passage as predicting the Lord's coming. The Prophet says *"Courage! Do not be afraid. Look, your God is coming...the tongues of the dumb sing for joy"*.

This healing of Jesus involves the use of spittle – the other Gospels which use Mark's text, omit this physical aspect of the cure, preferring miracles in which people are cured by the power of Jesus' word alone.

The Gospel passage has significance as a healing miracle but there is more to it than that. It symbolises what is happening to the disciples. They have been deaf to Jesus' word and so far have been unable to express an act of faith in him. But things are changing. Peter will make his act of faith at Caesarea Philippi. Thus the ears of the disciples will be opened, their tongues released, and they will speak plainly through their spokesman, Peter – as we will see next week.

But for Mark's readers another aspect of the opening of the ear and loosing of the tongue is at Baptism. The "Ephphatha" or "be opened" were words spoken to the newly baptised. The new birth of baptism gave rise to them hearing God's word in a new way and uttering his praise as their daily prayer.

The second reading, from James, is an exhortation for justice for the poor. The early Christians seem to have been mainly, poor people, and so, unlike the Old Testament Prophets, there is little in the New Testament about social justice because there were few powerful people to target. James is the exception. There were clearly many poor people, but in James's community there were rich people too. They were not politically powerful but money divided the community, the rich being feted, the poor being sidelined. These distinctions are attacked fiercely by James *"Can't you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that?"*

Mass this week is as follows -

Saturday	5.30 p.m.	Lesley Rogers (ill)
Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Parishioners
Tuesday	12.00 noon	Janet & Albert
Wednesday	12.00	Sr. Consolata
Thursday	12.00	No Mass
Friday	12.00	Charles Davies
Saturday	5.30 p.m.	John Tottol

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.

The next **parish assembly** will be on November 3rd.
The next Co-Ordination group is on Thursday, 20th. September at 5.00p.m.
The **Prayer Group** - 7.30 p.m. Fridays in the Parish Rooms. You are welcome.
The **Men's Group** will meet on Monday, 24th. September, at 7.30 p.m. in St Bernard's.
Justice & Peace. Next meeting is 20th. September
Messy Church – 13th. October. 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 Georgie Fitzgibbon and Darren Mann who have died recently

Money Report . The collection last weekend was **£557.10**. Add on £624.80 from standing orders and tax returns to make a total of **£1,181.90** Thank you all very much.

Justice & Peace matters

1. 16th to 23rd September is the **Week of Prayer for peace in Palestine and Israel**. During this week we are asked to pray for a just peace based on equality for all people in the Holy Land. For further information see the website of Sabeel-Kairos, www.sabeel-kairos.org.uk
2. There will be a talk on the Whitechapel project on 19th. September at a venue tko eb announced. Please see Ann Jones.
3. Next meeting on 20th. September at 7.30 p.m. in St. Bernard's

Care for our common home. The tip for this week is: **Turn it off!**

Energy conservation is one of the most important things you can do to reduce your carbon footprint. Leaving any electrical device on standby uses up energy and adds to your bill - so remember to turn it off.

Alpha course. At last our Alpha course is here, starting this Tuesday, September 11th. from 6.00-8.00 p.m. We have an ideal meeting place in our new parish rooms, undoubtedly God given. Some names are on the sheet on the church table. Will those others who said they were coming please write down your names, and anyone else who wishes to give it a go. It would be helpful to have a good idea of how many are coming to help with the catering. If you decide at the last minute to come do come.

After the meal there follows the talk – a DVD presentation by Nicky Gumbel on the question *Is there more to life than this?* Followed in turn by small discussion groups. There is no pressure of any kind. It is very relaxed. The talk is challenging, raising many questions. The idea is that we look again at what and why we believe, asking the fundamental questions which we have always wanted to ask and never felt able to. To look at Jesus from every angle, ultimately building up a whole new relationship with him, experiencing the power of the Holy Spirit. Famously St. Augustine prayed - *Lord, make me chaste but not just yet.* Then once he was converted there was the constant prayer to deepen this wonderful faith he had been given “*You called, shouted, broke through my deafness, you flared, blazed, banished my blindness...I tasted you, and now I hunger and thirst; you touched me, and I burned for your peace*”. How I want that faith.

During a meeting this week of the leaders of the Alpha course, one member suggested that we, the team, should have a **quarter hour prayer time** before next Tuesday’s meeting begins. Everyone thought it an excellent idea. Could I suggest that we extend it to include the whole parish, each of us individually, or with our family or friends, to give fifteen minutes a week of prayer, for the success of Alpha and its overflow effect on the parish.

