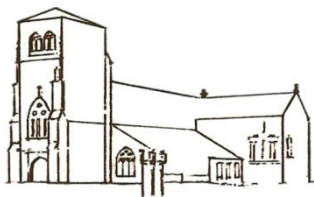


# Newsletter for the parish of St. Anne & St. Bernard.




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## Third Sunday of Easter

15.04.18

**Revolution in kindness** (as encouraged by Jean Vanier). Thought for this week –  
- *When you see something beautiful in someone, say it.*

**Today's Scripture readings.** Notice the fear and disbelief which met Jesus when he appears to his disciples in today's Gospel. The emphasis is that Jesus is not a ghost but real. He is *recognised in his wounds, the suffering of all humanity*. They eat the meal together, always for the early Christians eating together is a reference to the Eucharist. Jesus is **real**.



In Luke there is always a great emphasis upon Scripture "*Everything written about me... must be fulfilled. Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.*"

There are references in both the first reading and the Gospel to the Scripture teaching that Jesus must suffer. The message is for his followers. Like Moses, Jeremiah and above all, Jesus, all those who seek to fulfil God's mission have to suffer in the hands of a godless world. But God will vindicate them as he has vindicated Jesus, and their sufferings will help to expiate the sins of the people.

The Church has always honoured the martyr, the one who by his/her death gives witness to the power and presence of God, even when evil seems to have triumphed. "*Death where is your victory, death where is your sting?*" This is very real to us in our world today when countless numbers of people have been killed because they have expressed their faith in Jesus. Shortly, a martyr well known to us all, Oscar Romero, is to be declared a saint. What effect does this realization have upon me? Does it challenge the priorities in my life? Just how important is Jesus to me? Currently the challenges to my faith do not involve death – but our world is rapidly changing. Do I ever think about it? It should take me out of my complacent zone. Anything can happen – how much is God my priority? Life is one big call to greater holiness. Certain events can help prioritise our thoughts and decisions.



**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.	Mary Daziel
Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Parishioners
Tuesday	12.00 noon	John Lynch
Wednesday	12.00 noon	Monica Jones
Thursday	12.00	Deceased priests
Friday	12.00	Ian Jones
Saturday	5.30 p.m.	Bill Whitehead

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

The **Co-Ordination** group meeting is next Saturday, 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, 30<sup>th</sup>. April, 7.30 p.m. in St Bernard's.

The next **Justice & Peace** group is next 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, 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.

Please pray for Homayoon. He died recently in a car crash.

**Care for our common home. Cutting down on plastic.** Surveys found 200 plastic bottles for every mile of UK beach. These bottles take 450 years to break down, all the while releasing small fragments into the environment. Using refillable bottles or bamboo cups can make such a difference. Spread the news to your family and friends and let's start making a difference now.

**Iceland** seems to be the most environmentally friendly of our supermarkets.

**Money Report** . The collection last weekend was £499.20. Add on £624.80 from standing orders and tax returns to make a total of **£1,123.00** .

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

**The sign of peace.** The sign of peace is a beautiful celebration of the unity and loving bonds among God's people as we prepare to celebrate the Holy Eucharist. It is meant to be heart felt, and many people enter into the celebration in a wonderful spirit. Twenty years ago Jimmy McGovern used his experience of the sign of peace in St. Bernard's in his film, *Priest*. However, some people have very arthritic hands and suffer all day as a consequence. So with the handshake let's ensure we are gentle with our greeting. Traditionally among priests at High Mass it was known as the Kiss of peace.

**Messy Church.** Messy Church is a powerful vehicle for very gently, welcoming unchurched families into some contact with Jesus. We share crafts, children's worship and a meal. It is a way of evangelising as well as helping families to bond and everyone to socialise. The crafts are themselves a way of experiencing God's message.

Our parish is full of people with many talents. The first talent is to have a loving heart. Then along with that loving heart we need people to suggest, arrange and organise the crafts. We need people from our many different traditions and cultures. We need people with a love of Scripture, people who can use power points, projectors, computers, Facebook. We need people who can set up and tidy away. It comes down to two hours a month on a Saturday afternoon. Many hands make work very light.

Before we restart Messy Church we need to have a team together. Then start a month later. Please let Frances or me know if you think you might be able to help.

I am delighted to say that the **Mukajee family** has been released from detention and they are back in Liverpool. Thank you for your prayer and for signing the petition last week.

**Holy Land Pilgrimage.** I have tentatively booked a date for a possible pilgrimage next year on 21<sup>st</sup>. February, to return on 28<sup>th</sup>. Ash Wednesday is 6<sup>th</sup>. March. A number of people have expressed an interest but I need twenty five names before I can confirm. Maximum is forty five. It leaves up ten months to save up. To express an interest is not to commit yourself.

