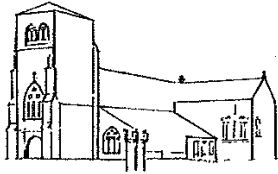


Newsletter for the parish of St. Anne & St. Bernard.



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Twenty eighth Sunday of the Year 15.10..17

Revolution in kindness. Thought for this week - *stop, avoid the hasty response, ask yourself before you reply – which of all the answers I can give will do this person the most good?*

Today's Scripture readings. Anything we see in the Gospel about a banquet or a wedding feast immediately relates to the great gathering at the end of time. This Gospel is concerned with who goes there and how they get there.

The meal was such a meaningful symbol because most people lived at subsistence level, often the victims of drought and famine, and the most satisfying symbol imaginable was to be able to feast without fear of to-morrow's hunger.

For the Christian the meal, the Mass, takes on a whole new significance. Every Sunday we do as Jesus told us. We celebrate the sacred meal in which we remember and celebrate his Passion, his Resurrection and anticipate the great gathering at the end of time. The imagery is particularly powerful.

There are many other elements in this Gospel. There is the rejection by the chosen people of the Son of God and their failure to accept that God's plan embraced the whole of humanity. The gathering of the rag a muffins was a prediction that the invitation to embrace the newly revealed Faith was made to the whole of humanity. Matthew wrote his Gospel after the Romans had destroyed Jerusalem. He was anxious to justify to his Jewish converts that salvation was open to everyone, especially made clear once evident that most Jews had rejected Jesus.

Matthew brings together two parables and this confuses things. He links the second parable about the guest without a wedding garment to the first to emphasise, that while the invitation was open to all, everyone had to be ready to accept it. In its original form the second parable was an appeal to every one to be ready at any moment to embrace the call of the kingdom.

We can see this also as a call for us to be prepared for our Communion, and to see it as preparing us to share in the great banquet of eternal life. To be prepared to receive Holy Communion demands the same holiness of life we would like to have when we come face to face with God. Then there are the words of Paul in the second reading – *“there is nothing I cannot master with the help of the One who gives me strength”*.

Mass this week is as follows -

Saturday	5.30 p.m.	Pauline Cunningham (ill)
Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Susan Bradley
Tuesday	No Mass	
Wednesday	12.00	Parishioners
Thursday	12.00	Freddie & Lizzie Burke
Friday	12.00	Mary & John Beecher
Saturday	5.30 p.m.	Lauraine Schuman's intention

Funerals this week. There will be a funeral service in St. Anne's on Friday at 12.45 p.m. for Dominic Holland. Please pray for his eternal rest and for God to bless his family.

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.

Money Report. The **CAFOD** Collection last Sunday came to £382.35. The collection last weekend was **£446.06**. Add on £624.80 from standing orders and tax returns to make a total of **£1,086.86**. **Thank you.**

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's Group** will meet on Monday, 30th. Oct at 7.30 p.m. in St Bernard's house.
The next Justice and Peace is Thursday, 19th. October, at 7.30 p.m. in St. Bernard's

The **Justice and Peace** Meeting will be held in St Bernard's House at 7.30 pm this coming Thursday, 19th October. All are welcome to join us.

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 –John Donohoe, Veronica Corner, Yvonne Ambrose, Cathie Elliot, Lee Burnett, Flo Coffey, Sister Win, Ann McMahan, Eddie Barrett, Bernie Connolly, Andy Murphy, Trish Riley, and all who have asked our prayer. There are other sick and 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.
Please pray for those who have **died recently** – Susan Bradley, Adella Moncreiffe, Dominic Holland, Margaret Kelly.

Two of our friends, of our congregation, are in the Immigration court on Monday and Tuesday, one in Manchester, the second in Bradford. Please pray for them. We have had some very challenging reports this week, with appeals being refused. But we keep our heads high and trust in God more than ever. Keep on praying, keep on encouraging the many at Mass who are awaiting decisions. They need a lot of love.

October is the month of the Rosary. The mysteries embrace the story of our salvation, the prayers themselves so Biblically based. A rosary every day is a transforming experience. A set aside, quiet time is best, but on the bus, in the car, anywhere – they are all rosary times. I find it good when I am waiting for someone, often impatiently, or for something to happen, maybe waiting for a dentist or in the hospital.

The death penalty. Pope Francis has called for a revision of catholic teaching to make the death penalty “inadmissible” citing it as an example of how Church doctrine can develop.

In the past the Church allowed for the death penalty in certain circumstances but throughout his papacy Francis has repeatedly condemned the use of capital punishment.

Now, in a major speech delivered yesterday in the Vatican, the Pope has said he wants this to be included in the catechism, the official summary of Catholic doctrine.

“It is necessary therefore to restate that, however grave the crime that may have been committed, the death penalty is inadmissible because it attacks the inviolability and the dignity of the person,” While the 1992 edition of the Catholic Catechism still permits limited use of capital punishment, Francis called on the audience yesterday to find “space” for a more “adequate and coherent” way to incorporate a more clear ban of the death penalty.

