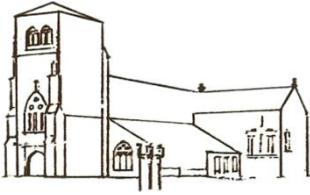


Newsletter for the parish of St. Anne & St. Bernard.



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

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 & St Bernard Liverpool](#)

 [@annebernAdmin](#)

Easter Sunday

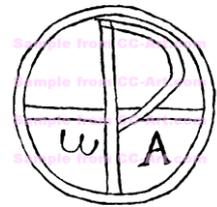
16.4.17

**Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendour,
radiant in the brightness of your king.
Christ has conquered!
Glory fills you!
Darkness vanishes forever!**



My friends, to-night we rejoice. Whatever life, death, sickness, malice, evil can throw at us, the victory is ours, Jesus is *"the image of the invisible God,"* if only we trust in the saving power of Jesus, believing that *"nothing can separate us from the love of God."*

Our great celebration has its best expression in the Easter Vigil Service. The words above are taken from the *Exultet*. The church is lit only by the candles we carry, with a light taken from the Easter candle, representing the risen Christ. The *Exultet* describes the great plan of salvation, revealed gradually by God and finding its fulfilment in the Lord's Resurrection.



Christ- the Alpha & Omega

*Christ –the first & the last
(an early Christian symbol)*

In it are three main themes. The first is deliverance of Israel from slavery in Egypt
"This is the night when you first saved our fathers".

The second is our deliverance through Baptism

"This is the night when Christians everywhere... are restored to grace", and

The third is the resurrection of Jesus

"This is the night when Jesus Christ broke the chains and rose triumphant from the grave".

The great Easter Hymn not only proclaims that the human race is transformed but that the whole of creation is renewed. The yearning of creation *"to be freed from its slavery to decadence"* has been satisfied and we enjoy *"freedom and glory as children of God"*. Now, through Jesus, *"God turns to good all things for those who love him"*.

The risen Christ carries his wounds with him. Forever slain he carries wounded humanity, suffering men, women and children, so often wounded because of sin, the sin in which we all share. In the very midst of our suffering the risen Christ is present. There is good news to proclaim. Bad news has been turned into good news. Bad Friday becomes Good Friday. 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. Unless we share our faith in the risen Christ we are depriving people of what, in God's plan, is theirs.

During our **Easter Vigil Service**, which is the most important celebration in our year, we welcome eight new Christians who are taking the names of Charlotte, Kiara, Monica, Benjamin, Leo, Liam, Michael and Sean. They will all be baptised, confirmed and make their first Holy Communion. Marianne, Teresa and Yolanda will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. **Please pray for them**

Services for Easter Week

Saturday	8.30 p.m.	Mass of the Easter Vigil
Easter Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Parishioners
Tuesday	12.00 noon	Betty Edge
Wednesday	12.00	Cathy Moffat
Thursday	12.00	Rose
Friday	12.00	Charlotte & Sam
Saturday	5.30 p.m.	Barbara Lindell

Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament - Sunday 9.15-10.15 a.m.
Saturday 4.15-5.15 p.m.

Confessions are heard during these times.

Next Messy Church Saturday, 6th. May, 2.30-4.30 p.m.

Men's meeting Monday, 1st. May at 7.30 p.m. St. Bernard's House.

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

Money Report. The collection last weekend was **£497.76**. Add on £624.80 from standing orders and tax returns to make a total of **£1,122. 56**. **Thank you.**

Retreat at Noddfa. We need to let the Noddfa Sisters know how many we wish to cater for. The Social and Community group has organised the **retreat at Noddfa**, Penmaenmawr, and have made a provisional booking for Monday, 22nd. May to Wednesday, 24th. May. Cost will be £110.00 per person and will include full board, accommodation and all meals. There are individual rooms and family rooms. If you would like to be included please talk to Marie Grey or Patsy Kelly. A number of people have already written down their names. There is no maximum or minimum number. To be highly recommended. You will remember how much the altar servers enjoyed their day out there. Now it is our turn. It is very close to Llandudno and the Great Orme. Please help us to sell the remaining Real Easter Eggs.

