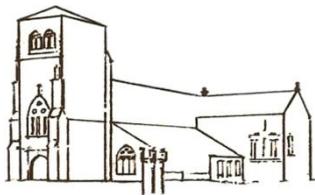


Newsletter for the parish of St. Anne & St. Bernard.



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Fifth Sunday of Lent

02.4.17

The **three Scripture readings** in today's Mass dovetail together as they all proclaim resurrection to newness of life. The dry bones of Ezekiel reflect the seeming hopelessness of the Israelite position –but God gives life even where there is death.

“I will open your graves and I will raise you from your graves, my people, ...I shall put my spirit in you and you will live”.

The second reading from Paul insists that unless we look to spiritual things we are dead, but open to God we receive the Spirit of life.

In the Gospel Jesus raises Lazarus to life. In St. John's Gospel this was the event which led to Jesus' own death. He who is the “resurrection and the life” was to die in order bring about our resurrection to new life. As it is presented however, it is also a conversion story. Through the profession of faith of the two sisters, Martha and Mary, people are drawn to believe in Jesus. The climax to the conversation Jesus has in this passage is found in his words.

“I am the resurrection. If anyone believes in me even though he die he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die”

He then asks Mary, and therefore asks us “*Do you believe this?*”

To which she replies as we do, too – “*Yes Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into the world.*”

The raising of Lazarus prefigures Jesus' resurrection. The stone, the cloth bindings reflect this. The powerful words “*unbind him, set him free*” refer to the healing of Baptism and the liberation which comes from faith in Jesus.

MASS this week will be as follows:

Saturday	5.30 p.m.	Winifred & Edward Neary
Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Parishioners
Tuesday	12.00 noon	Tony Mutch
Wednesday	7.30 p.m.	Mary, Bernie & family
Thursday	12.00 noon	Mick, Bina & family
Friday	12.00 noon	Kathleen & Dermot
Saturday	5.30 p.m.	Betty Brereton

Funerals this week. Please pray for Betty Brereton whose funeral service is at St. Anne's on Thursday at 10.15 a.m.

Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament - Saturday 4.15-5.15

Sunday 9.15-10.15 a.m.

Confessions are heard during these times.

Stations of the Cross every Wednesday in Lent at 7.00 p.m.

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.

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

The next **Justice & Peace** meeting will be on 6th. April in St. Bernard's House.

The **Men's group** meets on Monday, 10th. April, at 7.30 in St. Bernard's.

The **Journey to Faith.** Tuesday evening at 7.00 p.m. We meet in St. St. Anne's Church.

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

Envelope donations. Envelopes for 2017-18 are now available at the back of the church. Names have been written on each box of envelopes which provides the number that records your giving. If you do not find your numbered box please tell John Phillips.

If YOU would like to start giving through envelopes on a weekly or monthly basis and if you would like to gift aid your donation then please see John.

Money Report. The collection last weekend was **£476.15** . Add on £624.80 from standing orders and tax returns to make a total of **£1,100. 95. Thank you.**

A message from Nader & Navid to parishioners of St. Anne's.

As you know we have received our permission to stay in the United Kingdom. It is a fact that we were non-denominational Christians in our country and have been to several churches since we arrived in Liverpool, before finally attending St. Anne's. As we met Father Peter we felt the presence of God. We would like to let you know, after leaving our family in Iran, we discovered such loving members of this parish as our new family. Without your support in this trial, we would never have been able to get to this point. Meeting you as brothers & sisters in Christ has been good for us in so many ways: you have helped us reach a turning point in our faith journey; as St Anne's congregation provided a great community to belong to and as Catholics given us a strong identity. We hold dear that you have welcomed us with such open arms.

Collette Byrne (of the CAFOD) team will give a short talk about CAFOD's work in Ethiopia, at a simple lunch in the parish hall, St. Anthony of Padua, Queens Drive, L18, after 12.00 Mass on Thursday, 6th. April. All are welcome. Enquiries kathrynlydon@hotmail.com

Important. Please note that on **Wednesday, 12th. April at 3.00 p.m.** there will be a public reading of **St. Marks' Gospel**. Mark wrote his Gospel for the Christians of his Church who had failed to realise the significance of the death of Jesus. They loved the happy bits. Mark's Gospel, by far the shortest Gospel, has been described as one long Passion narrative, admirable preparation for us as we prepare for the climax of Holy Week. We need sixteen readers, each to read a chapter.

The reading will conclude with the **Lampedusa Pilgrimage** in support of those fleeing war, poverty and persecution.(more information will be given about this next week).

Tip for caring for our common home- 'Care for our Common Home' is: Lay a duvet under your bottom sheet for bedroom warmth in winter.

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.

For Baptism, Holy Communion and Confirmation of adults and marriage please see Fr. Peter or Deacon Francis..

If you would like to support cocoa farmers in developing countries, then you will be interested in purchasing one of our **Fair Trade Real Easter Eggs**. Not only are these eggs made from fairly traded ingredients, but they include a booklet telling the story of Easter. They are available from the Fair Trade stall and cost £3.99 each. If you wish to order a dark chocolate Real Easter Egg (cost £5.50) please leave your name at the stall.

These same Easter Eggs are being advertised and sold by Tesco. Same price. Come to us.

Across the page you will see an article on BREXIT. It is the editorial of this week's *TABLET*. It says everything I think and feel about BREXIT but with far greater clarity than I could ever express. I have always seen BREXIT above all as profoundly unchristian, but also as divisive and selfish, totally against our Catholic social justice concept of the common good. I invite you to read it. As Christians we cannot limit our vision just to our own country and its people. In a Western world growing increasingly selfish, we need close relationships and unity, what we call, in its broadest sense, communion.

