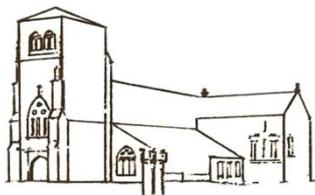


# Newsletter for the parish of St. Anne & St. Bernard.



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## The Birthday of St. John the Baptist

24.06.18

**Revolution in kindness** (as encouraged by Jean Vanier). Thought for this week –  
*The generous soul will prosper, he who waters will be watered* (Proverbs 11:25)

**Today's Scripture.** **John the Baptist** must be someone quite extra ordinary if we celebrate his birth with a solemn feast, replacing the Sunday Mass. We normally celebrate saints' death date, i.e. their entry to heaven. Birth feasts are normally reserved for very holy people, for sinless people, Jesus obviously, and then Mary. But John was very special. The message to his father, Zachary, was very clear : "*He will be your joy and delight and many will rejoice at his birth*"

John's influence was considerable, Twenty years after his death his disciples were still passing on his message. For us John is the one who prepared the way for the Lord.

*prepare the way of the Lord*

He is a model for us. Not in the way he lived, - at least for most of us, - in the wilderness, fasting on locusts and wild honey. He brought the Old Testament to its climax. He brought people to state of repentance that at least some were ready to receive the Saviour.

We too, must prepare the way for the Lord, bearing witness as John did to someone greater than we are, someone who alone can bring peace and joy to people's lives. As John did we too, begin by recognizing that we are not worthy to untie the lace of Jesus' shoe.

The readings are all about God's choice - "*he who formed me in the womb to be his servant...I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach the ends of the earth*". (1<sup>st</sup>. reading) Then the Gospel is Luke's account of John's birth – and his naming ceremony, with the words "*and indeed the hand of the Lord was with him*".



**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 are **confessions** every Saturday and Sunday during the Exposition.

**Money Report** . The collection last weekend was **£455.87**. Add on £624.80 from standing orders and tax returns to make a total of **£1,080.67** .

**Day for Life** Special Collection £110.89. Thank you all very much.

The feast of **St. Peter & St. Paul** falls on Friday. It is a Holy Day. Mass will be at 12.00 noon with a vigil Mass on Thursday at 6.00. p.m.

**Mass** this week is as follows -

Saturday	5.30 p.m.	Cathy Faragher
Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Parishioners
Tuesday	12.00 noon	Andrew Nelson
Wednesday	11.30 a.m.	Requiem Mass for Albert Edwards
Thursday	6.00 p.m.	Geraldine and Gerard Nelson
Friday	12.00	Parishioners
Saturday	5.30 p.m.	Susan O'Hare

**Funerals this week.** There will be a Requiem Mass on Wednesday at 11.30 a.m. for Albert Edwards. We pray for his eternal rest and ask God to bless his family.

**Please keep our sick friends in your prayer** - Eileen Cullen, John Reynolds, Peter Nash, Philip Wrench, Kelly Wilson, Steve Casey, Pat Brown, Pat Dalton, Adam Dean, Stephen Woo, Nancy Goss, Saadat, Ken Otu, Flo Coffey, Sister Win, Ann McMahan, 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 and celebrate the Sacrament of the Sick.

Please pray for Myles Dempsey, Albert Edwards, and Shelagh Martin who have died.

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

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

The **Men's Group** will meet on Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup>.July at 7.30 p.m. in St Bernard's.

**Holy Land Pilgrimage** -21<sup>st</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>. February 2019. Forms are available in the sacristy. Adrian, from Northern Star Travel, has asked can we open up the pilgrimage to others. He would like a group of about 35 to travel. I would obviously prefer all those going to be people associated in some way with our parish but if we do not take up all the places then I will be happy for others to join us.

**Care for our common home.** Getting rid of awkward rubbish. The rubbish and recycling centre at Otterspool will now take plastic bags, tetrapaks (milk and juice cartons), hard plastics and tyres. They will also take small electrical goods and mattresses. If you have transport a monthly visit would mean less contaminating rubbish in the bins.

**The Unexpected Gift.** A talk by Denise Armstrong Harton, the spiritual journey of a deaf person. This Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup>.June in the Carmelite Monastery, Allerton Rd., L18 3NU. 3.30-5.30 p.m., including Adoration, Benediction and refreshments. "It is a personal reflection of a deaf person in preparation for the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage and Congress 2018"

**Our plan for the share the Journey Project** : sheets for names will be available after Mass today.

Then, as a parish, we will take our walk together in Sefton Park on **Sunday 1st July after Mass**. There will not be tea or coffee after Mass next Sunday to ease our way to the Park. We will go to the picnic spot, the obelisk, for about 12.30 p.m. You will be given a map and invited to choose a walk within the Park. Please bring a picnic lunch. Those with cars are asked to take those without transport. Happily the weather forecast is very good.