The new year's **donation envelopes** are available. Please take yours. If you wish to join the scheme please John Phillips

Tip for caring for our common home- Buy energy saving light bulbs wherever possible

Thank you, everyone, who shared in, organised or helped prepare any of the services and events of the past week. Thank you, Choir and altar servers. Thank you everyone who helped make our church so beautiful. It was wonderful to have the continuous reading of St. Mark's Gospel. I personally found the Lampedusa Pilgrimage particularly moving.

The primary virtue at Easter might seem to be **faith**, needed in order to hold fast to the reality of Christ's miraculous Resurrection in an age which rejects the very possibility. But there is a neglected virtue which ought to be at the core of an Easter spirituality, namely **hope**. Hope illuminates not how the Resurrection happened, but why. Without hope, the Resurrection would be rendered pointless, even if one still believed it was true. So why has hope received so little attention? One reason may be that hope is often mistaken for optimism, which is easily punctured. The conviction that "things will turn out well in the end" is regularly proved to be unfounded. In the absence of a coherent and robust theology of hope, it is not difficult to confuse it with "baptised optimism", which is both superficial and flawed. Does Christian preaching on hope make the distinction clear enough? It is precisely when things do not turn out well in the end that genuine Christian hope takes centre stage. The opposite of hope is not pessimism, but despair. Judas despaired. He may even have been an optimist, believing that the betrayal of Jesus was the best available option in a tight corner. But he had lost the sense of a grand narrative of salvation in which Christ was the essential actor. So here is another reason for the neglect of hope. It is difficult. Amidst the torments of persecution, when martyrs face torture, hope is what keeps them human. Not hope that the suffering will end, but hope that it makes sense. There is a bigger picture, of which they are a part.

But it is a mental and spiritual struggle to maintain this belief under pressure, which may be why hope is a supernatural virtue - it requires the grace of God. On 15 April 1945, the British war correspondent Richard Dimbleby broadcast an improvised service attended by Jewish survivors from the newly liberated concentration camp at Bergen-Belsen. Despite exhaustion and emaciation they sang the song of hope, the Hatikva, which became the Israeli national anthem. The survival of hope in these appalling conditions was not only miraculous in itself, but a reminder that there is a fundamental continuity between Jewish hope and Christian hope. The Hebrew Bible and the New Testament are conjoined narratives of hope. Each looks towards the same ending to the human story, when God will take his own to himself. "Thy kingdom come" is both a Jewish and a Christian prayer of hope. But hope is not passive. The kingdom has to be built. Jesus returned to his disciples after Easter Sunday to commission them to do so. The kingdom has to be just and at peace, the lion must lie down with the lamb. The Sermon on the Mount is the template for that kingdom, but the faithful are its builders. It is a song of hope, and the fount of that Hope is the Resurrection itself, proof to the disciples then and now that there is a Divine Plan that can, even if it is seen through a glass darkly, be trusted. We wish our readers a hope-filled Easter, for that is the only hope there is.

(from the Tablet)

For their 175th anniversary last year, The Tablet made a number of financial awards to charities whose work promoted the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. One of them, **Asylum Link Merseyside**, has told us how it has put their money to good use. The charity, which supports asylum seekers in Merseyside, bought projectors, textbooks, posters and other classroom materials, as well as developing a curriculum. **Bridie Sharkey**, a volunteer English teacher, said: "We are enabling our asylum seekers to exercise some modicum of control over their fractured lives."

Do you know of anyone in the parish who is ill or is housebound? Please let us know. Currently Eucharistic ministers take Holy Communion to twenty/ thirty sick people in the parish each week. Also Fr. Peter is anxious to administer the Sacrament of the Sick to everyone who is ill. It is so sad to hear someone has died in the parish and we haven't been there for them.

Baptisms of children please phone Jane on 709 4434 (Tuesday to Friday 9.30-12.30) or see Deacon Francis after Sunday Mass.

A Czech bishop has demanded political asylum for a group of Chinese Christians who have been in detention for a year, pending a final ruling on their case. "It's as if economic interests are more important than human rights," said Bishop Vaclav Maly, chairman of the Church's Justice and Peace Commission....Czech media suggested that President Milos Zeman feared a formal grant of asylum could damage the country's ties with China.

