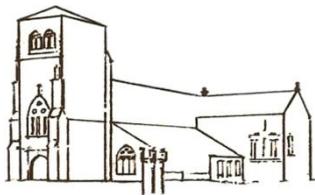


Newsletter for the parish of St. Anne & St. Bernard.



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Twenty Fifth Sunday of the Year 24.09.17

Revolution in kindness. Thought for this week.

Our greatest responsibility is to heal wounds and to warm hearts

Today's Scripture Readings. The Gospel could be described as the Parable of the Unusual Employer. Matthew includes this parable in his Gospel that he may emphasise yet again that the Gospel is for everyone, no matter who they are, where they come from or what they do. Originally it seems that people, maybe the Pharisees, have been grumbling that Jesus spends as much time or maybe more time with the "sinners" as with the pious. So Jesus is concerned to confirm this impression and to illustrate the generosity of God.

The first reading links this parable with Isaiah's insight into God that "*my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways are not your ways- it is the Lord who speaks*" and the psalm which emphasises that "*the Lord is kind and full of compassion...how good is the Lord to all*". Our profoundly mysterious God is most mysterious in his love and generosity with a love which is unconditional. With our suspicious, selfish, mean lives we always question the motives of unconditional giving. God motives are always pure, they are just, they are merciful.

The parable was never intended as a model for industrial relations – it is to illustrate the foolishness of questioning God's generosity. If some one comes to God late on after rejecting God for most of his life that is something to rejoice at, to celebrate God's wonderful kindness. God will never be outdone in generosity.

There is another element too, in this Gospel when Jesus says the "*last will be first and the first last*". It is not saying that the disciples are the last who become first and the rich the first who become last. It is a warning to those who have left everything to follow him that they may become the last if they hanker after rewards. Rewards will come but they are always a surprise and can never be earned. They are God's generous gift. When we follow Jesus as the revelation of God it is for his sake and for God's glory that we do it. That it satisfies our own deepest yearnings is within the design of God of our whole being. As St. Augustine said "*My heart is made for you O God, and only in you will it find rest*"

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.

Mass this week is as follows -

Saturday	5.30 p.m.	Winifred & Edward Neary
Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Patricia Burton
Tuesday	12.00 noon	Parishioners
Wednesday	No Mass	(deanery priests' day)
Thursday	12.00	Mrs Colliuns' Intention
Friday	12.00	Theresa Rice
Saturday	5.30 p.m.	John & Sheila's intention

The next **Parish Assembly** is planned to take place on Saturday, 25th. November.

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

The **Men Group** will meet on Monday, 9th. Oct 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 –Yvonne Ambrose, Kathie Elliot, Lee Burnett, Flo Coffey, Sister Win, 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. The **First Communion programme** starts this Saturday at 12.00 noon in church. All parents who wish their children to join this programme please come with them to St. Anne's Church next Saturday at 12.00 noon for enrollment and the first session. The session will last one hour. Catechists are asked to come at 11.00 a.m.

The **Journey to Faith** will recommence a week on Tuesday, October 3rd at 7.00 p.m. in St. Bernard's House. Everyone who seeks Baptism, their first Holy Communion or Confirmation is invited to come. We know of several people who are coming but there is room for many more, The programme lasts until Easter.

Money Report. The collection last weekend was **£455.07**. Add on £624.80 from standing orders and tax returns to make a total of **£1,079.87**. **Thank you**

Care for our common home. To help reduce the use of plastics which release microplastics into the environment choose sustainable possible natural fibre clothing wherever possible., Huge numbers of micropastics are released during every wash and every tumble dry cycle of synthetic clothes eg. polyester, nylon, lycra

Bereavement Care Training. A basic training course is available to help parishes set up bereavement care teams. In two sessions the course covers the stages of grief, listening skills and how to get started, and teams will be offered continuing support. 18 & 25th. Oct. See Francis.

“Come and drink from the water” – a morning of reflection for **Eucharistic Ministers**. Next Saturday, 30th. September 9.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. At LACE. Phone 0151 522 1040

Today, at the back of church, please find the children’s liturgy rota, the Sunday readers’ rota, the Eucharistic ministers’ rota. All this information has also been emailed out to the relevant people,

Asylum Link Fundraising Concert on Saturday, October 7th. in St. Anne’s Church, starting at 7.00 p.m. There will be an array of excellent musicians. Entrance £5. Tickets available.

Young People to Lourdes. Over the past few years a number of our young people have enjoyed great benefits from joining the Archdiocesan Youth Pilgrimage to Lourdes. There is such a demand for places that we cannot delay when the opening date for signing on is announced. The only condition is that you have to be 15 years old by the time the pilgrimage commences. Please see Deacon Francis if you would like to go. We try to cover most of the cost.

