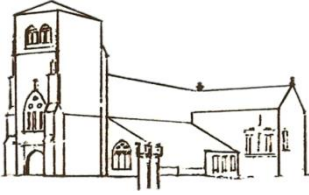


Newsletter for the parish of St. Anne & St. Bernard.



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Second Sunday of Lent

25.02.18

Revolution in kindness (as encouraged by Jean Vanier). Thought for this week
When you encounter difficulties and contradictions, do not try to break them, but bend them with gentleness and time. St Francis de Sales

Today's Readings. "This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him"

The three readings, taken together, focus upon the cross, the death to which Jesus, like Isaac in the first reading, freely assents. While in the Transfiguration the three apostles saw the glory of God, for Mark the believer is one who sees the glory of God in the man on the cross. Only when we have faced the cross in our own lives can we see and proclaim Jesus as Lord and Saviour.

The Transfiguration takes us into the final part of the ministry of Jesus leading to his death. It explains to us something of the meaning of the death of Jesus by bringing onto the scene Moses and Elijah, the key figures of the Old Covenant, representing the Law and Prophets. In contemporary Jewish thought there was much written about these two, associating them with the end times. They would come when God's plans were reaching their fulfilment. Well here they are, talking with Jesus. God speaks, and his voice emphasises that in Jesus the end times have arrived. Not just representatives of God but his "beloved Son" to whom we must listen. He is the new Moses. Indeed he is greater than Moses. He is the "beloved Son". In him there will be a new covenant, not sealed this time with the blood of animals but with the blood of own beloved Son.



*He was transfigured
before their eyes*

"Listen to him". This is what Lent is about: listening to God, recognising Jesus for who he is, helping to bring God's Kingdom here on earth "a kingdom of truth and life, a kingdom of holiness and grace, a kingdom of justice, love and peace".

For Peter, James and John the Transfiguration gave a glimpse of something other, whatever future glory may mean, some kind of insight into the deeper heart of reality. Then the moment passed. Have you had that sense, to be standing on holy ground? Often something very simple!!

There will be **Stations of the Cross** every Wednesday evening at 7.00 p.m. during Lent, followed by Mass at 7.30 p.m.

The Retreat next Saturday. 10.00 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. It will take place in our new rooms. The St. Anne's Room will not be ready but the St. Bernard's Room and the kitchen will be. A rethink about the programme. There will be tea and coffee from 10.00 a.m. Fr. Richard will give us a talk at 10.30 a.m. The retreat will finish at 3.30 p.m. For lunch let us have a shared table so please bring something to eat. Drinks will be available. While people can come at the last minute it is important that we have some idea of how many will coming. A list is available on the table at the back of church.

Mass this week is as follows -

Saturday	5.30 p.m.	Bridget Hadley
Sunday	10.30 a.m.	George Fitzsimmons
Tuesday	12.00 noon	Edmund Toolan
Wednesday	11.30 a.m.	Requiem Mass for Anthony Clintworth
Wednesday	7.30 p.m.	Peter Stevenson
Thursday	1.00 p.m.	Requiem Mass for Kevin McGuinness
Friday	12.00 noon	Sandra Holmes
Saturday	5.30 p.m.	Rebecca Hammond

May Tony and Kevin rest in peace. Please pray for their families.

Funerals this week. Wednesday 11.30 a.m. Requiem Mass for Tony Clintworth
Thursday 1.00 p.m. Requiem Mass for Kevin McGuinness

Exposition 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.

Journey to Faith. Meet on Tuesday at **7.00 p.m.** in St. Bernard's House,
The **Prayer Group** will meet in St. Anne's House on Friday at 7.30 p.m.
The **Men's Group** will meet tomorrow, Monday, 16th. March, 7.30 p.m. in St Bernard's

Please keep our sick friends in your prayer – Stephen Woo, Anne Traylor, Nancy Goss, Bill Whitehead, Selamawit, Saadat, Ken Otu, John Donohoe, Flo Coffey, Sister Win, Ann McMahon, Eddie Barrett, 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. Also for us to take Holy Communion to them.

Please pray for those who have died recently –Colette Ellis, Kevin McGuinness. Anthony Clintworth

After the evening Mass on Wednesday 27th February, we will be having reflections inspired by **Laudato Si** and the Gospel reading for the Second Sunday of Lent, (hopefully in the new rooms? – we'll need to wait and see).

The next Parish Assembly is on the 17th.March. In the parish rooms.

Money Report. The collection last weekend was £457.73. Add on £624.80 from standing orders and tax returns to make a total of **£1,082.53**. Thank you all very much.

The **Catholic Pic** this week tells us that a trip has been arranged, a retreat/break, to Northumbria, to **Holy Island** (Lindisfarne), Durham city and Cathedral, and York and its Minster, staying in Minsteracres, where Fr. Austin spent much time as a student and a teacher, in late April, Tuesday 24th. to Friday, 27th. I have been asked to lead it. It is open to all Pic readers so if you wish to go phone Barbara on 0151 733 5492. There are 49 places. Do not delay.

