

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



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Feast of the Epiphany

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Revolution in kindness (as encouraged by Jean Vanier). Thought for this week -
*"Remember there's no such thing as a small act of kindness.
Every act creates a ripple that goes on for ever"*

Today's Scripture Readings. Once we're back at work and at school, Christmas seems far away. But Christmas does not officially end until tomorrow when we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of Jesus, and we begin our reflections on the active ministry of Jesus. The **visit of the three Wise Men** can almost seem to be an afterthought to our celebration, but not only is it a key part of the Christmas story and presents a key theme in Matthew's Gospel, but throws light on key aspects of the mission of Jesus and on our own journey.

The Wise Men were searching for God to reveal himself. The light of the star led them to the *"the true light which enlightens all people"* *"a light the darkness could not put out"*. The light of truth exposes evil, lust for power, greed, and inevitably leads to conflict, to attempts to eliminate everyone who lights up the darkness.

What are we missing if today we ignore today's feast? Our journey, our search for the meaning of life, finding the answer in the unexpected, in weakness rather than a palace. There is the rejection by the powerful of any attempt to search for truth, concealed in their own self interest and blinded by the power and comfort they are experiencing, and the resulting flight of the refugee, the slaughter of the innocent, the gross abuse of power, and the visible fear within the abuser.



Very relevant to our parish is the plight of this family, seeking asylum in a foreign land, like so many at Mass here today. To remember the most famous of asylum seekers is to bring all our friends here into to our hearts



The scene is set for the approaching ministry of Jesus – his death indicated in the gift of myrrh, his ultimate victory in the incense, and gold, that he is truly God and King. It is set too, for the journey each one of us has to take, which star are we prepared to follow if we are sincerely to discover who is this child and what his life

means for me and whole of humanity

Exposition 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.	Golden wedding – Terry and Norah
Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Edwin Schumann and Maria Bassey
Tuesday	12.00 noon	No Mass
Wednesday	2.45 p.m.	Requiem Mass for Helen Webber
Thursday	12.00 noon	Leonard Stanway (ill)
Friday	12.00	Ken Duncan
Saturday	5.30 p.m.	Ann (Special intention)

Funerals this week. Wednesday at 2.45 p.m. Requiem Mass for Helen Webber. Please pray for her daughters, Chris and Pauline. May she rest in peace.

Journey to Faith. Recommences on Tuesday at 7.00 p.m. in St. Bernard's House.

First Holy Communion Class on Saturday, 13th. January at 12.00- noon. For children and their parents.

Justice and Peace meeting next Thursday evening at 7.30 p.m. in St. Bernard's. Everyone is welcome.

Parish meeting next Saturday at 10.00 in the Sion Room in St. Anne's house to discuss use of the New Parish Rooms. Everyone is welcome.

The next **Parish Assembly** will be held in 17th. March.
The **Prayer Group** will this week meet in St. Anne's House on Friday at 7.30 p.m.
The **Men's Group** will meet this Monday, 8th. January, 7.30 p.m. in St Bernard's house.
Messy Church will recommence when the new rooms are available.

Care for our common home. Make sure you only boil as much water as you really need when filling your kettle. Kettles use a lot of electricity, so it makes sense all round not to waste the energy.

Please take your copy of the new **Catholic Pic.**

Money Report. The collection last weekend was **£480.05**. Add on £624.80 from standing orders and tax returns to make a total of **£1,104.85**.
Thank you all very much.

The **Fair Trade stall** is open every Sunday after 10.30 a.m. Mass.

Tea, coffee and biscuits are served after Mass every Sunday in the kitchen

Welcome back to school all our children, teachers, staff – at which ever school is yours. We hope you had a wonderfully happy Christmas and we pray you have an even more wonderful new year. We pray that beautiful things will happen.

Please keep **our sick friends** in your prayer –Selamawit, Saadat, Hannah McCollum, Ken Otu, John Donohoe, Flo Coffey, Sister Win, Ann McMahon, Eddie Barrett, Bernie Connolly, Andy Murphy, Trish Riley, Tim Smith and the many who have asked for our prayer this week. There are other sick and house bound people to whom we take Holy Communion weekly. 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. Also for us to take Holy Communion to them.

Please pray for those who have died recently-Helen Webber, Linda Edwards
Anniversaries-Ronnie McCrae

Last week I suggested that we purchase and read two books which offer programmes which could transform our parish. The one I am particularly concerned that we read and discuss is *Divine Renovation* (bringing your parish from maintenance to mission) by Fr. James Mallon, a Canadian priest from Halifax, Nova Scotia. Don’t be put off by the title. It is a very practical, down to earth book. It has lots of supportive comments from other people and it offers us “practical ways of injecting a new vibrant spirit into our parish”. For me it is an answer to our parish prayer. Where it has been leading all these years.

