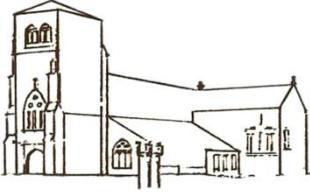


Newsletter for the parish of St. Anne & St. Bernard.



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Third Sunday of Lent

04.03.18

Revolution in kindness (as encouraged by Jean Vanier). Thought for this week
*Hearts united in pain and sorrow will not be separated by joy and happiness.
Bonds that are woven in sadness are stronger than the ties of joy and pleasure.*

Kahlil Gibran

Today's Scripture Readings The **Ten Commandments** are presented as coming from the God who has rescued the Israelites from the slavery of Egypt. That act of rescue is a sign of the future, ultimate act of salvation which comes through Jesus. We must live in a way worthy of God's choice of us.

The first three commandments insist that there is one God who is the source of life. There must be no false gods. The ancients made images which they worshipped. We make all sorts of things our god –

money, food, lust, addiction of all kinds. To ensure that these other things are kept in check every week there is one day which must be set aside for God. The truth is that if we give that day without condition to the one God then these other gods will have no hold on us.

I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD
WHO BROUGHT YOU OUT
OF THE LAND OF EGYPT
AND OUT OF THE
HOUSE OF SLAVERY

YOU SHALL HAVE
NO GODS
EXCEPT ME

The remaining seven commandments are found in many other ancient cultures because they are essential for the safe and healthy running of any community. In towns, villages, wherever people lived, unless there was trust between people and their family relationships, and respect for each other's property, there would be no security, and the enemy from some other place would steal

in. These commandments were, and are, essential for solidarity among people.

The Old and New Testaments both emphasise that the greatest commandment of all is to love God., The second is to love our neighbour. Jesus adds another – *to love one another as I have loved you*. And this all flows from the fundamental truth that God loves us.

In the Gospel Jesus cleanses the temple of the money makers and money changers "*stop turning my Father's House into a market*". In the other three Gospels this event is taken as a reason for the arrest of Jesus and comes just before Palm Sunday. John presents it differently. He places this event at the very beginning of the ministry of Jesus. It is the reason why Jesus has come – to cleanse his Father's House, a symbol of the renewal of religion in every way which is also the reason why he was killed.

When Jesus speaks of *rebuilding* the Temple the early Christians would see this as very clearly referring to his resurrection and the establishment of the new covenant through his death and resurrection.

Maybe the words which conclude the second reading are always relevant – "*For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength*".

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

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.

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.

Mass this week is as follows -

Saturday	5.30 p.m.	Rebecca Hammond
Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Bill Whitehead (ill)
Tuesday	2.00 p.m.	Requiem Mass for Ann Taylor
Wednesday	7.30 p.m.	Thomas Douglas
Thursday	12.00 noon	Requiem Mass for Collette Ellis
Friday	12.00 noon	Vera Moch
Saturday	5.30 p.m.	Parishioners

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

Funerals this week. On Tuesday there is a Requiem Mass for Ann Taylor at 2.00 p.m. Thursday 12.00 noon a Requiem Mass for Collette Ellis.

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 on Monday, 16th. March, 7.30 p.m. in St Bernard's. The next **Justice & Peace** group. Thursday, 19th. April

Please keep our sick friends in your prayer – Mary Higgins, Adam Dean, Stephen Woo, 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. We can take Holy Communion to them.

Mary Higgins taught in St. Bernard's School for many years.

Please pray for those who have died recently – Ann Taylor, Colette Ellis, Kevin McGuinness, Eddie Amoo.

Eddie Amoo was in Australia when he died. His funeral will be arranged this week

After the evening Mass on Wednesday, 7th.March, 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).

Money Report. The collection last weekend was £510.45. Add on £624.80 from standing orders and tax returns to make a total of **£1,135.25**. Thank you all very much. **Cafod Collection** for Family Fast Day was £463.34. Thank you very much. The cheque will be sent to Cafod this week so there is still time to make your donation.

The Eucharistic Congress. The main day of the Congress is the Saturday, September, 8th, when ten thousand people from all over the country will gather in the Echo Arena. We have been asked to provide five people from our parish to represent us. The main speaker is Bishop Baron, a Bishop in California, who has a huge online ministry and has provided many courses in the Faith. He will be well worth hearing. Please let me know if you would like to take part. There are also a number of fringe events associated with the Congress. More information follow.

This month's **Catholic Pic** has a three page article on St. Bernard's church and its development, to be made into eleven houses, built within the church structure. We were sent some extra copies so that everyone can be sure of getting one.

Care for our common home. Remember the birds in this weather. It is very hard for them to find enough food in winter, never mind in this bitter weather. Why not use a bird feeder with fat balls. Aldi and Home Bargains have bird food, also for ducks and swans.

Fair Trade Fortnight. We are part way through Fair Trade fortnight (ends 11th. March). To mark this there will be a very short story at the end of Sunday Mass about someone who has benefitted from fair trade. Then all are invited to enjoy some fair trade refreshments.

