

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



95a, Kingsley Road
Liverpool L8 2TY

Tel 0151 709 4434 & 07932 045 070

Email stbsliv@yahoo.co.uk

admin@stannestbernardliverpool.org.uk

Website www.stannestbernardliverpool.org.uk

St. Anne's, 7, Overbury St. L7 3HJ

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 [@annebernAdmin](#)

The Twenty Fifth Sunday of the Year 23.09.18

Revolution in kindness (as encouraged by Jean Vanier). Thought for this week -
Kindness is our greatest tool in spreading the Gospel



Today's Scripture readings. The Gospel today suggests that we reflect on the Church as the servant, to be humble and of service just as Jesus came "*not to be served but to serve*".

The passage begins with a prophecy of Jesus' approaching passion and death, followed by an exhortation for his followers to accept the cross in their lives. This is expressed in terms of being truly humble and serving.

Mark is concerned at the influence of contemporary false teachers who saw Jesus as a divine wonder worker, ignoring and so misinterpreting his passion and death. He takes this teaching of Jesus on humility, with the child as the model to follow, as a means of confronting the power church politics, already at work in his community.



*"Anyone who welcomes one of these little children welcomes me.
Anyone who welcomes me, welcomes not me, but the one who sent me."*

Notice in James' letter that he claims that wars and disagreements begin within ourselves. The first meaning of the Muslim *Jihad* is the resolution of the inner conflict. That is our prime concern. Notice too, how James tells us to look carefully at how we pray. Prayer stops being prayer when it is all focused on myself and loses sight of God.

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.

Money Report . The collection last weekend was **£478.54**. Add on **£624.80** from standing orders and tax returns to make a total of **£1,103.34** Thank you all very much.

Alpha Prayer. Please will you set aside 15 minutes a week to pray for the success of our Alpha course, and with it, the growth of our parish.

Mass this week is as follows -

Saturday	5.30 p.m.	John Reynolds family
Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Parishioners
Tuesday	12.00 noon	Maureen Murphy
Wednesday	12.15 p.m.	Requiem Mass for James Birchall
Thursday	12.00	Sandra Holmes
Friday	12.00	Peter Brackenbury (ill)
Saturday	5.30 p.m.	Matthew Thompson

Funerals this week. There will be a Requiem Mass on Wednesday at 12.15 for James Birchall. Please pray for his eternal rest and for the peace of his 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, 15th. October, at 7.30 p.m. in St Bernard's.

Messy Church – 13th. October. To meet every 2nd. Saturday

Please keep our sick friends in your prayer -Sophia Purnell (aged 7), Jeanette Airey, Rose Coady, Frank Hall, Ann Marie Ashley, Luba Sajkalova, , 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 Jimmy Birchall who has died recently

Care for our common home. Keeping clean - the challenge! Showers are now the most popular way for us to keep clean and in general, they use less water than a bath , but..... there are some interesting statistics from the Energy Saving trust.

Showers consume 25% of the massive 9 billion litres of water used by UK households each day. The average shower length is 7.5 minutes. Cutting just 1 minute from that time would save British households £215 million on energy bills per year! Let's go one step further and pledge to spend **only 5 minutes in the shower** and encourage others to do the same.

But if you have a power shower, your water use may be more than doubled from the average 62 litres to 136 litres - much more than taking a bath which uses 80 litres on average. Eco shower heads reduce the flow per minute by more than a half. So we need to check our shower heads and use a shower timer.

Alpha course. Please keep up your prayer. Each week the teaching subject gets richer and more challenging. The topic this week is very fundamental – why did Jesus die? The DVD presentation raises a number of questions, including the key element of forgiveness. Maybe those of us not taking part in the course can still reflect on the question why did Jesus die and its relevance to my life. Don't be shy of sharing with another person the time in your life when you know God stepped in and saved you from some horrific situation.

The First Holy Communion programme begins on Saturday, 6th. October, at 12.00 noon, in our parish rooms. (Entrance from Harbord Street). If you have not yet informed Deacon Francis that you wish your child to be enrolled on the programme please do so ASAP. For many reasons we have decided not to accept children joining later on in the programme. You may see Francis after Mass or contact the parish office.

Alpha on a Thursday afternoon. We need to get some idea how many of you and people you know would come to an Alpha course on a Thursday afternoon, starting at 1.00 and ending at 3.00 p.m. Also there is a list asking for cooks to prepare the meal (a simple meal) on our Tuesday evening Alpha. A helper is also needed. Our thanks again to Kiara and Leo who helped out again this last week.

Today, Sunday, there is a march, known as the **March of the Many**, encouraging the Labour Party Conference, meeting in Liverpool this week, decide to campaign for a second referendum on the Brexit agreement (Whether there is one or not). We meet at St. George's Plateau at 12.00 noon and process to the Pier Head where there will be speeches by local and national figures.

