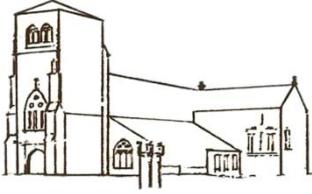


Newsletter for the parish of St. Anne & St. Bernard.



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The Twenty Ninth Sunday of the Year 21.10.18

Revolution in kindness (as encouraged by Jean Vanier)

...do this to the least of my little ones and you do it to me.. (Jesus)



Today's Scripture. You have heard it said many times that Mark is worried about his own church congregation because they see Jesus only as a divine miracle worker who has come to make life easy for everyone. But for Mark we are only truly Christian when we (and Mark's Christians), like the Roman soldier, see God's Saviour in the man on the cross. That means, on our part, a

readiness to accept suffering for Christ's sake, and for ourselves to carry the cross.

Today's first reading from Isaiah is about some-one known as "the suffering servant of God" who was seen to pre-figure Jesus. The Scripture speaks of him as by his "*sufferings*" he justified "*many*". This prepares us for the Gospel in which Mark uses the ambition of James and John as an introduction to the teaching of Jesus on true greatness and the value of suffering.

Jesus was the servant – he "*did not come to be served but to serve, and give his life as a ransom for many*". The Church must be a servant of all, permeating Gospel values through- out world society, like yeast in the flour of the world community. We can ask - where is the witness to the cross in a world which lusts after power and greed,? In a world where the values of pleasure come before all else. We have to ask ourselves where is my witness to what Jesus lived and died for? It is becoming increasingly clear in public life, here and internationally, that even the pretence of doing the right thing has almost disappeared. There is a blatant disregard for what were considered to be public standards. Such as they were are now ignored because people, like their politicians, choose their self interest, despite consequences for many others. People quickly forget what they choose to forget.

The second reading, from the Letter to the Hebrews, emphasises that Jesus is very fittingly our High Priest and, therefore, our Saviour, because he is a full human being, like us in all things, except sin. He can identify with our weakness. He "*has been tempted in every way that we are, though he is without sin*". Therefore we should be confident in approaching him "*that we shall have mercy from him*".

Mass this week is as follows -

Saturday	5.30 p.m.	Jean Lawrence
Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Parishioners
Tuesday	12.00 noon	Gerry McDonald
Wednesday	12.00	Francis Bowman (Sr)
Thursday	12.00 noon	K. Devine
Friday	12.00	Breda Carroll
Saturday	5.30 p.m.	Richard Chandler

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 **£453.87**. Add on **£624.80** from standing orders and tax returns to make a total of **£1,078.67**. Thank you all very much.

The **Alpha Group** continues on Tuesday, 6.00 – 8.00 p.m. Next Saturday there will be an away day for the group at Sandymount. This is the most important moment in the whole programme and we ask for your prayer

The next **parish assembly** will be on November 3rd.

First Holy Communion programme. Next meeting is 4th. November at 12.00 noon.

The **Prayer Group** - 7.30 p.m. Fridays in the Parish Rooms. You are welcome.

Justice & Peace group. Next meeting 15th. November in St. Bernard's House.

The **Men's Group** will meet on Monday, 22nd. October, at 7.30 p.m. in St Bernard's.

Messy Church – 10th. November. Next Saturday. To meet every 2nd. Saturday

Shared Reader Group. Every Wednesday 10.15-11.45 a.m. In the Parish Rooms.

Please keep our sick friends in your prayer -Sophia Purnell (aged 7), Rose Cody, 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, 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.

Syrian family Community Sponsorship scheme. There are still available copies of the special newsletter, published last week, from our three churches, updating you on our progress. We want to keep you informed for we will need all the support we can get to submit our application Thank you for the wonderful financial support you have given so far.

ALM (Asylum Link Merseyside). There is an **Autumn Fundraising concert** in St. Anne's Church next Saturday, 27th. October. In aid of refugees and asylum seekers. Tickets are £5, also pay at the door.

Our parish has talent (series three). Sunday, November 18th. It is always great fun. Thank you, those many people who, in the past, have come forward and celebrated your talent in many and varied ways. Now do so again, encouraging others who have yet to venture on to our stage.

Shared Reading. Every Wednesday morning in the parish rooms. Interested in learning more about how the shared reading groups work? visit www.thereader.org.uk

Christmas Fayre. The Christmas Fayre will take place in the Parish Rooms on Saturday 24th November from 12 noon. We are appealing for toiletries, gift sets, wine and spirits for the tombola. We also need non-perishable food for the hamper, and sweets and chocolates for the children's lucky dip. But please no clothes or bric-a-brac. Please could contributions be handed into church after Mass on the previous weekend to the Fayre. All proceeds will be for the Parish.

