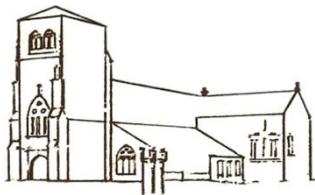


Newsletter for the parish of St. Anne & St. Bernard.



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

Twenty Sixth Sunday of the Year 01.10..17

Revolution in kindness. Thought for this week from St. Francis of Assisi

“the Brothers should always be careful not to appear sad and gloomy on the outside...but show themselves to be joyful, cheerful and gracious to others, in the name of the Lord

Today's Scripture Readings. From today's Scripture readings -

*Though his state was divine, he did not cling to his equality with God,
but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave*

and became as men are;

and became as all men are.

He was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross.

But God raised him high,

and gave him a name which is above all other names,

so that all beings in the heavens, on earth

and in the underworld, should bend the knee

at the name of Jesus,

and every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord,

to the glory of God the Father.

This passage comes from today's second reading from St. Paul in which he presents **Jesus as the model we should follow**, especially as a model in humility. Other virtues he mentions in this context are tenderness, sympathy, and to be united in love and purpose. There is to be no competition, with everyone seeking other people's interests. What is quite staggering above all else however, is the proclamation that the man on the Cross is God. God is identified with his creation even in the experience of death. God impaled on the suffering of humanity, earthed in the pain of the world.

The Gospel links three sayings of Jesus in which he responds to those who carp at the company he keeps. It is as though he is saying “the prostitutes and tax collectors who receive me now will enter into God's kingdom rather than you Pharisees, who criticize me for consorting with them”. The parable is a proclamation of God's mercy for sinners. The parable suggests that Israel will always reject God's advances.

By the time Matthew wrote his Gospel, the Temple, Jerusalem and most outward signs of Jewish religious leadership had been destroyed by the Romans. Many Jewish converts to Christianity however, found it difficult to accept that the gentiles should enjoy the fruitful fulfilment of the promises, believed by their ancestors as well as themselves, to be for Jews alone. This is why Matthew takes the approach he does – **rejoice at God's generosity, he says, do not restrict God's kindness. Open your hearts to everybody because then you are imitating God.**

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.	John & Sheila's intention
Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Billy Hogg
Tuesday	12.00 noon	Requiem Mass for Rita O'Sullivan
Wednesday	12.00	Parishioners
Thursday	12.00	Veronica Bowman
Friday	12.00	Sue Woo's intention
Saturday	5.30 p.m.	Rita Lawrence

Funerals this week. Wednesday. 12.00 noon. There will be a Requiem Mass for Rita O'Sullivan. Pray for Rita. Pray for her family.

Family Fast Day falls this coming Friday. We determine ourselves what to give up that day. We are happy to collect your savings after Mass next Sunday to send to **CAFOD**.

Today the Archbishop delivers notice that he is calling an **Archdiocesan Synod for 2020**, this is following on the Eucharistic Congress to be held in Liverpool next year. You can read his pastoral letter in the new free copy of the **Catholic Pic**.

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 –Veronica Corner, 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, 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. Also for us to take Holy Communion to them.

Very important. The **First Communion programme**,
All parents and children taking part in our First Holy Communion are asked to come to church at 12.00 noon on Saturday, October 14th.

The **Journey to Faith** will recommence 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 **£45.72**. Add on £624.80 from standing orders and tax returns to make a total of **£1,082.52**. **Thank you.**

Care for our common home. About 400 plastic bottles are sold every second in the UK, but only half are recycled. In Germany a 0.25€ refund per bottle means more than 98% are returned. We will soon join a campaign to start a scheme in the UK. Try to buy reusable water bottles and avoid plastic straws.

The **monthly collection for the SVP** will take place today 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.

Asylum Link Fundraising Concert this coming 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 at the back of church.

Prisoners' Sunday falls next Sunday. It is so easy to neglect it, forgetting the tragedies affecting so many families who have a loved one in prison. PACT is the Catholic charity whose sole concern is the issues arising from imprisonment. www.prisonadvice.org.uk. Please ensure prisoners and their families are in your prayer.

Aspinalls, the contractors who will be carrying **our plan of work** in St. Anne's, have given the date of **30th. October** for starting the work, and they promise to complete it by Christmas. What a difference this will make. It will be in November when we will ask you to provide a team of decorators to bring the cloisters up to scratch, under Barry's supervision. Then the flooring specialists can do that part of the work.

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. October. See Deacon Francis.

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 Anglican, but St. Anne's will be the lead parish.

