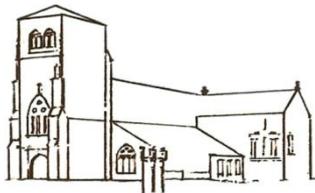


Newsletter for the parish of St. Anne & St. Bernard.



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Feast of Corpus Christi

03.06.18

Revolution in kindness (as encouraged by Jean Vanier). Thought for this week –
Before you speak ask yourself three questions – is it true? Is it kind? Is it necessary?

Scripture. *Today we celebrate the Feast of the Body and Blood of the Lord, the Feast of our Mass, the Feast of our Holy Communion, the central act of our Christian worship, in which we are fed with the Body and Blood of the glorified and risen Christ, and share in his action which brought about and brings salvation to the whole of humanity.*

Holy Thursday is the real day for celebrating the Holy Eucharist, but there are other themes in the Holy Week liturgy which have caused the Church to set aside a special day, which we still call by its Latin name, Corpus Christi, literally the *Body of Christ*.

There is a symbolism of breath taking significance in the bread and wine of the Mass. Eating and drinking has always played a great part in Jewish worship from which our Holy Eucharist is derived. In the Paschal Meal Jewish people believe that God is making present to them the same release from slavery their fore-fathers experienced from Egypt. It is not just a way of remembering. They are themselves the objects of God's salvation.

We believe the same about Jesus. Every generation eats and drinks the bread and wine which we believe is the risen and glorified Christ, who carries within himself the wounds of the cross and the wounds of a suffering humanity. It is not the dead Christ or the physically human Christ walking the earth that we receive. Blood is seen as the life force of God which is why Jews and Muslims will not eat meat with blood still in it. For Christians Holy Communion is the very life of God, flowing through the glorified Christ which God gives us. In meeting him in this special way we share in the fruits of his saving work. We use the word *sacrament* to try and explain what happens. The food, which has all the qualities of nourishment in physical terms, communicates the spiritual nourishment we receive.

We were there in a unique way in the saving work of Jesus. He comes to us here and now in this food to unite us with the saving grace of his salvation. What is more, through eating and drinking at this table we look forward to the great celebration of eternal life, which is represented in Scripture as a great feast when every human need is satisfied, and the whole of humanity united for the glory of God.

This food is not just for me, it is food for us. This food makes us a community, one for all that we all become one. The one Christ, the one loaf, broken and shared, feeding, renewing, enlivening each of us that together we may become the one Christ, able to share with others the amazing love of God.

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 **confessions** next Saturday and Sunday during the Exposition..

Mass this week is as follows -

Saturday	5.30 p.m.	Private intention
Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Private intention
Thursday	12.00 noon	Myles Dempsey
Friday	12.00	Mary Higgins
Saturday	5.30 p.m.	John Lynch

Welcome Fr. Cliff to St. Anne's. Fr. Cliff is kindly standing in for me this weekend while I am on pilgrimage to Medjugorje. I was delighted to find he was available. A few weeks ago I was contacted by a friend saying there was no priest to chaplain their pilgrimage group. Would I go? I have never been to Medjugorje and until recently had no inclination to go. Then things began to change in me. I heard of so many experiences that people had had and knew I would have to go. I knew God wanted me to go and so I was expecting a phone call – from someone, somewhere. And it came, a few weeks ago. No surprise then. I had to say without hesitation– yes. Lots of things have been happening lately, as though God is preparing me, and us, for something special. Maybe this is part of it. Please pray for our parish and the plans God has for us. Of all places of pilgrimage I understand Medjugorje provides a constant opportunity for prayer, especially before the Blessed Sacrament. And Corpus Christi falls this week. God, you are amazing.

Please keep our sick friends in your prayer - Myles Dempsey, John 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 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.

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, 11th.June at 7.30 p.m. in St Bernard's.

The next **Justice & Peace** group is Thursday, 21st. June in St. Bernard's

Money Report . The collection last weekend was **£423.07**. Add on £624.80 from standing orders and tax returns to make a total of **£1,047.87**.

The Special collection was **£759.37**.

Thank you all very much.

Holy Land Pilgrimage -21st-28th. February 2019. Forms are available in the sacristy.

Care for our common home. *Christians in their turn "realize that their responsibility within creation, and their duty towards nature and the Creator, are an essential part of their faith".* (John Paul II)

Share the Journey. Last week in this newsletter Ann, from our Justice and Peace Group, gave the background to this programme, arising out of Pope Francis's concern for refugees traipsing around the world.

Our plan: as a parish we will take our walk together in Sefton Park on **Sunday 1st July after Mass.** We will have three possible options- a 2.4 mile walk around the park, a 1 mile walk around the lake and the stream and a half mile walk for anyone who would prefer a shorter version. We all keep a record of our journey and then we add them together to give a St. Anne's total. We will meet up together after the walk for a picnic in the park. So if 100 of us take part and 40 of us walk 2 miles, a further 30 walk 1 mile and the remaining 30 walk half a mile, it will add up to 125 miles!! (40 x 2, plus 30 x1, plus 30 x 0.5)

Once we have a parish total, we enter the miles onto the CAFOD totaliser, so they can add it to those of other churches.

We can of course undertake additional walks and keep a note of our own totals, then enter them onto the CAFOD website.

Next Sunday, 10th. June, after Mass, there will be a special celebration in the **Parish Rooms** when we can thank those people who inspired, planned and constructed the new rooms. Members of our Social and Community group are baking cakes and preparing the hospitality. We hope that many of you will come in after Mass and share in the occasion.