Shoebox Appeal. For those participating in the Shoebox Appeal, there is a list at the back of church for you to take home which gives ideas on what to include.

Care Of Our Common Home. Many of us are confused about what we can or can't recycle. It doesn't help that councils vary greatly over what they will or will not accept. There is a list at the back of church for you to take home and put up in the kitchen. It details what Liverpool City Council will accept in the blue recycling bins.

Divine Renovation (DR) conference. There will be a two day conference in Birmingham on 7-8th. February, Thursday to Friday. Fr. James Mallon will be there. DR is the driving force behind our current Alpha programme and will give greater drive to the renewal arising out of the Synod programme. If you wish to go please let me know ASAP.

St. Anne's School. There will be the official opening and blessing of our Quiet Space/Garden on Wednesday, 7th. November at 9.30 a.m.

Good furniture needed. Two families in our parish, who have recently been given permission to stay in our country, are starting homes without any furniture. One young man has been sleeping on a carpet for some weeks. If anyone is upgrading items of furniture please consider letting us have the useable items you are letting go. Any items will be gratefully accepted, from white goods to carving knives.

The Hour goes back next weekend.

Little Mick's Spot (paws for thought). All the houses to be built in the old church have now the separating walls erected on the first floor. That puts an end to one of my hunting capers. I used to run through to the other side. Never mind I am easily adaptable. All the lads seem to be happy to see me on the worksite. I still get their compliments – usually my favourite – he's a cracker! People do say nice things to me – except TD.



All because I like the freedom to run all over Sefton Park when he releases me. I humour him with a few runs after the ball but then there are other distractions which take me further afield. I usually come when he calls but in the park it seems a little different. He tried to train me with bits of meat this week. Not a chance. I know I will get it anyway. He won't be bothered to take it home with him. He gets cross because I chase the ball some distance, pick it up, run with it and then drop it as I get distracted. It normally means a lost ball. I can't deny I am a dog of contradictions. I know I say all these things about him but I do give him a rough time when he is speaking to people. I want his attention. He says you're a jealous little dog, Mick. You want all the attention – Yes, I do. And why not?

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Last month the Bishops of England and Wales went to Rome for a visit and pilgrimage known as the *Ad Limina Apostolorum* (to the Threshold of the Apostles). Every seven or eight years or so each national hierarchy is called to Rome to give an account of what they are doing. It is not just reporting to the Pope and the heads of Vatican departments, it is also an opportunity to listen to each other. The different departments of the Vatican listened to us. Pope Francis listened to us too, and of course we listened to him.

This listening is at the heart of his authority. It is the way Pope Francis lives out one of the titles of the Pope – the servant of the servants of God. It is sometimes hard to imagine the Pope as a servant, even Pope Francis who has done away with much of the trappings that surround the Pope – but that is what he is, a servant. That is something of what Jesus was talking about in the Gospel today. He was saying that people in authority are to be servants of His people. True authority is lived out in service and that turns the way the world thinks on its head. Jesus saw authority as a way of service, to promote the good of others rather than to promote one's own honour and glory. This is at the very heart of all our Christian service, as we each try to imitate Jesus in our daily lives.

The only way I can live out my calling to service as your Archbishop is by listening. I need to hear the hopes and fears of our people, the challenges facing our priests and deacons, our schools, and the reality our families have to deal with each day. I have decided to call a Synod to help us to meet some of the pressing issues that we face at this time in the life of the Archdiocese. How are we to witness to the Gospel message of God's love in a culture that seems to have little room for faith? How can we better organise our resources of priests, deacons, people, buildings so that we can become the Church that God is calling us to be? How can we best support the work of Catholic education so we pass on our faith to the next generation? How can our Catholic lives be better supported by the ministries of the Church?

The word Synod means "Together on the Way". The Synod is a moment when together we can choose a path to walk on, guided by the voice of the Holy Spirit who will speak to us. The Synod is not just another meeting. It is a journey. We have just had a year of prayer which reached its climax for us in the Eucharistic Congress. Over the next two years we will be trying to discover the will of God through listening and learning. The voice of each one of us needs to be heard. Parishes and pastoral areas will be invited to choose members for the Synod. I hope that there will be many different opportunities for all of our people to share their hopes, their fears and their dreams of the way the Holy Spirit is at work among us to bring fresh life into our Church.

