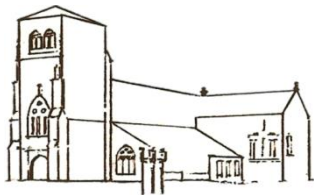


# Newsletter for the parish of St. Anne & St. Bernard.




95a, Kingsley Road  
Liverpool L8 2TY

Tel 0151 709 4434 & 07932 045 070

Email [stbsliv@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stbsliv@yahoo.co.uk)

[admin@stannestbernardliverpool.org.uk](mailto:admin@stannestbernardliverpool.org.uk)

Website [www.stannestbernardliverpool.org.uk](http://www.stannestbernardliverpool.org.uk)

 [St Anne & St Bernard Liverpool](#)

 [@annebernAdmin](#)

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

## Second Sunday of Easter

08.04.18

**Revolution in kindness** (as encouraged by Jean Vanier). Thought for this week – *words of gratitude and appreciation give the original kind deeds extra worth.*

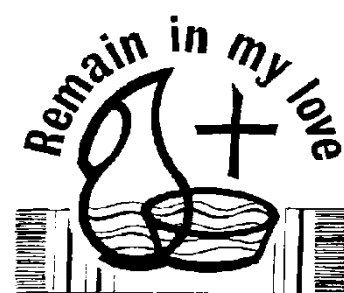
**Today's Scripture readings.** Today's Gospel tells us that it is not seeing Jesus which gives faith. The disciples had to come to faith and that meant touching the wounds of Jesus as Thomas did. Rather like Mark's Gospel where the centurion sees "*how he had died*" and says "*in truth this man was a son of God*" so in John's Gospel. Thomas touches the wounds, sees the suffering, and comes to faith.



This is the great climax of John's Gospel. Thomas not only responds to what he sees – the risen Christ, but goes far beyond that with words of faith we often echo  
**"My Lord and my God"**

The wounds of Jesus are gaping wide in the suffering of God's children everywhere. When we help the grieving, the wounded, the rejected, we too are acknowledging and recognizing, indeed exercising the healing presence of God.

The earliest Gospel teaching emphasised the resurrection of Jesus and his victory over death. The crucifixion was considered almost an embarrassment. But it was reflecting on the death and suffering of his fellow Christians which caused St. Paul to see the Cross, together with the Resurrection, as our way to salvation. The risen Christ had first suffered the ignominy of the Cross. Our journey to God is to be no different. Our cross has to be carried in such a way that no matter what form it takes, it leads to God.



The shared life of the early Christians as seen in today's first reading, challenges us to see how we can share the goods we have in abundance with those who have little. How can this concern be appropriately expressed in our Church and in our Christian lives in 2018?

The apostles were given a faith with the power to "*overcome the world*" – a trust in Jesus who is the sign of God's saving love. Are we prepared to accept the consequences of following him faithfully? The spread of the Gospel depends on our readiness to accept the demands of being faithful disciples of Jesus.

**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 will be an opportunity for **confession** during these times.

**Mass** this week is as follows -

Saturday	5.30 p.m.	Angela Lightbound
Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Parishioners
Tuesday	12.00 noon	Fr. Juliano Absday
Wednesday	12.00 noon	Monica Jones
Thursday	12.00	Deceased priests
Friday	12.00	Margaret Brady
Saturday	5.30 p.m.	John Lynch

The next **Parish Assembly** will be on 14<sup>th</sup>. July.

The **Co-Ordination** group meeting is April 21st.

The **Prayer Group** will meet in **St. Anne's House** on Friday at 7.30 p.m.

The **Men's Group** will meet this Monday, 9<sup>th</sup>. April, 7.30 p.m. in St Bernard's.

The next **Justice & Peace** group is on Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup>. April in St. Bernard's

**Please keep our sick friends in your prayer** -Eddie Barrett, Steve Casey, Pat Brown, Adam Dean, Stephen Woo, Nancy Goss, Bill Whitehead, Selamawit, Saadat, Ken Otu, Flo Coffey, Sister Win, Ann McMahan, Bernie Connolly, Andy Murphy, Trish Riley 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.

**Money Report** . The collection last weekend was £697.80. Add on £624.80 from standing orders and tax returns to make a total of **£1,322.60**.

The **Good Friday collection** for the **Holy Places** came to £297.39.