One American reviewer for the book says “*Let’s face it; lukewarmness – even coldness - is noticeable in too many parishes. Despite an indescribable proximity to the God of the universe in the Eucharist, too many Catholics live a kind of half life. Well, here is an antidote. Fr. Mallon diagnoses the causes of mediocrity, introduces the reality of intentional discipleship, and provides real world strategies to help Catholic deeply connect with Jesus and one another. Welcome to the journey from pew sitting to world changing*”.

This book can ordered either through the Pauline Media Centre in Bold Street or from Amazon. I will get a copy for you if you want. To get it is to make a very positive decision that you are looking for a much deeper and richer spiritual life for yourself, and opening your heart to other people’s need of the Gospel.

Little Mick’s Spot (paws for thought). A happy new year to all my friends. My good news is that I have access once again to the building site next door. Andy Barrett has put on a new door for me. It is drier and more convenient than the park which are so sodden with rain. Not much fun for a little dog. This weather is terrible for dogs. Sometimes I try and hide in my bed when it’s walks time – I just don’t want to get wet and cold. I shiver you know. TD laughs. My resistance stops immediately the ball comes out. No matter how wet or cold I can’t resist a chase. I’m glad in the end – but I can’t wait for Spring and summer to come. I enjoyed the match last night. TD felt quite sick at the result. I try to console him. Kind members of the SVP have bought TD a new unit so he can see who is at the door, day or night. It makes him feel much safer, he tells me. It doesn’t stop me barking though. Some people have been exploiting him for years. Hopefully that will end. I am limited to what I can do, other than make a lot of noise.



Pope Francis has begun the new year as he no doubt intends to continue, stressing that **society must not lose sight of the human dignity of every migrant and every refugee.** It has been one of the most consistent themes of his papacy so far, and one of the most pressing, as Europe and the world face refugee crisis after crisis. He told worshippers gathered around the Nativity scene in St Peter's Square that refugees fleeing conflict were seeking peace. "For this peace, which is the right of all, many of them are willing to risk their lives in a journey that, in most cases, is long and dangerous, facing trials and suffering," he said.

It is an intelligent point, for it encompasses some of the complexity of the refugee situation. Many refugees are not just fleeing overt persecution, as Syrian and Iraqi Christians escaping from lands under Islamic State control are. They also include young men who refuse to join the Syrian army, and families whose homes or livelihoods have been destroyed by civil war. They may not qualify for asylum under international law, but they want peace and are escaping from the lack of it. And they do not find peace when they are received by unwelcoming host societies where racial and religious discrimination—or unsympathetic incomprehension—awaits them.

That is why Pope Francis stresses the vital role of the institutions in civil society, including the Churches, in building an attitude of solidarity and compassion towards migrants. But there is a corollary of this. The arrival of refugees should be managed so that it does not occur in such numbers or over such a short space of time as to impose an intolerable strain on physical resources and social cohesion. Host communities are entitled to peace as well, and it takes hard work to achieve that. But it can be done. Multiracial and multicultural Britain – London especially – is an example to other European countries of how communal peace can be achieved with effort and goodwill, in spite of unresolved difficulties. Europe's largest city has a Muslim mayor, and is proud of the fact. On the other hand real peace cannot be said to exist in some heavily segregated towns in Britain, whose communities hardly know each other and where there is little mutual respect.

Culture matters: this is how generations transmit their values down the years. While cultures are enriched by diversity, hard-won cultural progress can seem threatened by sudden change. The tolerance of ethnic differences cannot ignore injustice and prejudice. That is not true peace.

Common humanity transcends state boundaries, and nobody is less of a person because of their skin colour, religion or language. Nor because of their nationality, gender or sexuality. Respect for "the other" – someone "not like me" – as one possessing equal value and equal rights, has become one of the defining challenges of modern civilisation. As Pope Francis insists, it is the only true meaning of peace. (*Tablet editorial*)

A Reflection. Detachment ... is necessary. The Magi would never have discovered the happiness of knowing the King of the universe if they hadn't left behind their comforts, their palaces, and their thrones (if they really were kings) and if they hadn't set out on what was a long and difficult journey, especially in those days. But the Magi had a second quality besides detachment: it was their searching, their humble seeking. No one should pretend to know everything. The Magi arrived in Jerusalem and lost their way; they felt the need to inquire of no one less than Herod. He didn't know anything himself and had to consult with the scriptural experts. No one has the truth except God, so that those who want to walk in the path of truth must be humble and seek the truth along with others. In a dialogue we don't impose our way of thinking; by dialogue we find in the views of others what is lacking in our own. (*Blessed Oscar Romero*)