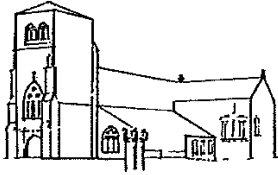


Newsletter for the parish of St. Anne & St. Bernard.



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Fifth Sunday of Easter

29.04.18

Revolution in kindness (as encouraged by Jean Vanier). Thought for this week –

- *Be kind to everyone, not just to people who like you*

**I am the vine, you are the branches.
Whoever remains in me,
with me in him,
bears fruit in plenty”**

John writes his Gospel, believing that united through faith, and at one in prayer with Jesus, we go beyond the realms of human experience. We meet God, and even share in God's own life, which we call “grace”. We meet the risen Christ in faith, in the Word of Scripture, and in the Sacraments, but above all in the love we receive and return to God, and the love we show to each other.

The image of the vineyard was familiar enough to Jesus' listeners. But the use of the image of the “vine” was new. Jesus is the vine. There is no survival without him, but amazing life with him. Without him we wither and die like leaves on a dead branch. With him we thrive, grow and produce wonderful fruit. The Christian also sees a reference to Holy Communion, drinking the fruit of the vine. Jesus is the vine. We, the branches, draw life from the vine. The fruit we bear flows directly from the relationship we have with him.

The concern in each of the Scripture readings is that we remain united with God through Jesus. God lives within each of us, and we reflect God's presence by the love we have for each other. In the first reading we see the effect on Paul of his first meeting with Jesus. He is driven to proclaim the saving work of Jesus. In the second reading John emphasizes that love is proved by action. Then we “live in God and God lives in us”.

After saying that, in bearing fruit, we become his disciples, Jesus continues (in the passage after today's Gospel) “*As the Father has loved me so have I loved you...I have said this to you that my joy may be yours and your joy be complete*”. The commandment “to love” flows directly to us from the love between Jesus and his Father. The love Christians have for one another is a reflection of love at this much deeper level. Visible, true, Christian joy goes far beyond a mere human experience. True joy is the expression of God living within us, making his home within us. We become God's heaven.

Holy Land Pilgrimage. I have tentatively booked a date for a possible pilgrimage next year on 21st. February, to return on 28th. Ash Wednesday is 6th. March. A number of people have expressed an interest but I need a few more before I confirm. I did ask for a slightly earlier date to fit in with the school holiday, but it cannot be done. So we revert to the 21st.

The new parish rooms seem to have met with universal acclaim. Those leading the Children's Liturgy were delighted. The many who came for the blessing and first "after Mass" tea and coffee expressed their delight. Now we start using them. The various groups which feed into the parish assembly need to start planning what they want, especially the Social and Community group. The Pastoral and Liturgy group have, for some time, been talking about how to start a real evangelisation of the parish, beginning, of course, with ourselves. Half a dozen of us will be travelling to London on 9th. May to listen to the Canadian priest, Fr. James Mallon, who, with his team, has thoroughly renewed his parish. We have been reading his book, listening to his talks and discussing his methods. Some time after our return we will share our plans and seek your co-operation. All these years we have been praying for this moment. Please God the time has come, with so many things coming together.

The **former St. Bernard's hall** is now surrounded by scaffolding, and demolition will start in earnest this week. It has been in such a bad state for so long that I have been very embarrassed. I am so relieved that at last work has begun. It will take between four and six weeks. What I am working for immediately, is to obtain from Tommy Mee, the demolisher, enough slates to reroof that part of the cloister in St. Anne's, currently covered with corrugated iron. I am very happy with the way the cloister has been repaired, painted and now heated, but it needs a new roof to be properly insulated. Everything is falling into place – we even have the slates at our disposal, bringing with them something else from St. Bernard's. There will probably be a cost but we will cope with that, even if it is only the labour involved.

New parishioners. Gradually the new houses on Edge Lane/Wavertree Road are being occupied and we have yet to welcome the our new neighbours. Will those who would like to take part in a house to house welcome please see a member of the Social and Community Team. Or see Deacon Francis or me.

Ten or so of our parishioners accepted Barbara's invitation and joined the Pic's pilgrimage to Holy Island and Durham Cathedral, taking in York Minster of the way home. Our stay in Minsteracres retreat house was most enjoyable and everyone seemed to have benefited from the whole journey. I certainly did, probably more than anyone, going back to St. Aidan and St. Cuthbert, and the cradle of English Christianity. I found it an inspiration for what lies ahead in our parish. The magnificent Durham Cathedral was built to provide a fitting tomb for St. Cuthbert, so much was he revered by our spiritual ancestors. Maybe some time we can talk about him and his relevance to our own mission today.

These trips out, either for sleep outs or just for the day, are wonderful bond forgers. Wouldn't it be good if we had a number of such trips every year. We are starting May this week – it is probably time to start planning. I would love for everyone to have the chance to have at least a day away, not just the older retired but probably above all, Mums and others with home caring duties.