First Holy Communion programme. The programme will be starting soon and we need to know who is joining us. Please see Deacon Francis and give him your child’s name, whichever their school, St. Anne’s or otherwise. The way the Archdiocesan programme works is to place the full responsibility on the family, but parents get help from Deacon Francis and his team of catechists. Over the nine months there is a monthly meeting, on a Saturday morning, during which a particular theme is presented which is then taken over by the parents or guardian. Relevant materials are given which are used as the basis for the family discussion. Families are encouraged to pray for their children. It is really the duty of the whole parish to pray for the children. From the beginning we will give each child a prayer partner from within the parish. Would every adult who would like to be a prayer partner of one of other children please see Francis or me.

Forgiveness. *I forgive because, first, I have been forgiven. Think instead of the doctors of the law, the Pharisees, those who made war on Jesus. They believed they were the righteous. They did not need forgiveness and did not understand why Jesus forgave sinners, ate with them, healed them, and associated with the leprous. Jesus forgave everyone, and the Pharisees did not understand, because they felt so righteous that they could not savour that wonderful experience. I too will recount, as a Christian, as a person, what I have experienced. Once, when I felt that the Lord had forgiven me of so many things, I wept with joy. Still today, when I think back on how I wept and it is my turn to forgive, I say to myself, “There’s no comparison; this is a small thing compared with the time God showed you great mercy.” Pope Francis*

Christian hope. *Remember that the passion of Christ ends always in the joy of the resurrection, so when you feel in your own heart the suffering of Christ, remember the resurrection has yet to come, the joy of Easter has to dawn. never let anything so fill you with sorrow as to make you forget the joy of the risen Christ!* Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

Our thanks to Lol for organising a **wonderful concert** yesterday evening when we welcomed visitors from other parts of the country to our church. And how they loved it! The church, but also the concert. There was a reasonable attendance but there were still many empty seats. I was happy to see parishioners there but felt rather sad there were not more. It is not often that we have such a public gaze on us, and it really deserved a full house.

A diocese in northern Vietnam held prayers of repentance last Saturday – the **World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation** – to express regret for widespread environmental pollution in the country. The Diocese of Vinh’s Committee for Justice and Peace blamed increasing floods, landslides, land erosion, toxic waste disasters and their consequences on widespread deforestation and on poor management of the nation’s natural resources by the authorities. It voiced concerns about the health risks to local people from contaminated food and toxic chemicals. – we should join our prayer with theirs

The head of the **Pax Christi** association in the Church in Germany has condemned the German government’s plans to double military spending by 2025, in line with United States President Donald Trump’s insistence that Nato member countries increase their funding of the alliance. “Overcoming hunger and poverty, and providing education, infrastructure and health care are just as important as the rule of law and peace –we are committed to ensuring Germany pursues these goals and uses its wealth to promote world peace,” the Bishop of Fulda, Heinz Algermissen, said. “We reject Nato’s agreement that member states should devote 2 per cent of GDP to military budgets

Catholic bishops from around Europe have declared their support for the Pope amid calls by conservative groups for his resignation, following the claims made by a retired papal diplomat, Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò. “In the face of serious attacks against the Church and the person of the Holy Father, we reaffirm our support, faithfulness and trust for Pope Francis,” said Archbishop Jean-Claude Hollerich of Luxembourg, the president of Comece, the Brussels-based commission representing the European Union’s Bishops’ Conferences. “Comece condemns attempts to divide the Church of Christ and calls on all people of goodwill to work in faith for a world of justice, truth and peace”.

Little Mick’s Spot (paws for thought). I had a frustrating 24 hours when I was prevented from going into the back yard – now a garden! TD put a notice on the back door – do not let Little Mick out in the back, and in brackets (wet concrete). When I protested about being kept inside, and wouldn’t any dog!! – TD said “You can read, Mick. You write a column every week”. Well the notice was far too high for “Little” Mick to read.



Anyhow, eventually when I did get out – what a transformation! Not only were there the concrete base for the greenhouse and the path to the side gate but the soil had also been delivered and raked in. The turf will come next week, TD said. He added – “You’ll enjoy the grass, Mick”. Ok, but I am warning him now – he can’t keep a dog and expect to have a perfect lawn! He keeps on talking about having raised beds for vegetables and flowers so I can’t lift my leg on them and spoil things, having such little legs. We’ll see how things turn out. I want to co-operate, but nature is nature! I see Uncle Bob has brought my kind of chicken bits. No moans from me while I am supplied with tasty bits like them. TD thinks I am losing interest in my ball –No. there are just other distractions in the park - and she is very nice!