Care for our common home. The Friends of Princes Park are organising a “litter pick” next Saturday, but it is during our parish retreat day. Let us do our own “Little Pick”, plastic bottle and anything else we see. We can join in the next organised pickup.

Fair Trade Fortnight. Begins tomorrow, February 26th. It highlights efforts to provide producers in developing countries with a fair price for their products. Next Sunday, 4th. March, after Mass, we are able to hear a short account of the difference Fair Trade has made to one person’s life. Then everyone will be invited to share some Fair trade food.

Some of you have bought and read “*Divine Renovation*” by **Fr. James Mallon**. Everyone who uses the internet can listen to Fr. James answering questions and giving talks. I am particularly interested in his talk on the Holy Spirit, his conviction about the value of Alpha courses, and the questions and answer sessions on his book. I do ask you to make this contact with him because I hope to introduce Alpha to our parish and hope that everyone will at some stage attend the courses. We will either grow or die as a church, certainly as a parish— I am for growing, so are you. All you need to do is to google – **Fr. James Mallon, talks.**

Community Sponsorship Scheme. To welcome a family of Syrian refugees, currently in a refugee camp. Terry says that we still need more people. We need a group of about 25 people to take this forward and we are working with some neighbouring parishes. Another meeting has been arranged for **Tuesday, 27th. February**, at 8.00 p.m. in St. Charles’ parish hall, Aigburth Rd. All welcome.

The **Parish rooms** will be ready a week on Wednesday, March 8th. More work is needed on the block floor of St. Anne’s Room. It will be beautiful when it is completed. There were more problems than we had thought. Otherwise everything is near completion. I think it is really good. I never imagined the rooms so pleasant. The toilets are ready for use now. Two are at the end of the cloister, at the rear of the church, the third is near the parish rooms. The exterior gates should be completed this week. Whoever opens up the church will no longer go through the house but will use the key pad on the gate and the door at the side of the church.

In past weeks we have talked about the uses of the rooms and many suggestions have been made. It is now time to put a little flesh on these ideas and see how practical they are. In particular we need to know who will take responsibility for particular projects. For example we wish the young people to use the rooms but who will take responsibility? Likewise for organising meetings of older parishioners, for Mums and toddler groups. Some groups become self sufficient but there always needs to be some one in charge.

You will have noticed the **baptismal font** by the church entrance. This is the font used in St. Bernard's. To take holy water from the font is to remind us of our baptism. Here are further reasons for positioning the font by the church entrance.

As a part of the reforms of Vatican II, the Church sought to renew the place of the font - not just in its position, but in its use. The font is one of our community's major symbols. It is at the font that we enter into the Christian community for the first time, becoming brothers and sisters in Christ with access to the sacraments. Thus, the font should be seen in relationship with the other objects or places in the church at which the sacraments are celebrated. It is through baptism that we have access to the Eucharist, and so the font should be seen in relationship to the altar. In the Sacrament of Penance, we renew our baptism, and so the font should be the first object a penitent encounters when leaving the Reconciliation Chapel (confessional). Matrimony and Holy Orders are vocational sacraments through which we live out our baptism, and so the font should be encountered when celebrating these sacraments. Finally, it is at the font that we are greeted for our last visit to the church - at the funeral Mass. So the font, "is not just for baptism".

It has long been our Church's custom that when baptized members enter the parish church, they bless themselves with Holy Water as a reminder of their "entrance into the Church" (their baptism). However, when the font was isolated from the community's worship space, it made this gesture possible by placing small Holy Water Fonts at the doorways. (These fonts are merely extensions of the Baptismal Font.)

So, the Renewal called for making the font an open and accessible symbol for all times. It also called for celebrating baptism in a more public form (e.g, at Sunday Masses or in group sessions rather than individual baptisms). This directive caused some conflicts about where it should be placed. If baptism is to be celebrated at Mass, the font needs to be where the assembly can see the baptism; and so, in some churches the font was placed up front by the altar. However, in subsequent years, the directive was clarified and now indicates that the font is to be near the entrance of the church. The Renewal also calls for fonts to be constructed to accommodate both the baptism of infants and of adults, and the latter preferably by immersion (stepping into a pool of water, kneeling and having water poured over them). We aren't able to do that but this font is light enough to be moved to the sanctuary for the Easter Vigil Baptisms.

Little Mick's Spot (paws for thought). "You're a jealous little dog, Mick", TD said. He had picked up Pearl in his right arm and I let him know I wanted to be picked up too. Jealous, not me! He's the jealous one. He admitted that I had more birthday cards than he did and that my fan club is bigger than his. He laughs at me, you know. I see pigeons, perched on the house gutters. I don't like them so I bark and try jumping up at them. I can't deny I must look funny sometimes, trying to reach the birds, but there is no need for him to laugh. I get mad at those pigeons It is all part of me being a dog. He gets mad as well. He was on the phone arranging a funeral and the bell went and didn't stop. Just imagine it. What an excuse for me to bark, and bark, and bark! He thought it was an impatient ringer - poor Anthony, did he get it!! Then he got the apologies (and the money he wanted). The bell was the fault. TD had to unscrew the wires on the bells to stop the noise. I don't know what the poor funeral director thought. A crazy house? Yes, definitely. With him and me.

