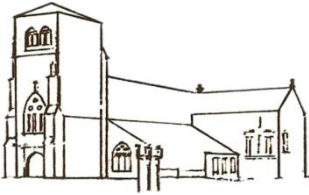


Newsletter for the parish of St. Anne & St. Bernard.



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Easter Sunday

01.04.18

*This is the night when Jesus Christ broke the chains of death
and rose triumphant from the grave.*

*This is the night when Christians everywhere,
washed clean of sin, and freed from all defilement,
are restored to grace and grow together in holiness".*

The word which echoes throughout the liturgy at Easter is "joy". The reason for this is found in the above quotation from the *Exultet*, the great Easter hymn which Sr. Mary Anne sings and proclaims that Jesus is risen. Evil has been overcome, death has been conquered, and the believer experiences great joy, a peace that only God can give.

The Easter Vigil Service revolves around the two great symbols, *life* and *light*. The resurrection of Jesus is hailed by the light of the Easter Candle, and everyone present lights their candle from the Easter Candle and renews their own commitment to God through renewing their Baptismal vows, proclaiming that evil has been overcome and now will overcome in our lives. Water is the great symbol of life, and the waters of Baptism are God's means of us sharing in the nature and family of God.

This Easter night we welcome Saeid Samuel, Mehdi Matthew, Uhana John and Russel Henry into our Christian family, when they will be baptised, confirmed and receive their first Holy Communion during the Easter Vigil Service. Charlie, Jhonn, Bobby, and Armin who are already baptised, will receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Communion. Pray they will all be filled with joy in entering God's family where "*every tear will be wiped away and the shroud of death lifted for ever.*"



The Lord has truly risen!! He has appeared to Simon. But he has also appeared to you and to me, and continues to do so in all sorts of guises. There is good news to proclaim. Bad news has been turned into good news. Those who grieved now rejoice. Those living in fear are free.

The gift to believe in the risen Christ carries great responsibility with it. We meet, daily, people overwhelmed with anger, sadness, loneliness, fear. Unless we share our faith in the risen Christ we are depriving people of what, in God's plan, can alone transform their lives and have that peace which only Jesus can give.

Revolution in kindness (*as encouraged by Jean Vanier*). Thought for this week –
Be kind. We never know what people are going through

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	8.00 p.m.	Easter Vigil Service
Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Parishioners
Tuesday	12.00 noon	Pat Dalton (ill)
Wednesday	<u>11.00 a.m.</u>	Monica Jones
Thursday	No Mass	
Friday	1.00 p.m.	Requiem Mass for Mary Awang
Saturday	5.30 p.m.	Angela Lightbound

Please note the times of Masses this week. No Public Mass on Thursday. Please pray for Fernando Forpence who is before the Immigration Court on Thursday/.

Funerals this week. On Wednesday at 12.00 noon a funeral service for Darnley O’Neale Forde and on Friday at 1.00 p.m. a Requiem Mass for Mary Awang. Please pray for them and their families

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, 9th. April, 7.30 p.m. in St Bernard’s.
The next **Justice & Peace** group is on Thursday, 19th. April in St. Bernard’s

We all owe a debt to all our catechists who have been so faithful in working with our children through the Sunday Children’s Liturgy and the First Communion programme, and also those who have worked on the Journey to Faith programme, the fruit of which we see today. Thank you every one who has helped to make this Easter very special. The services have been beautiful and everyone has been so prayerful. The sanctuary and the cross are beautifully decorated. The services have been particularly special. Thank you all those who walked the Good Friday witness walk. Thank you all our readers, singers, altar servers, Sima and friends, who keeps our church so beautiful . God bless you all.

Please keep our sick friends in your prayer -Eddie Barrett, Steve Casey, Pat Brown, Adam Dean, Stephen Woo, Nancy Goss, Bill Whitehead, Selamawit, Saadat, Ken Otu, Flo Coffey, Sister Win, Ann McMahon, 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 those who have died recently – Darnley O’Neale Forde, Mary Awang

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 now have five people representing our parish.

Aideen and **Anne Marie.** Always there is some one to respond to every appeal we make. Thank you for your kindness in both these situations.

Messy Church will be starting up again on the first Saturday of May, 2.30-4.30 p.m. Anyone who would like to volunteer please see Frances Ripley

Fair Trade Easter Eggs. We still have a few fair trade Easter eggs left. Please take them today.

The Parish Rooms. The problem is sorted out. We have moved onto Plan B and the flooring in the St. Anne's Room will be completed this week. Hopefully we will move in very soon. People are particularly happy with the St. Bernard's Room which includes the kitchen. Everything about it is warm, clean, welcoming. Sadly, because the separation of church and house has now been enforced and our new rooms not quite ready, there will not be refreshments after 10.30 a.m. Mass this Sunday

Fundraising Night for Asylum Link. In church on April 14th. at 7.00. Lol has tickets priced £5.00. There are some very special acts, including a 24 piece orchestra. A short film will be shown, graphically highlighting the trauma experienced by one of our friends. We strongly recommend support for this event.

Sr. Eleanor has arranged a fun day out for the altar servers, on Monday, and others who may like to go. We're going to Sandymount in Blundellsands, which is less than five minutes away from the sea.

The Vatican and a newspaper backed by the Communist Government in Beijing have given different indications regarding the closeness of the much-anticipated **deal between the Holy See and China** regarding episcopal appointments and subsequent possible diplomatic ties. The state-owned Global Times today reported that Bishop Guo Jincai, secretary-general of the state-run Chinese bishops' conference, said a deal could be signed as early as this coming Easter weekend. Negotiations were in the "final stages", he said, and "if everything goes right, the deal could be signed as early as the end of this month. The timing depends on details of the deal or technical issues."