Thank you all very much.

Will those who use the envelopes to contribute to the Church's upkeep please collect your box for this coming year

**Fundraising Night for Asylum Link.** In church next Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup>. at 7.00. Lol has tickets priced £5.00. There are some very special acts, including a 24 piece band. A short film will be shown, graphically highlighting the trauma experienced by one of our friends. We strongly recommend support for this event.

Pope Francis is due to visit Dublin in August. It is also possible that he might visit Northern Ireland as well. Some people have suggested organising a trip to Dublin during the time of his visit. I would welcome this if some of you would be prepared to organise it. It is during the holiday peak season, and plane and boat places could well be booked up very quickly and be expensive. If you wish to arrange something you need to do it quickly.

## **The Catholic bishops of Quebec have discussed the possibility of ordaining married men to priesthood.**

During a conference dedicated to the future of the Catholic Church in Quebec, Auxiliary Bishop Marc Pelchat of Quebec said consolidating parishes was not a solution to the lack of priests.

"During a closed hearing at a recent plenary session of bishops, there was talk of the ordination of married men of a certain age, whose ecclesial commitment is tested. This is an important reflection that we have right now," he said in mid-March.

Nearly 80 people attended the conference, organized by the lay group Le Parvis de Quebec, at the Canadian Montmartre, or Sanctuary of the Sacred Heart.

"The situation of churches continues to change. In the last decade, there has been a significant decline in the demand for sacraments, including even the funeral rite. The church has become like a vestige of the past, destined to be marginalised. The faithful still present believe that there's still Good News to share, but it will have to be done differently. We will have to be persevering," said Bishop Pelchat. Many people asked Bishop Pelchat, the longtime dean of the faculty of theology and religious studies at Laval University, about the participation of the laity in the life of the church.

Bishop Pelchat said the Quebec church has long put faithful in a position of spectators and consumers, especially regarding the sacraments.

"We need to change this way of doing things. We believe that we can rebuild the church, even if it is more humble, to announce the mission of Christ," he said, stressing that many answers will come from the field. "We are all wondering how to become missionaries in a transforming Quebec, which has severed its ties with its Catholic heritage."

"More and more, we hear the call to set out and engage in a movement of pastoral conversion, including our structures, to reverse the church (dominant) position we have known. I have not been trained for today's church, but one has to adjust," said the 67-year-old theologian.

(from the Tablet on line)

**Little Mick's Spot** (paws for thought ). There are interesting things happening our way.



Virtually everything has been moved out of the old St. Bernard's church prior to work starting on the interior rebuild. The old hall will be pulled down first. I think they will be starting that next month. TD hopes to get a load of slates to replace the corrugated iron over St. Anne's cloisters. I can't wait. Lots of varmints to chase and new neighbours, literally on our doorstep. (I've been up to St. Anne's twice this week. No varmints there, I'm afraid). You'll all be happy about that. It's been a good week for me. Some kind man supplied lots of chicken pieces, just out of selling time. No problem to me. Yum, yum! The house here is full of chocs and sweets, Easter gifts. These will kill you, Mick, says TD. Mean old thing, he won't let me try them for myself. Now for a big secret. What a game! Liverpool v City. A room full of blue noses all shouting for the Reds!! That's a first. None of that tomorrow though. I'm not really bothered who wins but TD is. It may be worth a tasty bit or two if the Blues win. So my barks are for blue goals. If Everton lose life will be miserable for me. By the way he still hasn't got me that promised new bed. My Easter present! Knowing him I'll be lucky to get it by Christmas! I know he was thinking of taking me to Sandymount with the

young people last Monday – not fair on them, Mick, he said. You'd win the ball every time.



Sr. Eleanor organised a wonderful day out on Easter Monday for the altar servers, their families and friends. We were made wonderfully welcome at Sandymount and had the run of the whole house. With the constant rain we were apprehensive about how things would turn out but Sr. Eleanor had arranged a whole variety of activities and everyone thoroughly enjoyed it. Jacob was a great leader. God is so good. The rain stopped for an hour and so what else- they played football. On the grass by the beach. It was cold but so enjoyable. We have some great footballers, the girls especially. I suggest we challenge altar server teams from other parishes, mixed teams boys and girls. The shared table, as always was superb. We concluded with Mass and left at 5.00 p.m. I think we all left feeling good about the day and about ourselves. Happy days lie ahead for the summer. Sadly there are a few of the young people missing from the photo.