Live Simply Campaign. We need a group to meet and decide how best we can arrange our Live Simply campaign. Please see Ann Jones or Terry Phillips.

Syrian Settlement. Will those people who have expressed the intention of being involved in the Syrian Settlement scheme please see me. We are linking in with other parishes, both Catholic and Anglian, but St. Anne’s will be the lead parish.

Community Organising. Those of you who remember the MBO (the Merseyside Broadbased Organisation) will be happy to know that efforts are being made to restart our community organising project. The principle is to draw on all religious organisations to combine resources and to bring about change for the common good. Sam Tomlin from Old Swan Salvation Army is the driving force. Sam is a lovely man, who worked with the Citizens Organisation in London. He is trying to arrange two training days in January. Anyone who wishes to be involved in non party politics to bring about change would be interested.

The work on the new toilets in St. Anne’s Church will be starting within the next three weeks. Work will then continue to arrange our new meeting rooms. All the work could be finished within two months. Part of the project will involve an input from volunteers from the Church. This will be a weekend’s work in the cloisters. By the time everything is finished we will be very well equipped to cater for all our needs – and the needs of others. The first booking has been made for the hire of the rooms in February – for a wedding reception. The finances of the project are within our budget. Our finance team will present a paper before too long.

Dementia. Just recently the Archdiocese has been presenting papers and offering services for people suffering from dementia. There have been special services in the Cathedral. You are asked to take a copy of the dementia leaflet as you leave the Church today. It contains “10 top tips” for supporting people with dementia. It is a very useful and helpful leaflet. Archbishop Malcolm regrets that only recently have we, as a diocese, become aware of what dementia means and is offering all the help we can

The **monthly collection for the SVP** will take place next Sunday after Mass. The St. Vincent de Paul Society has not been going long in our parish but already it is making a difference to some people's lives. Your generous giving has meant that some people can sleep with food in their stomach and have light and warmth in their homes.

Depaul UK, a branch of the SVP, highlights that delays in allocating initial universal credit payments has resulted in a considerable increase in youth homelessness. It is up 60% since 2011. Depaul specialises in working in communities affected by generations of poverty and unemployment.

The **Church Urban Fund**, an Anglican charity, says that one in twenty adults went without meals last year for lack of income, and a million people used food banks. Most people give a different interpretation to these figures than the politician, Jacob Rees Mogg who said that the rapid increase in food bank usage painted a "rather uplifting" picture of a "good compassionate country".

To support those exploring **Vocations to the Priesthood** in our diocese, a monthly day of recollection has been organised for the first Saturday of each month. These days will help men who feel called to ordained ministry to discover more about diocesan priesthood and meet others discerning a call to priesthood. There will be an opportunity to talk with and hear from priests who minister in the diocese, and also a time for prayer and discussion. The next day of recollection will take place on **Saturday 7th October** at St. Charles' Presbytery, 224 Aigburth Road, Liverpool.

The **Living Christ Retreat** in St. Wilfrid's, Garston, 6th-7th. October. In Holy Trinity School. John Doyle has offered a lift to anyone who would like to take part.

EIGHT CATHOLIC Labour MPs have formed a new group to "explore and apply" Catholic Social Teaching to public policy. Ahead of the official launch of "Catholics for Labour" at this year's party conference in Brighton, the eight MPs signed a letter outlining the group's raison d'être: "Catholics for Labour has lofty ambitions. We are not about standing still or merely making observations of the world around us. Our hearts and minds are firmly focused on social justice and guided by the teaching of the Catholic faith we will work together to actively shape that world and prepare members for a life in public service

Little Mick's Spot. (paws for thought). It has taken all this time for TD to appreciate my habits. It is only in the mornings that I keep sentry duty from the top of the stairs because that is when the bell goes most frequently. I can give visitors one of my rousing welcomes. Monday and Friday mornings are great because so many people come to the meetings held in the house. Just think of it. Twenty rousing welcomes! TD is quite crude. Shut up, Mick he says. He doesn't speak like that you, does he! The rest of the day I tend to doze elsewhere, play with my toys or simply annoy anybody who is there to take me out. I just warn visitors. Take me out once and you will never have a peaceful life with me. Though, mind you, all that is coming to an end –this Monday Ian and his team will be taking my field off me and building houses. Ian has said I can still run around the building site – but I'll have to watch the machinery. I'll watch it alright, I'll leave my mark on those big JCBs so wherever they go dogs will know where they have been. So, there we are. Life will be different. It just means more trips to the park. Put your coat on, TD. There is no lazy way of looking after a dog, even a little fella like me.