Fair Trade Easter Eggs. We will be selling Real Easter Eggs with the Easter message again this year. The price is still £3.99. People were very good last year when it seemed we had badly over ordered. So rather than presume on people's good will we have ordered fewer eggs this year – though still a lot.

Our Fair Trade Stall. The organising charity, Fair4All, have told us, very gratefully, that we sold £1,480.31 worth of produce last year. This is a magnificent total and speaks of wonderful support. Thank you all.

We have been informed that there are several places on the **local youth Lourdes bus** for July's pilgrimage. Any of our young people who are fifteen by the end of July are invited to apply. Please see Deacon Francis.

The deanery monthly hour of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament in March will be held this coming Thursday in the church of St. Francis of Assisi, Garston, at 7.30 p.m. This is preparing us for the coming Eucharistic Congress. In April the Archbishop will be leading the prayer in St. Anthony of Padua Church. Our month will be August.

The Parish Rooms. A setback unfortunately. The man who was to have repaired the flooring in the big room, the St. Anne's Room, resetting and replacing the blocks, has gone to hospital for knee surgery. Good craftsmen are very busy and we have to wait to get the right person. That puts us back to a date unknown. The St. Bernard's Room, which includes the kitchen, is looking lovely, bright, cheerful and welcoming. The cooker will be in on Tuesday, and the fridge also this coming week. The carpet in the cloister will be down very soon. I am not sure when the gates will be here. All three toilets, including the accessible toilet, are now in use. I am told people are using the electric hand dryers as hand warmers!

Phone Barbara on 0151 733 5492 if you wish to take part in the three day trip/pilgrimage to Holy Island (Lindisfarne) 24-27th. April.

Some of you may like to visit **Medjugorje**. The Medjugorje Irish Centre seems to be well organised and reasonable in price. They include the following in their brochure...

Guests can choose an apartment or room in the Irish Centre Hotel located right beside St. James Church or an apartment in the 4 star Irish House Hotel.

All accommodation comes with air conditioning, elevators, free Wi-Fi and tea & coffee making facilities.

We provide a shuttle service where our driver, displaying a sign for Irish Centre, meets you at the airport and leaves you off outside your accommodation where one of our English speaking staff will meet you and help you settle in.

All meals are served in the Irish Centre restaurant between 8am and 10pm so no more rushing back - come whatever time suits you.

We offer B&B, half board and full board options. You can phone 02032398662.

A Jesuit reflects. Lent can be a good time to reflect on the people who mean the most to us and the relationships we hold most dear. For those of us who live in industrialized countries, it can be jarring to realize that our time together as a family might amount to no more than a few minutes a day. Our lives are independent as we scatter in different directions each day for work, school or childcare.

This season of reflection and renewal might be an appropriate time to pray about our family lives and how we can be more thoughtful and prayerful about Lent as a family.

Perhaps we could hold a family meeting over dinner or some other relaxed place. We could discuss Lent and the symbols of the season using the resources here. We might want to talk about how our faith life is not a journey we make alone, but one we are in as a community, as a family.

One Lenten family practice might include a daily act of love for our family. Can we look around and see some small thing that needs to be done to make our lives together better? Is there laundry to sort or dishes to be washed? Is there a floor that needs sweeping or a room that needs dusting? Just one effort by each of us each day can make a dramatic difference in sharing the workload in the family. The grace we are reaching for goes beyond getting the garbage taken out, for example. We know it is a grace when my experience of taking the garbage out, feels to me like an act of love, an act of solidarity as a family. Perhaps the simplest way to prepare for this grace is to pray:

Dear Lord, may this simple, ordinary sacrifice of my time for the sake of those I love, draw us closer together as a family whose hearts you are drawing to yourself in the togetherness of our family love.

One of the real graces of Lent has to do with forgiveness and reconciliation – mercy and healing. This is never simply a matter between Jesus and me. It always has something to do with my family and with my relationships – how we are with each other. What in us needs mercy and healing? What patterns that we have need our reflections and common family choices and actions this Lent?

Little Mick's Spot (paws for thought). Those poor builders on the houses next door to us! In this bitter weather they had spent the week erecting the roof supports. On Thursday night all was in place. On Friday morning all had blown down. Thousands of pounds lost after wasted work in the bitter cold. Even I felt for them. I saw snow for the first time the other morning. We Jack Russells are hardy creatures. There wasn't much snow but what there was I ignored it. I just enjoyed being out. But I don't like the



cold wind. I visibly shiver but once I see a ball I forget all about it. Hunting and chasing are the driving forces of my life. No old dog syndrome in me, spending their life in front of a fire. Well at least not yet. I have important things still to do in my life. TD was in two cemeteries this week. I didn't envy him after he told me how bitterly cold the wind was. I wish I had your life, Mick, he said You can keep warm all day –if you want to. Oh, by the way, the bell is now fixed. Thanks Peter and Mike. For most of the week I continued to be very useful, letting TD know someone was knocking. With the wind though, there were a few false alarms – TD was not too pleased. However, I was a useful little dog. Provided he uses it correctly TD should be able to see who is at the door. Some parishioners will be happy.