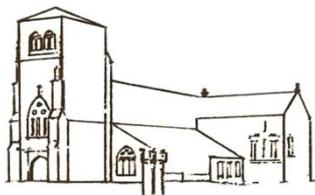


Newsletter for the parish of St. Anne & St. Bernard.



95a, Kingsley Road
Liverpool L8 2TY

Tel 0151 709 4434 & 07932 045 070

Email stbsliv@yahoo.co.uk

admin@stannestbernardliverpool.org.uk

Website www.stannestbernardliverpool.org.uk

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

 [St Anne & St Bernard Liverpool](#)

 [@annebernAdmin](#)

Seventh Sunday of Easter

13.05.18

Revolution in kindness (as encouraged by Jean Vanier). Thought for this week –
-love one another as I have loved you. (Jesus)

Today's Scripture readings *“My dear people, since God has loved us so much
We too, should love one another”
“As long as we love one another
God will live in us
And his love will be complete in us”*

*“God is love,
And anyone who lives in love lives in God
And God lives in him”*

I remember well the first time I read St. John's 1st letter and how overwhelmed I was reading these words. When we link them with the Prayer of Jesus, part of which comprises today's Gospel, they become even more startling.

*“While I was with them
I kept those you had given me true to your name.
I have watched over them...
But now I am coming to you...
To share my joy with them to the full...
Consecrate them in the truth...
As you sent me into the world,
I have sent them into the world,
And for their sake I consecrate myself
So that they too may be consecrated in truth”.*

Our faith draws its life and strength from the amazing truth that God loves me, loves us, each of us, individually and uniquely. Our prayer should be a response to this truth. We can never earn God's love, it is always pure gift. Our love, our prayer, our good works, our forgiveness of others are all a response to being loved.

“This is the truth I mean”, says St. John, “not our love for God but God's love for us”. This is the truth to which we are “consecrated”. Everything is God moving towards us, stooping down to us, not God towering over us. There is that fundamental appeal – since God has loved us we must love one another, and when we love one another *“God will live in us”*.

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.	John Lynch
Sunday	10.30 a.m.	George Fitzsimmons
Tuesday	11.00	Requiem Mass for Eddie Barrett
Wednesday	12.00 noon	Myles Dempsey
Thursday	12.00	Requiem Mass for Maureen Evans
Friday	12.00	Belinda, Frank and family
Saturday	11.00 a.m.	The First Holy Communion children
	5.30 p.m.	Trish Riley

Funerals this week Tuesday 11.00 a.m. Requiem Mass for Eddie Barrett
Thursday 12.00 noon Requiem Mass for Maureen Evans.
Please pray for Eddie and Maureen and for their families.

Please keep our sick friends in your prayer - Kelly Wilson, Steve Casey, Pat Brown, Pat Dalton, Adam Dean, Stephen Woo, Nancy Goss, Selamawit, Saadat, Ken Otu, Flo Coffey, Sister Win, Ann McMahon, Bernie Connolly, Andy Murphy, 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 those who have died – Fr. Don Gordon, Eddie Barrett, Maureen Evans, Tracy Cushion

Fr. Don Gordon has died, aged 92. He served St. Anne's from 1961 to 1971. His Requiem is at St. Joseph's, Wrightington, on Friday, 18th. May, at 12.00 noon. May he rest in peace.

The next **Parish Assembly** will be on 14th.July.

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

The **Men's Group** will meet Monday, 21st. May, 7.30 p.m. in St Bernard's.

The next **Justice & Peace** group is next Thursday, 24th.May in St. Bernard's

Adoremus—preparing for the Eucharistic Congress

The next Pastoral Area Holy Hour will be today, Sunday, 13th May at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church at 3pm.

Money Report . The collection last weekend was **£472.34**. Add on £624.80 from standing orders and tax returns to make a total of **£1,097.14**. Thank you all very much.

Holy Land Pilgrimage. The dates for the pilgrimage are now confirmed 21st-28th.

February, 2019. Rooms have been booked in the two hotels we are staying at, in Bethlehem and Tiberias, and they will be held for us until 20th.June, next month. I have booking forms and you are asked to book as soon as you can, certainly before 20th. June, and enclose a deposit of £200.00. There may be rooms available after 20th. June, but they cannot be guaranteed. Seven groups are travelling with this company in February 2019.

First Holy Communions. The Mass will be next Saturday at 11.00 a.m.

You will find a list at the back of church with the names of the sixteen children due to make their first Holy Communion next Saturday. Beside each name there is space for the name of one or more prayer partners. Please consider becoming a prayer partner for a child for this week leading up to their first Communion, then choose a name and write yours beside it.,

Catholic Pic for May is available, free.

Care for our common home. Don't throw out the dishwater. The water can be used on plants, indoor and out, and for washing the back yard.

In case you didn't get round to it last week, the Plastic free campaign to get your MPs attention is www.plasticfreeparliament.co.uk

The Living Christ Retreat, arranged for next week, has been **postponed**. While our new rooms are ready, they have still to get the official safety certificate and the fire alarm system installed. Although both will come soon, we don't know how soon. And so it seemed better to make the decision now than having to do it at the last minute. I do apologise for any upset or inconvenience which this has caused.

