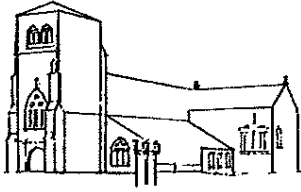


Newsletter for the parish of St. Anne & St. Bernard.



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Thirtieth Sunday of the Year 29.10.17

Revolution in kindness (*as encouraged by Jean Vanier*). Thought for this week - how often do I place conditions and limits on whom I love and how much I love. Aim to reduce those conditions. We aim for unconditional love. Now that brings about a real revolution in kindness

Today's Scripture readings The first reading was chosen to complement the Gospel with its demand to love God and our neighbour. To "love God" is to be like God, full of compassion and pity for the poor and the weak. God is particularly concerned for the very poor, described as the stranger, the widow and the orphan. The "stranger" in the Bible is any foreigner, exile, refugee – anyone without rights. The Israelites are constantly reminded that they were themselves strangers, and they should be mindful therefore, that God protects the exploited and the vulnerable. God "*hears the cry of the poor*".

We are only Christians when we open our eyes to see, when we attempt to find out who are the poor, the strangers, the widows. The Gospel demand, echoing the Old Testament, is "*to love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind*" but can we really say that we are pre-occupied with all our minds and hearts with things that God would bless

Linking these two readings together the Church is saying there can be no genuine love without justice. Without justice love cannot be authentic. But then justice is dependent on truth. Truth is about being trustworthy. God is faithful in all his promises. The freedom we have as children of God, St. Paul says, must not be abused but must be used to help us "*be servants to one another in love*".

Jesus is telling us here that love is something we do. Love is a choice, a decision, a commitment to do things. That is why Jesus is commanding us to love others. It's what we do to others not how we feel toward them that matters.

Jesus is the ultimate realist. He commands us, He mandates us to love our neighbours as we love ourselves. We are to love especially those who are unlovable, those who are particularly shunned and live out on the margins of our lives. He closes our little loopholes, our self-fashioned exceptions, and presents us with the most demanding of all Gospel messages, allowing us no compromises, no human "wobble room." The call from Jesus to us is to get extremely serious about what we do, not what we feel.

I don't care how you feel, Jesus says to us, simply love your neighbours. Love them as your heavenly Father loves them. Love them, the good and the bad alike, with the unconditional love with which your Father in heaven loves them. Love all of your neighbours in what you do to them, in what you do for them, and in how you act toward them. All of those complicated and complex feelings of yours will eventually follow along. My religion, says Jesus, is a matter of what we do; it's not a religion simply of nice feelings.

Mass this week is as follows -

Saturday	5.30 p.m.	Francis Bowman (senior)
Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Parishioners
Tuesday	12.00 noon	Requiem Mass for Teresa Koo
	6.00 p.m.	Dennis Walsh
Wednesday	12.00	Parishioners
Thursday	12.00	November List
Friday	12.00	Requiem Mass for Cathy Elliott
Saturday	5.30 p.m.	The November List

Wednesday is the **Feast of All Saints** and is a Holy Day. There is a Vigil Mass on Tuesday at 6.00 p.m. and the Mass on Wednesday will be at 12.00 noon.

Thursday is **All Souls Day**. Mass will be at 12.00 noon.

The **November List** Box is available as from today. You are invited to place the list of your deceased loved ones in the box. Mass will be offered every Saturday evening for those you have named.

Funerals this week. On Tuesday there is a Requiem Mass for Margaret Koo.

On Friday there will be a Requiem Mass for Cathy Elliott.

Please pray for their eternal rest and pray for their families.

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.

The **First Communion programme**. Our next meeting is this coming Saturday, November 4th. at 12.00 noon. Children come with parents. The meeting lasts one hour. This will be the last opportunity for you to sign up your children for this year.

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, 13th. Nov at 7.30 p.m. in St Bernard's house.

The next Justice and Peace is Thursday, 11th. January, at 7.30 p.m. in St. Bernard's.

Messy Church will recommence when the new rooms are available.

Money Report. The collection last weekend was **£459.79**. Add on £624.80 from standing orders and tax returns to make a total of **£1,084.59** **Thank you.**

Try and read on line the very long article in the Guardian entitled **the War against Pope Francis**. It speaks of the hostility coming, not from the expected or traditional enemies, but from clergy, not laity, within his own Church. He needs our prayer. Meanwhile try and get a beautiful book – Dear Pope Francis – the Pope answering children's questions from around the world

Please keep **our sick friends** in your prayer –John Donohoe, Veronica Corner, Yvonne Ambrose, Lee Burnett, Flo Coffey, Sister Win, Ann McMahon, 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** – Cathy Elliott and Margaret Koo.

The **Journey to Faith** takes a break this week. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 7th.

The **Fair Trade stall** is open every Sunday after 10.30 a.m. Mass. There are Christmas cards included this week.

Tea, coffee and biscuits served after Mass every Sunday in the kitchen.

Care for our common home. Buy loose fruit and vegetables whenever possible to avoid using plastic bags. Remember plastic can remain in the environment for hundreds of years: let's do all we can to reduce the amount we use.