Thank you for your magnificent offering last week of £757.37 towards our **Parish Syrian Refugee Resettlement Scheme** to house a Syrian family currently in a refugee camp somewhere. This is a response to Pope Francis' appeal for each parish to sponsor a family and we are co-operating with the Government's specific plan. We need £9,000 to support an application. St. Charles's parish and St. James's C of E parish are also sharing in the project and will be holding their own collections. Other parishes are sponsoring their own schemes. Our timetable is heading towards action in September.

Demolition work seems to have slowed down a little on the parish hall. We are waiting for the collapse of the walls and fear the clouds of dust, but work is going on in the church. From the chapel window in the house we can see that the floor boards have been taken up and the whole building is bare. I wonder what further foundations are required. It really is fascinating to see it all. But it is a long term job. It will probably take about eighteen months before people move in.

Little Mick's Spot (paws for thought) "Little What's his name?" that's what she said!!!



How could anyone forget my name – "Little Mick". I'm certainly noisy enough to be noticed. I'm in the dog 'ouse again. That little mouse from last week was hiding under the sink. This happened once before with the same consequence. I scraped and scraped to get at the little varmint and didn't I go and puncture the plastic water pipe which goes to the washing machine. Poor Uncle Bob is trying to sort that one out – again. Some of you will have noticed that that the windows of the old church have been knocked out, and blocks have been erected to stop entry. There is only the path open to our front door and then the barricades. They don't stop me. Versatile me, I just creep underneath. TD's away at the present until next Wednesday. I'm sure he'll be missing me. He's always nice to me before he gallivants off somewhere. I know he wants me to miss him – but I'm not saying. But I will welcome him when he comes back. He is after all the top dog of our pack.

Pope Francis has created more cardinals, most of them from far flung parts of the world. Here *the Tablet* gives us a fuller picture of what it all means and interprets some of the Pope's recent sayings.

Those who oppose the papacy of Francis will have been dismayed by his announcement that he is naming 14 new cardinals, 11 of whom will be eligible to elect his successor. They include bishops from Iraq, Pakistan, Portugal, Peru, Madagascar and Japan –and the papal almoner, Archbishop Konrad Krajewski, who works among the poor people of Rome. They are all pastoral shepherds who know “the smell of the sheep”. Francis has now created 47 per cent of the voting cardinals –those under 80 – which should more or less guarantee that the next pope will continue on the course this one has set. Some of his opponents have given up expecting him to change direction, but until now have hoped that a new pope would reverse some of his positions. In particular, they oppose Francis' moves to admit divorced and remarried Catholics to Holy Communion under certain conditions, which the two previous popes had ruled out. This week, he again vexed his enemies, in the not unrelated area of same-sex relationships. Traditional Catholic teaching says that while homosexually orientated men or women must be treated with respect, if they engage in sexual activity with someone of their own sex they are guilty of grave sin. This distinction between sexual orientation and its expression dismays many Catholics. One gay Catholic likened it to praising a talented figure-skater while prohibiting them from going near an ice rink. Behind the teaching is a presumption that the physical expression of love between people of the same sex is unnatural, contrary

to God's intention. Pope Francis does not seem to think so. When he met Juan Carlos Cruz, the principal Chilean sex abuse survivor, he reportedly told him in private: “Juan Carlos, that you are gay does not matter. God made you like that and he loves you like that and I do not care.” The words: “God made you like that”, assuming he said them, undermine the traditional position that homosexuality is unnatural. And if the condition is not unnatural, then how can homosexual acts still be regarded as unnatural? It seems the main theological objection to homosexual activity would fall away. Skaters would be free to skate. A reassuring remark made in a pastoral context falls short of a definitive treatise on the mystery of human sexuality. But the Pope will not be unaware that opinion among the Catholic laity, and many priests, is somewhat ahead of him. Catholic attitudes to homosexuality at the grass roots have changed fundamentally in the last two decades. The distinction between the homosexual condition and homosexual activity is increasingly regarded as irrelevant, not least because most Catholics no longer accept the teaching of *Humanae Vitae* that every sexual act must be “open to the transmission of life”. If this is the direction of travel of Pope Francis' own thinking about sexuality, his opponents are right to worry. But the majority of lay Catholics worldwide long for the day when Catholic teaching on sex corresponds to their own experience of it, because then the Church will have listened to them at last.

The **June** edition of the Catholic Pic is available. Please take a copy (free).

Pope Francis has announced he will **canonise Oscar Romero**, the martyred former Archbishop of San Salvador, on 14 October in Rome, writes Christopher Lamb. Francis made the announcement during a gathering of cardinals in the Vatican on 19 May, adding that Romero would be declared a saint along with Pope Paul VI and four others.

This concerns a number of our parishioners. A brutal army crackdown against the independence movement in the English speaking regions of Cameroon has provoked an escalating humanitarian crisis. Cameroon's Catholic bishops have denounced the “monstrous violence” that has displaced 160,000 people from their homes, with a further 26,000 fleeing into neighbouring Nigeria. It is a situation “marked by blind, inhumane, monstrous violence and a radicalisation of positions”, the bishops said in their 16 May statement, signed by Archbishop Samuel Kleda of Douala, President of the Cameroon Bishops' Conference.

Prayer. *The power of the Father guide me, the wisdom of the Son enlighten me, the working of the Spirit give me life. God guard my soul, establish my body, elevate my senses, guide my relationships, form my habits, bless my actions, fulfil my prayers, inspire holy thoughts, Pardon the past, correct the present, direct the future. Now to him that is able to do exceedingly abundantly more than we can ask or think, according to his power at work in us, to him be glory in the church in Christ, to all generations. Amen.*