POPE FRANCIS tells us in EVANGELII GAUDIUM - *There are Christians whose lives seem like Lent without Easter. I realise of course that joy is not expressed the same way at all times in life, especially at moments of great difficulty. Joy adapts and changes, but it always endures, even as a flicker of life born of our personal certainty that, when everything is said and done, we are infinitely loved ... [These] words of Benedict XVI take us to the very heart of the gospel: "Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction" ... Thanks solely to this encounter with God's love, which blossoms into an enriching friendship, we are liberated from our narrowness and self-absorption. We become fully human when we become more than human, when we let God bring us beyond ourselves in order to attain the fullest truth of our being.*

Christians march in Iraq A peace march from Ankawa, the Chaldean quarter of Erbil in Northern Iraq, to Qaraqosh, near Mosul, urged an end to all forms of violence and called for the gift of peace. Starting in an area heavily populated by Christian refugees from the Mosul area, the 86-mile walk ended on Palm Sunday in Qaraqosh, a town liberated from Islamic State last October after two years of occupation. Hundreds attended the Palm Sunday Mass, celebrated by the Syrian Catholic Archbishop of Mosul, Yohanna Petros Mouche, in the town's burnt-out Church of the Immaculate Conception, which the army guarded. Qaraqosh, with an overwhelmingly Christian population of around 50,000 before the jihadists occupied it in August 2014, was the largest Christian town in the country. Iraqi forces retook it late last year but it remains almost completely deserted as security concerns remain

ROME: The Vatican has said Pope Francis' trip to Egypt this month is expected to go ahead, despite raised security fears following the deadly attacks on two Coptic churches, writes Christopher Lamb. Archbishop Giovanni Becciu, a top diplomat at the Holy See's Secretariat of State, said the Pope's visit will proceed as planned. Francis is scheduled to make the trip to Cairo on 28-29 April where he will meet government and faith leaders. "What happened causes confusion and great suffering but it cannot prevent the Pope's mission for peace," the archbishop told the Italian newspaper Corriere della Sera. "Without hiding from reality the Pope invites us to look to the future with hope. And as always he wants to lead by example." Archbishop Becciu stressed that dialogue with the Islamic world was a way of "isolating" extremists and that the Pope wanted to distinguish between acts of terror and the Muslim faith. "The honesty of his positions has earned him the gratitude of Muslims," he explained.

THE NUMBER of baptised Catholics in the world grew to 1.285 billion, an increase of 1 per cent year on year, according to the Vatican's yearbook, the 2017 Annuario Pontificio published on Thursday, writes James Roberts. The 2017 edition of the Statistical Yearbook reports that the 10 countries with the most Catholics account for almost 56 per cent of the world's Catholic population. The top 10 Catholic populations are (in order): Brazil, Mexico, Philippines, United States, Italy, France, Colombia, Spain, Democratic Republic of Congo and Argentina. The global Catholic population increased by 7.4 per cent between 2010 and 2015. Africa was the continent with the largest percentage growth with Catholic numbers increasing by 19.4 per cent over that period

Little Mick's Spot (Paws for thought). I had a real shock this week. I know TD is a tough oldie, but when he said that I should fast on Good Friday and abstain from meat, that was going too far, even for me. I tried to tell him I am not religious and certainly not a Catholic little dog, and he should not impose his whims on me. But he ignored me and said I was living in a Catholic house and had to obey the rules. I had decided to appeal to my Union, the JRCC (The Jack Russell Canine Conference) and they would speak to the Pope on my behalf; he's a much more understanding man than TD. Anyhow, it wasn't necessary. Someone must have got at him because he gave me a piece of chicken, on Good Friday!! Then, amazingly, I got another one later. Maybe, after all, I could be a good Catholic (temporary) dog, if it means I can join in their celebration of Easter. Pick and choose, that's me. If I have chicken on Good Friday what can I expect on Easter Sunday!! Anyhow, a very happy Easter to all my friends.



And the Joys of Easter to you all.