(An online petition) **We've got just a few days left to turn the tide on plastic pollution.** Millions of plastic bottles are used every day, and many end up littering the sea. The problem is so bad, that a third of fish in British waters now have plastic in their bellies. **Bringing back bottle deposits is a simple solution to the enormous plastic problem. It's shown to increase recycling dramatically.** 60,000 people took part in a survey to bring back a bottle deposit scheme. Now Environment Secretary **Michael Gove has opened a brand new consultation - just about bottle deposits - to see what the public thinks.**

Christmas Shoebox Appeal

In December 2016, Link to Hope, a Christian organisation, delivered 43,928 shoeboxes filled with presents to families or elderly people in Romania, Bulgaria, Ukraine and Moldova. EU membership has benefited many people, but life remains very hard for the unskilled, or those with low literacy living in poor rural areas. Link to Hope also works all year round supporting education and community development schemes to lift people out of poverty.

Collection dates; **Sunday 29th October** and **Sunday November 5th**. See Ann or Nina for more info (Tel 0151 727 6855)

These items may be included in the shoebox (no food, medicines, books, tea/coffee, out of date items)

<p>FAMILY : ESSENTIAL ITEMS Gloves/scarf or hat (new) Sweets/chocolates Soap and flannel (new) Toothbrush/toothpaste (new) Colouring books and pens, felt-tips Small toys- yoyo, skipping rope, toy car Teddy bear, doll, soft toy Candles and holders Screwdriver, tape measure/ DIY items Small games- travel size draughts Dominoes/playing cards</p>	<p>ELDERLY : ESSENTIAL ITEMS Gloves/scarf or hat (new) Sweets/chocolates Soap and flannel (new) Toothbrush/toothpaste (new) Reading glasses/ small magnifier Wind up torch /radio Pens/writing pads Candles and holders Sensory items- lavender bags. Small games- travel size draughts Dominoes/playing cards</p>
<p>FAMILY : EXTRA ITEMS Shampoo/shower gel(max 300ml) or soap Craft/sewing kit Socks/tights (new) Hair accessories Safety razors/plasters Wind up torch/radio Brush/comb/mirror Simple calculator-solar powered Work gloves Nail clipper/brush/small scissors</p>	<p>ELDERLY : EXTRA ITEMS Shampoo/shower gel(max 300ml) or soap Craft/sewing kit Socks/tights (new) Safety razors/plasters Nail clipper/brush/small scissors Brush/comb/mirror Shopping bag- strong cloth Mug/wooden spoon/cutlery Cloth hankies – mens size Work gloves</p>

Remembrance Sunday, 12th November is, a day on which we pray for all victims of war, both civilians and soldiers, from all countries. You are invited on that day, to bring the names of any persons in their family who have died in conflict anywhere in the world, at any time, and they will be placed on the altar. We have poppies at the back of the church, which are a traditional way of remembering the dead. We have white poppies supplied by the Peace Pledge Union for remembrance of all victims of war, a commitment to peace and a challenge to attempts to glamorise or celebrate war. We also have red poppies supplied by the British Legion, who raise money on behalf of ex-servicemen and women. If you wish to wear either or both of these poppies, please purchase them by a donation.

The **building work** on the new church toilets in St. Anne's begins tomorrow, then after they are completed work will start on the new rooms. Everything should be completed before Christmas. We look forward to it.

Once again our sincere thanks to **Barry and his team of workers**. Their work on the cloister is ultimately saving the parish £6,000 from the original contract. Not only has the painting been done but the ugly partitioning doors have been removed and Alex has cleared away all the soil, trees and plants which were creating damp in the cloister stonework. The external paintwork will be done at some other time, probably in the Spring. Amira and Jeanette, thanks for the lovely food.

Community Organising. I really am looking for people to give community organising a chance. 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.

Our **Credit Union** is starting a collection point in St. Anne's School on Monday, after the mid term holiday. So adults can pay in there as well as children.

Catholic Singles is an organisation which helps single Catholics of all ages (over 18 years) meet other single Catholics, either one to one or through social events. For further information visit www.catholicsingles.org.uk or tel. 0161 941 3498

Little Mick's Spot. (paws for thought). TD doesn't really blame me but when people give me a ball to play with in the house, Wow, can I chew it, The carpets can be covered in tiny little bits of orange, red, blue –whatever colour the ball is. And TD has to clear it all up. And he does not like that kind of house work!! He Has now started to use a new kind of ball. Even I haven't been able to chew this one. You should see my field now. All the ground work has been done for the building. They'll be doing some pile driving on Wednesday. I hope our shaky ceilings don't fall in!! Anyway, I am having great fun in my newly designed field. There are three levels, each one maybe a metre difference in height. Everyone is amazed at my athleticism. I am only a little dog but I am all muscle and very fit. TD throws the ball and I jump up and down with such ease. People make such a fuss but I just take it in my stride – literally! It won't be so easy once the concrete goes on. Eventually the hall will come down and we should get a little garden out of it. TD is delighted at the idea after 36 years of just a back yard, and I hope there will be bit of a run for me. Yes, life is exciting. With all the people coming to the house I don't get bored. If I do I just look for a rubber ball to chew!! – and give HIM something to do.