Eucharistic Congress. Five of you volunteered to represent the parish at the Congress in September. I would be very grateful if you would contact me.

There are many Cameroon refugees in Liverpool, many in our parish, which tells us that Cameroon is a very dangerous place for many. Many of our friends, though not all, are from the English speaking part of the country. 80% of the population is French speaking. Reports at the moment are speaking of genocide as massacres are taking place in these English speaking areas. Thousands have fled to Nigeria. Cameroon is ruled by an 85 years old who has governed the country for 36 years. This is yet another country needing our prayer, its people needing our love.

Seeking Christian unity is more urgent than ever because of the ongoing persecution of Christians, Pope Francis told an Orthodox leader, Metropolitan Rastislav, primate of the Orthodox Church in the Czech and Slovak Republics.

The Government has decided it will not scrap the faith-based admissions cap on free schools, while pledging £50 million to enable an increase in grammar school places. There will also be an increase in voluntary-aided faith schools, which are allowed to select all pupils on a faith basis, where there is a demand.

The plans, justified by education secretary Damian Hinds on BBC Radio 4's Today programme, were criticised by Catholic Church leaders. Catholic bishops of England and Wales have been campaigning for the government to fulfil the election manifesto pledge to lift the cap.

There is a new Feast Day of **Mary, Mother of the Church**, which will be celebrated annually the day after Pentecost, was announced in a decree by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments on March 3. The decree said the Pope approved the

celebration because he thought it might “encourage the growth of the maternal sense of the church in the pastors, religious and faithful, as well as a growth of genuine Marian piety.”

Peter’s pulpit. God is amazing the way he brings things together. Next Sunday is Pentecost Sunday, the day God’s Spirit was released to pour into human hearts the fruits of the saving work of Jesus. He softened hearts, he opened minds, he turned enemies into friends. Not all at once. Even today, after two thousand years, are we seeing the work still taking place, attitudes, once thought unchangeable, being reversed. The Spirit is clearly patient. Each generation is given new insights into how God works in our world.

We owe it to God as we owe it to the whole of humanity, to be a vehicle of renewal and transformation in the world of today. When we come face to face with God, and God says Peter, how much did you love? he will then- ask did you love enough to open people’s hearts to my love, and give a vision of what a loving world is really like?

Over the past six months I have been thinking about this very earnestly. At my age I cannot be here much longer, and so I am immensely grateful to God for the great urge he has given me, at this late time in my life, to respond to the prompting of God’s Spirit and make ours a genuinely missionary parish. The spur has come from seeing what is happening in parishes in other parts of the world. Fr. James Mallon’s book, *Divine Renovation*, has been inspirational, Filling churches is not a numbers game – those days are past if they were ever here. If churches are full it is because those coming are being drawn, at root by God’s Spirit, but visibly because they see what faith has done to people’s lives. If St. Anne’s church is to be filled Sunday after Sunday, if we have to put on extra Masses and other kinds of services, if people call out to be fed by the Scriptures, it can only come about, and will come about when we who already believe, who already love God, who love each other, as well as the stranger and the outsider, are prepared to seek a fuller, deeper and life transforming conversion. Are we prepared for this? Do we want it?

I propose two first stages. Nothing will ever change unless we learn to pray. We will learn to pray by praying, praying in whatever way helps focus our mind on God. This week before Pentecost is the time for crying out - Come, Holy Spirit FILL the hearts of your faithful. In other words I do not delay I start today. And I give God time every day.

Secondly, I invite everyone, young, old, those in the middle, married, single, to undertake to give two hours a week for eleven weeks to the Alpha course. How God brings things together – we have our new rooms just at the right time. Alpha seems to be the single evangelising factor which has made the difference. Alpha has brought 5,000 a week, mainly young people, to worship in Holy Trinity Church, Brompton, London, and to bring thousands to Mass in St. Benedict’s Church, Nova Scotia, and to many churches throughout the world. What about your children, your grandchildren. We pray they will fill St. Anne’s and thousands like them. Think and pray. Will you join Alpha?

Little Mick’s Spot (paws for thought). I told you TD was a bit miffed with me last week. It’s really his fault. He says I didn’t come to him in the park when he called me. Yes, OK. I heard him alright, but he had told me he wanted me to associate with other dogs. So I did. Sefton is a big park with lots of dogs. They are a lot more attractive to me than TD is, so I thought I would meet them all. It is when they are on leads and I am off the lead that people get upset, especially when the dogs are biguns, or “eat you for tuppence” dogs. There is TD is trying to get me, people are furious with him and me, there is he apologising all the time, running round in circles after me. You can imagine the scene, can’t you!! It’s the



Dog 'ouse for you, Mick, he said. That doesn't mean much! nothing really. He's the one in people's dog 'ouse. And he still wants me to be a dog socializer. Can he find a better way of doing it? We'll see.