There are still a few places left on the pilgrimage/break to Lindisfarne and Durham. Please see Barbara or me.

**The new parish rooms.** At last the end is in sight. As soon as next Wednesday. All that needs doing, apart from the installation of the projector and sound system, is the flooring. It has come from Holland. It will be delivered on Monday and be laid on Tuesday and Wednesday. I hope that means that we can have our Sunday tea and coffee from next Sunday.

**Priests Training Fund.** Special Collection next Sunday after Mass.

**Little Mick's Spot** (paws for thought ). Surprise, surprise. I have my new bed. I think I shamed TD to getting it now before I publicise his lack of care to the whole parish. It's not the Rolls Royce of doggy beds, not even a BMW, but maybe a little below that, a good VW Golf. I agree with TD for once. Why would anyone want a chair to sleep on when you have a good bed.



He wants to put temptation out of my way. I perplexed him this morning though. When he came down this morning I wasn't on my bed. He still doesn't know where I was and I'm not telling him. – though after a few seconds he saw me coming from under the table. My secret - what I was doing. What was St. Bernard's church is now stripped of everything, even the old choir loft. Constructing work will be starting soon. HPBC, the charity doing the work, are always looking for volunteers , if you wish to help.

All the old furniture and stuff which had been dumped in the old hall has gone as well.

The men have cleaned upstairs, all the dead pigeons etc. What a transformation. My hunting grounds are changing every day. I'll keep you informed.

**Gaudate et exultate. Rejoice and exult** - what a wonderful title for a teaching on Holiness. Pope Francis has just published what seems to be a remarkable document on Getting close to God. Here is what *the Tablet* thinks of it.

Holiness has something of a bad name. It popularly means one of two things: either being so unworldly as to be hardly on the planet at all, or to have assumed an air of spiritual audacious new apostolic exhortation Pope Francis has embarked upon a very personal definition of holiness that breaks through these blockages and turns these preconceptions upside down.

Most Catholics would shy away from imagining holiness either as applying to themselves or as a serious aim in life, and are probably not comfortable with being thought of as “religious”. Yet the call to holiness is universal, and the practice of it should be as natural and familiar as any good habit. The parent who cares lovingly for a child, the carpenter who deftly repairs a damaged wardrobe, the owner of a business who behaves honourably and conscientiously towards their staff and their customers, indeed anyone who aspires to become the person God means them to be, is engaged in becoming more holy by virtue of it. Holiness is not remote from everyday life. It is the very stuff daily life is made of.

Anyone can be a saint.

*Gaudete et Exultate* is a remarkable document, and could be regarded as this Pope’s spiritual masterpiece. A thousand sermons could be preached on it, and everyone in the congregation would instantly sense that the Pope is talking to them personally. But he does not shirk controversy. He identifies two skewed brands of Catholicism, which he calls Pelagianism and Gnosticism, which block the flow of grace and kill holiness dead even while claiming to be its defenders. These two ancient mindsets also happen to be apt descriptions of the ultra-conservative positions occupied by those who have been most hostile to his papacy. Francis is coruscating and relentless in his criticism of rigidity, legalism, clericalism, conservatism and traditionalism. They result, he says, in “a selfcentred and elitist complacency, bereft of true love...” These tendencies either turn Catholicism into little more than a set of doctrinal rules that only an elite properly understands and obeys; or they promote the idea that salvation is to be gained by an act of will, to be had if only people would work hard enough at it.

These two strands often appear together. They are distractions from holiness, yet somehow they have become lodged in the popular imagination as accurate descriptions. On the contrary, Francis insists, holiness does not imply never making mistakes or never falling short; it is living in the humble awareness that we are always in need of the mercy of God. Just as striking is Francis’ extension of the pro-life position beyond a narrow focus to every situation where human lives are threatened or diminished – “the poor, the destitute, the abandoned and the underprivileged, the vulnerable infirm and elderly exposed to covert euthanasia, the victims of human trafficking, new forms of slavery, and every form of rejection...”

He insists that the Catholic attitude to migrants is not secondary to the Catholic attitude to the unborn, but part of a seamless whole. Working for social justice is a work of holiness. This inspiring document should not be misunderstood as simply Francis’ response to his critics. Like all good spiritual writing, there are lines on every page that will make all readers uncomfortable. But Pope Francis clearly regards his job not only as comforting the afflicted, but also as afflicting the comfortable. At which he undoubtedly will succeed