Community Organising. No one has yet come forward, expressing an interest in community organising. We hope to organise a Citizens Liverpool as there is the very successful Citizens London. The principle is to draw on all religious organisations to combine resources and to bring about change for the common good. Sam Tomlin of the Salvation Army 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 **Living Christ Retreat** in St. Wilfrid's, Garston, 6th-7th. October. In Holy Trinity School. The Retreat lasts from 7.15pm to 9.30pm on the Friday and continues from 9.15am to 5.00pm on the Saturday. For further information, please telephone Stella or Maurus O'Donnell on 0151 427 3386. John Doyle has offered a lift to anyone who would like to take part.

Holy See signs UN treaty The Holy See on Thursday last week became one of the first states to sign and ratify a **new treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons**. Archbishop Paul Gallagher, Secretary for Relations with States, signed the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons on behalf of the Vatican City State. More than 40 countries signed the treaty during a high-level signing ceremony held at the United Nations headquarters in New York. More nations were expected to sign in coming days. The treaty is due to go into effect 90 days after at least 50 nations have ratified it. It prohibits a range of activities related to nuclear weapons. They include moves to develop, test, produce, manufacture, acquire, possess or stockpile nuclear weapons. More than 120 nations adopted the treaty on 7 July 2017. Significantly, however, most of the countries that possess nuclear arms did not take part in the negotiations.

(Tablet editorial). Why has there not been more progress in taking up **the priorities which Pope Francis has defined for his papacy**? Since his election in March 2013 Francis has published four major documents that together clearly map out his programme. The apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* is a vibrant, inspiring call to create a Church that is of and for the poor; the encyclical *Laudato Si'* spells out a moving and beautiful theology of the environment; and his second exhortation, *Amoris Laetitia*, addresses issues in sexuality, marriage and family life with freshness, realism and compassion. There has also been the bull *Misericordiae Vultus*, which initiated the Year of Mercy, reinforcing “mercy” as the theological hallmark of this extraordinary papacy.

Yet how much of this has filtered down to the parishes? Attention has too often focused on a number of controversies triggered by some of his words and deeds. The latest attempt to undermine his authority comes in the form of a “filial correction” published by 62 theologians who not only accuse Pope Francis of spreading heresy, but wag their fingers at him as if he were an errant schoolboy. “Most Holy Father”, they declare, “the Petrine ministry has not been entrusted to you that you might impose strange doctrines on the faithful, but so that you may, as a faithful steward, guard the deposit against the day of the Lord’s return ...” The organisers apparently had difficulty collecting more than 62 signatures; not one diocesan bishop was prepared to join them. The alleged heresies concern Pope Francis’ endorsement of the commonplace pastoral practice that, in certain cases, Catholics who have divorced and remarried and not had their first marriage annulled might be encouraged, after due discernment and in consultation with their pastors, to receive Holy Communion. The signatories do not doubt that this is what Francis intends to be understood by readers of *Amoris Laetitia*, even though some conservative Catholics –who can therefore take no comfort from the 62 –maintained that this could not be what he means. The controversy around a handful of passages in *Amoris Laetitia* can only distract from the many profound teachings that the Pope has proposed, not only in his key documents but in the way he speaks and acts. There are those only too happy to be distracted because they do not like his overall message. They are the stony ground on which these seeds of faith have fallen.

Pope Francis has clearly decided that certain neglected teachings of the Second Vatican Council need to be presented anew. Two of those are collegiality and subsidiarity, which means giving bishops and lay people much more freedom for initiatives favouring the Gospel. He has also made clear what those initiatives might be. There has been a wonderful sense of relief in parts of the Church. But the response, among cardinals, bishops, religious and lay people, has been, for the most part, lacklustre. At its grass roots the Catholic Church in 2017 is much as it was in 2007, or even in 1997. John Henry Newman said “To live is to change ... and to be perfect is to have changed often.” Why is change not happening?

Little Mick’s Spot. (paws for thought). Little Mike called to see me yesterday. I gave him a rough time.



His TD probably won’t bring him again. Yes, I misbehaved! The good news is that Ian, the builder of the new houses, says he won’t be finished until May. So I will be able to use the field, or the building site as it will be, during these times. Occasionally little mice get into our house. I smell them, and I catch them. TD had to release the panel under the kitchen units. I crawled in on my belly. Imagine it. But as a hunter I will get anywhere. A slight scuffle. It was dead. I suspect there are others running around. But not for long. TD’s office is great. He calls it untidy. My toys are everywhere. I go from one to the other, shaking and gnawing every one. I am quite noisy too. While TD is typing I am gnawing away at a piece of reindeer antler. Wow, it is hard. Also I love to go out – but not in the rain. But give me a ball and I forget whether it is hail, rain or snow. I love to chase – a ball, anything. Though I didn’t like that cat I saw today. Bigger than I am.