The deal hinges on the issue of who has authority and final say over episcopal appointments, and on what happens to a number of illicitly ordained bishops of the state-run "Patriotic Church" recognised only by Beijing. The fate of "underground" bishops who have remained loyal to Rome in the face of often brutal persecution is also in the balance

Leading a prayer to God for the grace to feel ashamed and repentant for so many sins in the world, **Pope Francis** highlighted the hope that always comes from Jesus.

There is hope "because your church, holy and made up of sinners, continues even today, in spite of attempts to discredit it, to be a light that illuminates, encourages, comforts and witnesses your unlimited love for humanity, a model of altruism, an ark of salvation and a source of certainty and truth," the pope said. There is hope "because from your cross -- the fruit of greed and cowardice of many doctors of the law and hypocrites -- came the resurrection," which turned darkness into eternal light and shows that Jesus' love is their hope, he said.

Little Mick's Spot (paws for thought). You won't believe the speed of the work on the new houses next door. Yesterday my run, on the building site, was totally blocked with roof tiles. Then today they are all gone, already in place on the roof. I now have a whole clear area for ball chasing. TD has promised me a present for Easter. I suspect he intends to get rid of the cat house, my home ever since I came here. But I want a say in the kind of bed he buys me. Take me to the shop, I say, and let me try them all. TD has been teasing me again about Good Friday . No food , Mick, it's a fast day, and definitely no meat. In fact it was no different from usual and he gave me some chicken as well, but he made me wait for it. The other day there was some ham in the house which was past the use by date – the dog will have it, someone said And I did. I have a tough inside, I know, but it's not nice to give his "best friend" the throwaways. But that seems to be the lot of us poor dogs. I'm looking forward to Dermot and Finn coming tomorrow. They're TD's grand nephews and they love me. They live in South Wales and I think they would like to take me back with them. No chance, I'm afraid, TD says a big NO. And I'm not sure that their Mum would want me just now. They want TD to visit them and take me with him. Just an excuse for having me in the house!! Have a joyful Easter. We're having lamb for our dinner. Yummy.



Jean Vanier, the most wonderful man I have been privileged to meet, writes about the Resurrection. (the Tablet)

Most Christians think of the Resurrection as a victory of life over death. Finally, Jesus has won. But how did the first disciples live the Resurrection of Jesus? Reflecting on this can help us to see how we are called to live Easter. For the Jews, the Passover is the feast of liberation, the anniversary of God's freeing of the Jewish people from the yoke of the Egyptians. So Easter is also the feast of liberation. Let's come back to the gospel scene. The Galileans to whom Jesus preached were terribly persecuted by the Romans, by Herod and all his followers, by the oligarchs who obliged the already impoverished to pay more taxes, and even by the priests of the temple

The disciples of Jesus were certain that he was the Messiah; he spoke with great authority, he performed amazing miracles. The last of these miracles was the resurrection of Lazarus. They were sure that something great would happen on the feast of the Passover, the anniversary of the great liberation, something which would show clearly that Jesus was the Messiah, the one who had been announced in the psalms as a victorious king.

But what in fact happens? There is no victory. Jesus is condemned to a horrible death. He is stripped of his clothes and of his dignity. He is crucified. His disciples are shattered. Jesus was not the Messiah after all – he couldn't be, because the Messiah was one who would be triumphant, who would win. So they run away; they fall into a world of depression. They had given everything for Jesus; now they are completely lost. They had been mistaken about him all along. Some, no doubt, even feel angry with Jesus.

On Easter morning they find it difficult to believe the women who tell them that they have seen Jesus alive. It can't be true. The women must be imagining things. Two of the disciples leave the group for Emmaus. Others remain behind locked doors. They don't know what to do. Then, suddenly, Jesus is among them, even though the doors have not been unlocked. And all he says is, "Peace to you". He looks at each one of them with eyes of love and of forgiveness.

And, in this moment, these disciples, one by one, shift from a feeling of terrible guilt and of shame because they had not believed, to joy and amazement in his presence. Jesus just says, "Peace". Nothing more. He lives with each one a moment of communion, which is forgiveness. So the feast of Easter, the feast of liberation, is essentially the feast of the forgiveness of God. His followers, who had lost faith in him, are liberated from their guilt and shame.

Jesus loves each one of them - and he loves each one of us. He wants us all to be alive, to be fully loved and fully loving. He wants us to be "Easter people", people of the resurrection, people who accept forgiveness, and who forgive others. So often we forget the message of the Gospel. We are taken up by the things of the world. We want to win more money and more power – perhaps in order to do good. Jesus comes simply to forgive, to give his peace.

What happens next? Jesus says to the disciples, "As the Father has sent me, I send you". He breathes on them and says, "Receive the Holy Spirit". Then he sends them out to be messengers of peace and of forgiveness, to go into the world to forgive all those enslaved in guilt. This is the message of Easter. Jesus liberates us from guilt – and he calls us to liberate others.

Many of us live in a state of unease. We may not be fully aware of it, but we often carry a hidden burden that is close to guilt. We all know the gospel message exemplified by the story of the poor man covered in sores who lives in the streets near the home of a very rich man who feasts sumptuously every day (Luke 16:19-31). The end of the parable is painful to read. Is Jesus asking us to sell everything we have and give all to the poor? Surely that is not possible. Don't we have a family? What about our children, who need feeding and clothing? Jesus on the feast of the Resurrection looks at each one of us with more love than we can dare believe. He forgives us our shortcomings; he frees us from our guilt. He then sends us off to forgive others, so that they can be free from guilt. Each one of us is called to bring peace where there is conflict. We are not all called to sell everything we have. We are all called to be committed to one person who is in pain, who is lonely and lost and who needs a friend. This is the Resurrection.

Have a wonderful, joyous Easter, everyone. May God bless you and all in your life.