In October 2020 our Archdiocese – priests and people together – will meet to reflect on what we have heard and vote on specific proposals that have arisen from the discussion and sharing in our parishes and pastoral areas. I have decided to work in this way because we believe that the Holy Spirit is at work in the bishops, priests and people of the Archdiocese. So, I need each one of you to play your part in our Synod process. Without you, we will not hear the call of God guiding us and walking with us on our journey.

You will be given the chance to learn more about the Synod in the months to come. There is a leaflet available today which is for all of us. Please do your best to pass a copy of this leaflet on to people who may not get one from Church. The leaflet has an invitation to a meeting near you to tell you more about the Synod and how we can get involved.

I will officially convene the Synod at a special service in the Cathedral on Sunday 3 February next year. All five hundred members of the Synod will be present at this service. From here they will be sent out to do their work of listening, reflecting and discerning, supported by the prayers of all of us. I need your help so that we can truly be a Church that listens. We all have members of our families, neighbours and friends who are Catholics, but have little contact with our parishes. Is it possible for us to listen to their experiences and their needs so that we can be a Church that serves them too? We are going to try to listen to our young people, to families with children, to those who work in our schools. What will our Church be like for them in twenty or thirty years' time? We want to hear the experiences of those who may have made their home in our parishes only recently and to learn how we can welcome them in a better way. In all this listening and learning, let's pray that we might hear a call from God to change, to try to be His Church in a new way.

The letter to the Hebrews, our second reading today, speaks to us of God who walks with us; a High Priest who feels our weaknesses with us. It speaks of the power of prayer, reminding us that we never approach the throne of God in vain. As we prayed in the Psalm today: 'May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.'

Today is also World Mission Day. We are invited to reflect on the call of God to be His missionary disciples. God's gifts are not given to us to be hoarded but to be shared. Please keep in your prayer the work of all those who seek to share the Gospel message across the world.

Today, with real enthusiasm in my heart, I invite you all to join in the journey which will enable us to become the Church that God is calling us to be – that is our Synod 2020 journey!

Most Reverend Malcolm McMahon OP
Archbishop of Liverpool

Synod 2020. Two years ahead on Sunday, 18th. October, 2020, our Archdiocesan Synod will close, hopefully having had a profound influence on the life and work of the Church here in Liverpool. There was a meeting of priests last Thursday which, I have to say, delighted me. Some of you will remember Fr. Matthew Nunes when he was deacon with us at St. Bernard's, and we went to his ordination. Matthew fronted this meeting, very, very well. A group had been preparing it with him. They have prepared a programme, leading up to the synod, which gives all of us the opportunity to vent whatever concerns, frustrations, ideas, visions we have. The Archbishop will make clear what is in his power to implement and what is not. The synod decisions, which he cannot personally carry out, he has promised to pass up the line as far as he can go.

Today, there is a letter, from the Archbishop, to be read, with copies available for everyone in church, in which he emphasises that he is the servant of the people with the mission to listen to the hopes and fears, and face the challenges and pressing issues of us all. "How are we to witness to the Gospel message of God's love in a culture which seems to have little room for faith?"

That everyone has the opportunity to become part of the process there are a number of meetings around the Archdiocese open to everyone. The meeting nearest to us is at LACE on Croxteth Road, in Sefton Park, on Tuesday week, 30th. October, 7.30-9.00 p.m. I strongly recommend you to go, and to go early to ensure you get a seat. I expect far more people than the hall can hold. (We will cancel ALPHA that evening).

As you read in last week's newsletter John suggests that our Parish Assembly on November 3rd. be given over to a discussion on the Synod. It is great that we are getting off to such a good start in the process. There is so much to discuss that careful planning will be needed. Each parish is to have a lay representative so we have to decide how to make this appointment. "*Each parish in the Archdiocese will choose one member of the parish community to be their Synod Member. This person will coordinate local listening and discernment, will keep the parish informed about the progress of the Synod, will be a local point of contact for parishioners, and will attend the Synod and all preparatory meetings leading up to October 2020*". To counter the large priest contingent each Pastoral Area will elect a further eight representatives, two of them young people, two each from educative and caring professions. (I can't remember whom the other two represent).

There are 4 official questions:

1. Where in your everyday life do you experience love, truth, goodness, hope and joy?
2. What things that you encounter during the course of your everyday life cause you concern or worry? When you look to the future what are the things that give you cause for concern?
3. What is the purpose of the Catholic Church in the world today?
4. What are the topics you would like to see on the Agenda for Synod 2020? Not more than five.

To help us keep abreast of everything there is a dedicated website www.synod2020.co.uk

As with everything important to us prayer must be at the heart of this process, our parish prayer and our personal prayer. I believe that probably the most important part of this whole synod exercise is the process building up to the synod. That will determine the Synod's success. How will our parish change during these two years?