The Shared Reading Group. A new venture led by Dorothy Bowman and Sister Rachel, starting next Wednesday, 26th. September at 10.30 a.m. Refreshments will be provided. It will end in time for Mass at 12.00 noon. (this week – a Requiem Mass at 12.15 p.m.). Reading groups are becoming very popular country wide. They are made up of all kinds of people. The one thing they have in common is that they love reading and talking about books. You and your friends are all very welcome. This is a wonderful proposal which the Assembly was delighted to accept. We will be very happy to accept other proposals you may wish to make. Two have been accepted – one a monthly film night, the other “an evening with...” a well known figure. Jimmy McGovern has agreed to talk with us, a really great start. We hope to arrange the date this week

I am very grateful to the parishioner who drew my attention to this very beautiful and profound insight into the Blessed Trinity, by the Franciscan priest, Fr. Richard Rohr. **With three you get joy.** *Our Franciscan St. Bonaventure (1221-1274), who wrote a lot about the Trinity, was deeply influenced by a lesser-known figure, Richard of St Victor, who died in 1173. Richard said, “For God to be good, God can be one. For God to be loving, God has to be two, because love is always a relationship.” But his real breakthrough was saying. “For God to be supreme joy and happiness, God has to be three.” Lovers do not know full happiness until they both delight in the same thing; like new parents with the ecstasy of their first child.*

When I was first becoming known, people wanted to get close to me and be my friends or have special relationships with me. I asked myself how I would choose between all these friends and I realised that the people I really found joy in were not people who loved me so much as people who loved what I loved. That helped me understand what I think Richard of St. Victor was trying to teach. The Holy Spirit is the shared love of the Father and the Son, and shared love is always happiness and joy. The Holy Spirit is whatever the Father and the Son are in love with; the Holy Spirit is that excitement and joy – about everything that has been created!

Adapted from The Shape of God: Deepening the Mystery of the Trinity

After spending all our money on developing our parish rooms the parish is now in debt. This is not a worry because you very kindly ensure us a good income, precisely that we can spend it on good ventures, and none are better than the rooms we have just developed. Our parish is in good hands, your hands. However, we are greatly helped by initiatives you take in improving our income. Eddie's Christmas Draw and 50/50, God rest him, have now been taken on by others, and a Christmas Fayre is being organised for the end of November. But you may have other ideas in addition to these, maybe something done by you and your friends, or else suggesting something for the parish at large to do. Please pass in your ideas, or better still just do them. We are very grateful for all you can raise for the parish, no matter how small.

Labour Party Conference Mass in the Cathedral, the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, at 6.00 p.m. on Sunday. Refreshments in the Gibbert Room.

Jean Vanier was 90 on 10th. September. This quotation typifies his life and work. *Blessed are you, Father, Master and Lord of the world, to have hidden these things from the wise and the knowledgeable, and revealed them to the littlest ones. Blessed are you for your Spirit, whereby the littlest ones and the oppressed become the face of Jesus. Together, let us learn to pass through walls and checkpoints, let us learn to cross the roads that separate rich from poor so we can become messengers of peace. Together, let us learn to encounter each other in compassion, in goodness, in humility, and let us know how to discover through welcoming the oppressed the communion between people, a fellowship that thus becomes communion with Jesus, and in him with the Father. In this way we wish to prepare your coming: Come, Lord Jesus, come! Amen. (from a "Cry is heard; my path to peace").*

Beijing and the Vatican are on the verge of an agreement on the status of the Catholic Church in China, and on the role of the ruling Chinese Communist Party in the appointment of bishops, according to a report in the Wall Street Journal, last week, that cited two people close to negotiations. In Taipei, the Taiwan foreign affairs spokesman, Li Hsienchang, said the island's officials had a similar understanding of the situation. Asked whether a deal would mean that the Vatican would break off diplomatic relations with democratic Taipei in favour of Communist China, Li said that this was not necessarily the case. "We have been assured by the Holy See that this agreement is purely on religious matters," Li said. (the Tablet)

Little Mick's Spot (paws for thought). It's been a more ordinary week. Very few skirmishes. But why the lady visitor was so scared of me I don't know. Why should I be shut away? Ok, I know she couldn't stay standing on the table all the time, but it wasn't my fault. I only gave her the welcoming bark that I give everyone else. Monday was a good day. TD was off and revelled in his new garden, making raised veg, soft fruit and flower



beds. We dogs love to be in the garden when TDs are working there. I feel very content. Sort of where I belong. The turf has still to come. I will enjoy it then. Concrete was laid in the old church today, covering the polystyrene undercover. I wasn't allowed in, even on varmint chasing duty – don't you mark that soft concrete, Mick, I was warned. Should be ok in the morning. Back to normal duties. I love Saturdays when the Iranian men come for their Baptismal preparation. Mustafa especially plays with me – though mind you, he has little option. He did it once – now I give him no peace every time he comes. I still get caught sleeping on the chair. I have to get to my bed a little faster when I hear TD coming down. He sees my tail just settling down – and he feels the warm chair. More hairs on that chair, Mick!! Where will my visitors sit? Between you and me, I don't care about his visitors – unless they're like Mustafa!!