Little Mick's Spot (paws for thought). I had a great day out last Monday. I took TD out to Crosby Beach. He wanted to see the Iron Men. They didn't mean much to me. I didn't even – well you know what little dogs do. You see I know what a Doggie's heaven is like, miles and miles of beaches, lots of muddy sand to roll in, and wonderful open areas to chase after the ball. Lots of other dogs had



brought their TDs out as well. TDs should be grateful to us dogs for giving them such healthy walks. I didn't socialize a great deal because I had my ball. Anyway I hope we have lots of sunny Mondays. TD mentioned West Kirby. Now that is pure paradise for dogs. The rest of the week was nondescript, pretty boring really. I got soaked this morning on my early walk. So did he!! TD isn't happy because I am so loveable and every visitor picks me up. He doesn't, and thinks I am getting very demanding because I jump up at him, wanting him to do the same and put me on his knee. He says a dog's place is on the floor. But between you and me he still spoils me in other ways. I'm sure he loves me.

Editorial from this week's Tablet

Britain is manifestly worse off, manifestly damaged, by the act of leaving the European Union. As Brexit begins, the opinion is circulating in the capitals of continental Europe that when Britain leaves it must be left palpably worse off than if it had stayed. That would deter any movements elsewhere in the same direction. But there is no need to make Britain suffer, pour encourager les autres, as Voltaire said. **Britain is punishing, demeaning and shrinking itself,** psychologically, morally and spiritually, by turning its back on its neighbours' most precious project. They boldly reached for the dream of a great European civilization, united and at peace for the first time in how many years –2,000? And after how many deaths sacrificed on the altar of aggressive nationalism –one hundred million? Participation in that project by Britain was noble, honourable and uplifting –as well as self interested –considering how many of those deaths were British. By leaving, Britain has diminished its own moral stature, in others' eyes and, in all truth, in its own. That is surely punishment enough. It seems to have decided on this foolish course for the tawdriest of reasons: that it did not much like the modest cultural adjustment and occasional inconvenience that arose from the presence in its midst of three million EU citizens. This resistance was rarely serious enough to amount to racism. It was a running grumble, a part of the national pastime. With the sort of illogicality that colours all arguments about Britain's membership of the EU, one of the first and most important tasks the British Government has set itself is to guarantee those three million EU citizens the permanent right to reside. It could do so tomorrow –indeed could have done so yesterday –at a stroke, but it insists it wants simultaneous guarantees of the right of residence for its own citizens living elsewhere in the EU. So the very factor that pushed the Leave campaign towards victory will remain in place. And, just to confuse things further, and maybe to prove that decency is still alive, everybody seems to agree that that is the right thing to do.

The further irony is that one of the factors that makes the British economy one of the most successful in Europe is the presence of workers from other parts of the EU who are skilled, hardworking and comparatively cheap to hire. Another factor is the open access to a market of 500 million people. Among the people with jobs that are dependent on access to the EU single market are many who voted for Brexit. Those jobs are now in jeopardy. There is no need for Brussels to punish them: they will have done it themselves. The irony would be laughable if it were not so sad. The worst feature of the forthcoming negotiation about Britain's departure from the EU is that it will be deliberately adversarial, with winners and losers. What has been lost sight of completely is

the idea of a European “common good”, the fundamental concept at the heart of the entire project. In his address to EU leaders last week, Pope Francis warned of “the temptation to reduce the founding ideals of the Union to productive, economic and financial needs”. That is a pretty accurate description of how the United Kingdom has seen the EU all along –as no more than a potential economic benefit. **The UK never really understood what the EU was about.** There is a historical reason for this. The core Common Market nations, and most of those who joined later, had just emerged from despotic tyranny of one sort or another. They saw convergence between the business and industry of each nation as a way of putting in place binding ties and common institutions that would make another war impossible. Britain had no such shared history. Its experience of the Second World War was not of occupation by ruthless enemies but of initially solitary and painful –and conspicuously brave –survival. After the collapse of France in 1940, David Low's cartoon depicted a single British soldier, fist raised, shouting defiantly at his enemies: “Very Well, Alone!” That has passed into the mythology of “Britain's finest hour”. Such folk memories are powerful and easily evoked. They help to explain the mutual incomprehension that is liable to confuse the Brexit negotiators on both sides.

Yet to strive for the common good of Europe, to revive somehow a sense of human solidarity, is the only way forward. It may suit the extreme Brexiteers for the negotiations to end in bitter recrimination, so the English Channel drawbridge is pulled up for ever. But the EU's goal should be to win Britain back. There are plenty of people on the British side who want that too. Indeed the prospect of Britain rejoining at some point, if made to appear realistic, could yet influence feeling in Scotland against leaving the United Kingdom. And the mood may change once the full consequences of leaving start to appear. Immigration may not fall, because the economy depends on it. As the world reassesses the value of the British economy post-Brexit, the pound may drop further, driving up inflation. Nations outside the EU, with whom British Ministers hope to do new trade deals, may impose harsh conditions. Car factories may move to Spain or Poland. Holidays abroad may become more expensive, and, with customs and passport checkpoints reappearing, more tedious. And the sense of the loss of European-ness, an identity treasured particularly by the young, may become ever more painful. They will one day be the majority. The negotiators from the EU side need to take seriously the reasons why the 2016 referendum went the way it did. And they should also have an eye on another referendum that could take place in Britain in two years' time, or 10. And make sure that this time, there is the right result, for Britain and for Europe.