At least five of us are going to listen to Fr. James Mallon at Holy Trinity CE Church, Brompton, London on 9<sup>th</sup>. May. His success at parish renewal has been staggering. Please God we can follow his example.



Wilson, Ruth, and their son, Charles Mukerjee are very well known to many of us in St. Anne's through Asylum Link. The family is in detention in Yarlswood, ready to be deported to Pakistan. This causes great anxiety, not least because of Charles' mental disability and liability to seizures, but also because they are a prominent Christian family. There is an online campaign to repeal the deportation order. We support this campaign and you are invited to sign your name on the sheet provided at the

back of the church.

**Holy Land Pilgrimage.** Northern Star are offering the best deal I have seen for a long time for an eight day pilgrimage to the Holy Land, £950 for a shared room, £1,150 for a single. Next year, 2019, either January to March or October to December. These are the

best times anyway. Summer is far too hot. If there is interest shown then I will go ahead and book. A minimum of 25 and a maximum of 45.

I think that, for most people, there is probably a very reasonable assumption that prayer is best achieved, or more easily achieved, in a place of silence. One of the great qualities and beauties of Lindisfarne is the silence. Take yourself away from the village, even on the busiest of summer days when the tide has been gracious and crowds of day visitors and pilgrims are filling the little lanes of the village, and after even a few hundred yards it is possible to be alone and immersed in silence. There may be the song of numerous birds and even, particularly in the evening, the moans of hundreds of seals on the sandbanks, or the bleating of sheep, but there is no man-made noise, no machinery, just miles of sandy beaches, dunes and rocks, and the sound of the sea. Yes, Lindisfarne provides a silence and a place that I am so pleased to be able to visit whenever possible, because of the peace and the invitation it provides.

That sense of silence and a divine presence is particularly evident for me when the sun has set and a clear night sky just speaks of infinity and the grandeur of God. This place reminds me of the centuries of prayer by the Celtic monks who inhabited this little tidal island and made it the cradle of Christianity. Like most people I know, I could not claim to have a rich and deep prayer life. That is something that I have pursued since my teenage years, with moments of greater or lesser success. I have always assumed that my best chance of immersing myself in prayer would be in silence, and particularly in the beauty and the silence of a place like Lindisfarne.

My recent experience of travelling to Bangladesh with [Cafod](#) has suggested that silence is not necessarily the best or only context for prayer. We visited Dacca, the capital, for three days and I doubt that I have ever experienced such continuous noise and activity. My room looked over a narrow street which was alive with pedestrians and traffic throughout the day and most of the night. There were street-sellers too, calling out their produce as rickshaws with bells and motor vehicles with horns sounded their presence and every manoeuvre. The traffic is gridlocked most of the working day and we spent hours in jams with the noise and the bustle of the city all around us. Searching for a silence there seemed impossible but finding a way into prayer was actually not at all difficult. As I sat in the traffic jam I was surrounded by the world with all its treasures and traumas - the diversity of God's kingdom and His creation and the reality of human experience. Rushing past were students and labourers, mothers with small children, just as wealthy business men and women and, inevitably, there were the beggars and the homeless. This was a place in which prayer is invited and needed, where God's grace is essential. There was an opportunity to praise God for human ingenuity and creativity and also to recognise our limitations and our mistakes and the injustice of our inequality. Here was the place to pray for determination and commitment to care for our common home and to heal the damage we have done.

A different form of prayer also came easily when we visited the Rohingya camp. It is now the biggest refugee camp in the world, and growing. Its deprived and desperate population is approaching one million in a place which had only forested hills and virtually no inhabitants just six months ago. As we walked through areas of this refugee city there was an eery quiet, broken occasionally by children singing in their makeshift "child friendly spaces". This was not a place like Lindisfarne of serenity and peace. This place pleaded for an urgent prayer for hope amid despair.

Every place, loud or silent, crowded or remote can be a place where we make God's presence real through prayer. We can praise God for all that is good, giving thanks. We can plead for his help and strength in places where we have failed to be good stewards

and to ensure the dignity of our brothers and sisters in our common home. Prayer can and should be with us wherever we may be. (*Bishop John Arnold in the Tablet*)