This is a global campaign launched by Pope Francis and promoted by CAFOD and charities around the world, for the rights of people on the move. Its aim is to raise awareness of the huge journeys refugees and migrants have to make when they leave their homes because of war or persecution.

The Catholic community worldwide is asked to offer support in an act of solidarity with our global neighbours as they have to flee their homes. The idea is that supporters contribute to a total walk of 24,900 miles - the distance around the whole world. Every step we take will send a message to world leaders that they must step up too.

Pope Francis says: “ Every stranger who knocks at our door is an opportunity for an encounter with Jesus Christ, who identifies with the welcomed and rejected strangers of every age”

Once we have a parish total, we enter the miles onto the CAFOD totaliser, so they can add it to those of other churches. Collette from CAFOD tells us there has been a very good take up for this particular campaign.

We can of course undertake additional walks and keep a note of our own totals, then enter them onto the CAFOD website. Why not download [www.cafod.org.uk/sharethejourney](http://www.cafod.org.uk/sharethejourney)

There are disturbing developments within Europe at present, as well as in the USA. The new Italian Government is showing fascist tendencies. Not only has it blocked the entry of suffering migrants but it has ordered a census of Roma people with a view deporting all those without official papers. The new interior minister, Salvini, has made his dislike of Pope Francis very evident. He has sworn on his rosary to rid the country of migrants and has worn a T shirt announcing that his Pope is Benedict. In Bavaria the public display of crucifixes in public buildings is being used as a political statement, as in Italy the rejection of migrants is “defending Christian values”. The new Italian Government has received much support from Steve Bannon, Brother Donald’s former chief strategist, a staunch defender of “Judaean-Christian values”, who says that “the Pope, more than anyone, has driven the migrant crisis in Europe”, and that “the Catholic Church is one of the worst instigators of this open borders policy”. No wonder Pope Francis looks unhappy when photographed with politicians. He sees he must keep a distance from any of them, never wanting to be seen as approving their policies. Our Pope Francis needs all our love, our prayer and our support. These are very troubling signs of our times which we ignore at our peril. A sense of history is important. We have seen these things before and earlier generations have said - never again.

Prepare for the next Synod of Bishops in Rome, October 3<sup>rd</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>. Young people have been asked to prepare the agenda. It covers everything from the dark web and fake news to unemployment, migration and extensive references, to the challenges facing young people.



Yes, this was St. Bernard's. The church lies exposed as never before. Much work has been done on the former church, making it into eleven houses. Drain courses are being dug inside and foundations for the interior walls which will be made of breeze blocks to restrict sounds. Each house will have three bedrooms and rise to three floors. One will have four floors. The work will take at least a year. Future occupants are already at work, delivering the deposit with their "sweat equity".

Meanwhile the rubble you see is what remains of the old parish hall. Much rubble has already gone. It has been a major demolition job. Two storeys high the walls were three and four bricks thick with concrete floors. The house has been shuddering at the vibration of the Komatsu (a machine similar to a JCB machine) as it has attacked the walls and lifted amazing weights. Yes, I have been mesmerised by it all. To the left of the picture lies the house, now much brighter within than ever before. What you see now will mainly become a small garden for our house. There will be a single house built on the far end of the former hall site, its garden backing onto ours. The other building venture will be on the far side of the church, the old school playground, the current work base, where four flats will be built.

**Little Mick's Spot** (paws for thought) . I was on the building site next door playing with TD, chasing a ball, when this big varmint was hurled over a neighbour's wall, right in front of us. It was quite dead. How I don't know. Neighbours are not happy with the varmints released by the demolition going on. I have been driving everyone nuts in my house because I can smell and hear them under the floor boards. I bark and scratch at the boards to get at them, without making much impression. Then I



bark to get outside to have another go. I don't mind all the noise of the demolition, and the dust doesn't bother me. TD gets anxious as I roam over the piles of bricks and rubbish. This hunting drives me more than anything, even chicken, and I've had a bit of that this week. Incidentally, after all this time many people don't know who I am. I am a real dog, the parish dog, the protector of your Parish priest, who thinks he is the top dog of our pack. I humour him and let him think that – though everyone knows otherwise. He was away in Scotland for wedding early this week. Between you and me I was pleased to see him back. I gave him a very warm greeting. My trip was lovely. Mick, he said, but I missed you. Missed me indeed! He can go galavantiing off to enjoy himself and I'm stuck here – on a building site.