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.	Michael Crowley
Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Parishioners
Monday	<u>11.00</u> a.m.	Requiem Mass for Trisha Riley
Tuesday	12.00 noon	Evans family
Wednesday	12.00 noon	Pat Dalton
Thursday	<u>9.00</u> a.m.	Mary Higgins
Friday	12.00	Sylvia Amoo & family
Saturday	5.30 p.m.	Eddie Barratt

Funerals this week. On Monday at 11.00 a.m., there is a Requiem Mass for Tricia Riley, and on Thursday at 10-.30 there is a funeral service for Maureen Veach. May they rest in peace. Please for them and for their families.

Fr. Don Gordon was a priest at St. Anne's many years ago. He is spoken about with affection by many people and he ran a successful boys choir. I don't know his exact age but he was ordained in 1950. He did celebrate Mass for us on two occasions some years ago when I was away. Please pray for him. He is very close to meeting God face to face.

Please keep our sick friends in your prayer - Eddie Barrett, Steve Casey, Pat Brown, Pat Dalton, Adam Dean, Stephen Woo, Nancy Goss, Selamawit, 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.

Please pray for Trish Riley and Maureen Veach who have died.

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 this Monday, 30th. April, 7.30 p.m. in St Bernard's.

The next **Justice & Peace** group is next Thursday, 19th. April in St. Bernard's

Care for our common home. You are invited to join the "litter Pick" in Princes Park, next Saturday, 5th. March, at 9.45 a.m. Meet in the Children's Play area. Later that same morning, at 11.00 a.m., there will be a guided walk and a commentary given, entitled "Paxton and the trees of his time". Meet at the main gates on Princes Avenue.

Money Report . The collection last weekend was £488.57. Add on £624.80 from standing orders and tax returns to make a total of **£1,113** .

The Priests Training Fund collection came to **£182.43**.

Thank you all very much.

To prepare us for the **Eucharistic Congress** a series of five short talks have been arranged in Carmel, to take place on the last Sunday of every month. They begin at 3.30 on Sunday afternoon, followed by Evening Prayer, Vespers, then a short Adoration with Benediction. There will then be some refreshments. This is open to everyone. Maurus O'Donnell will be giving the first talk today.

Unitapes. Some of the greatest theologians of the post-Vatican II Church contributed to the long-running series of lectures given at the Upholland Northern Institute between 1975 and 1988. All of the lectures, which were recorded and originally issued on cassette tapes, have been digitally remastered, and are now being made available online and on audio CD, by Liverpool Hope University, in association with the Archdiocese of Liverpool, to bring this wide-ranging collection to a new audience.

- Listen to UNITAPES via your web browser.
- Download lectures as MP3 files to listen to on the go.
- Search easily through the collection.
- Buy CD copies of the lectures.

Fr. Chris Thomas, of the Irenaeus Project, 32, Great Georges Rd, Waterloo, L22 1RD, will give a series of talks on the first four Thursdays of May, 3rd., 10th., 17th., 24th., from 10.30 a.m. to 12.00 noon. on the Book of the Acts of the Apostles. To be highly recommended if you can make it.

The Priests are coming over from Ireland to perform at the Liverpool Philharmonic Hall on 1st June 2018. Proceeds will go to Nugent and Metropolitan Cathedral funds. Nugent will use all its share of the proceeds to support resettlement projects across the Archdiocese. Tickets are available via the Philharmonic website, Metropolitan Cathedral Shop and from Marie Reynolds at Nugent.

A Vatican glass ceiling has been broken after Pope Francis appointed the first women advisers to the Church's central doctrinal body. Three female theologians, have been chosen to serve as consultants to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, originally the office of the inquisition but today tasked with defending and promoting Catholic teaching across the world. (the Tablet)

Little Mick's Spot (paws for thought). TD was away for a few days this week. It was good for me to have a break from him, but don't tell him. I did greet him when he returned last night –that's the least I could do, but I was distracted by a ball which had just been given to me. You know what I'm like with balls, and TD doesn't give me one in the house because I always tear it to pieces and make a mess. Anyhow, I did make a big fuss of him this morning. I didn't leave him alone. He actually likes a fuss but pretends he doesn't. We have a problem at the moment and it could last a month or so – the scaffolding around the hall prevents us from opening our back gate. That means I cannot get on the building site which used to be my field. No easy times for TD now – he has to take me out when in the past, every night late on, he just opened the gate. Anyhow we'll in the park a lot now that the days are getting longer, and TD wants me to socialise more with other dogs. I'll let you know how the work goes on around the place. I can't wait to get my bit of a garden. TD says he wants to grow some vegetables. That won't be possible if I have my way. We'll see