This, he stressed, is because Christian understanding has developed in this area with Francis stressing that the “deposit of faith” is not something which remains static.

“The Word of God cannot be conserved in mothballs as if it were an old blanket to be preserved from parasites,” the Pope said. *“No. The Word of God is a dynamic reality, always alive, that progresses and grows because it tends towards a fulfilment that men cannot stop.”*

Christians today face worse persecution than at any time in history, yet the UN and the international community are largely ignoring them, a new report says. ‘**Persecuted and Forgotten?**’ by the UK office of Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) says the persecution of Christians reached a new high between 2015 and 2017, as groups such as ISIS and Boko Haram stepped up attacks. The report accuses the international community of failing to respond adequately to the violence, stating:

“Governments in the West and the UN failed to offer Christians in countries such as Iraq and Syria the emergency help they needed as genocide got underway.

“If Christian organisations and other institutions had not filled the gap, the Christian presence could already have disappeared in Iraq and other parts of the Middle East.”

As well as Iraq and Syria, Christians are under increasing threat in several major Islamic countries, as well as under authoritarian regimes such as North Korea and Eritrea. In China, Christians have come under increasing pressure as authorities try to force their religion to conform to Communist ideals. More than 2,000 churches have been demolished in the coastal province of Zhejiang, and police are still routinely detaining clergy

Little Mick’s Spot. (paws for thought). I really enjoy all the visitors who come to my house. TD isn’t



happy but they cannot resist picking me up, cuddling me. I see TD’s face when I lick their faces. Don’t let him do that, he says, you don’t know where that tongue has been. Do you know what, they don’t take the slightest bit of notice! Ha, Ha, I am the one people like to meet in my house. TD always says I am fierce when hunting but lovely

with people. Of course I am. I love being spoilt. Little Jacob came on Friday with his Mum and Dad. That little boy, nearly 4, appreciated me. He did all sorts of nice tickling, stroking things to me – and I licked his face! A pity the door bell went and stopped it all. My sentry duty comes first. My big news is that the work on my field is starting for sure on Monday. I will still go in for my ball chasing, at least when the big earth moving machines are not working . I am told it will be another three months before the brickies move in. I’ll be alright until then. You would be surprised at what I am learning about modern house building. I may look like a sentry, lying in the top stair, looking at the door, just waiting for the bell to go, and raising the roof when it rings, but I also do a good service. If TD is slow at answering the door or cannot answer for some reason I go and let him know someone is waiting. So I am on your side. Don’t worry. You’ll be OK while Little Mick is around.

The Great Paint Day. You are asked to come, with or without your paint brush and roller, to help beautify the glass cloister from 9.00 a.m. next Saturday, 21st. October. Many hands make light work. We are all very grateful to Barry Brown, who chairs our Property and Finance group in the Parish Assembly. Barry is a hands on, get your hands dirty, Chair. The work he is putting into our property renewal programme is immense and he deserves all our gratitude. To be honest I cannot see us getting very far without him. Barry will be directing things when you come on our Great Paint Day. It should also be a fun day. Think how children love playing together with paints. A day like this is a very bonding, unifying experience. Even if you have never done anything like this before come along. The professionals start their work on October 30th.

The First Communion programme is now underway. We will need to have a shut off date very soon. **Any children still to be signed up please see Deacon Francis ASAP.**

The **Journey to Faith** continues on Tuesday, at 7.00 p.m. in St. Bernard's House. Everyone who seeks Baptism, their first Holy Communion or Confirmation is invited to come. The programme lasts until Easter.

Care for our common home. We always clean up after our own dogs. How about cleaning up where others have failed, especially in very public places where people walk.

Mozart's Requiem: Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral, 7.00 p.m., 15th November 2017. Concluding the Metropolitan Cathedral's jubilee celebrations the choirs of Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral and Westminster Cathedral will join together to sing Mozart's Requiem. The choirs will be joined by the Liverpool Mozart Orchestra and local soloists. The joint choirs and orchestra singing the Requiem will be conducted by the Cathedral's Director of Music, Christopher McElroy. Dr McElroy commented that *'we are enormously excited to welcome Westminster Cathedral Choir and the Liverpool Mozart Orchestra to join us in this special Jubilee Concert: the combination of these performers and the magical architecture of our Cathedral promises to make it a musical highlight of the Cathedral's first fifty years!'* Tickets for the concert (available on a first come, first served basis) are £20 for premium seats/ £15 for standard seats and are available from www.ticketsource.co.uk/lpoolmetmusic or the Cathedral Shop on 0151 707 3525.

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.

Community Organising. Probably the most effective way the ordinary person can work for change in our society is to unite with people of every Faith community, to achieve our common end of working for the common good, our mutual self interest. Christians of every hue working with Muslims who are working with Jews, all working with Sikhs, Hindus and secular bodies who wish to join us. A very powerful coalition. Not just a dream. We have seen it work. Currently working very well as London Citizens. See me all who dream of changing our very unjust society.