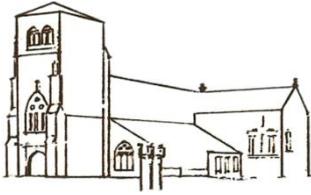


# Newsletter for the parish of St. Anne & St. Bernard.



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## First Sunday of Lent

05.03.17

So **Lent** is with us. The Mass speaks of Lent as a joyful season. If we are struggling with our resolutions *joyful* may seem a strange word to use. While we prepare to celebrate the great joy of Easter this season of preparation brings with it the freedom of confronting our sins which we frequently commit, our addictions, our obsessions which cause us such anxiety. Lent says – this is the time, this is the opportunity to say “no” and feel the freedom of confronting them. Where confession is needed the Sacrament brings its own grace. We have confessions every week. Confession is very much part of our resolution, a sign of our honesty in genuinely seeking God.

**Today's readings.** If we are to understand how significant are the death and resurrection of Jesus we must first of all appreciate how important **we are to God**. We must acknowledge also that there is something wrong with us which God wants us to be put right.

This is made clear in the story of Adam and Eve and the Fall, today's first reading. The very name Adam, means “every man”, better still “every human being”.

The basic message of the story is that we are responsible for our condition – we cannot blame God or some evil fate. *We make decisions*. The wrong choices made by previous generations make it difficult for us, but we are still answerable for our own actions. Nevertheless, God promises us salvation

The **psalm, 51**, is the classic psalm of repentance. It goes through the shame of acknowledging those sins for which we seek forgiveness. It is a prayer of great trust and a yearning for holiness.

*“Give me again the joy of your help,  
with a spirit of fervour sustain me”*

Note that the tree in the Garden is the tree of “*knowing good and evil*”. i.e. my freedom to choose the evil as well as the good. The author recognises that evil is rampant in the world but is determined that God is not blamed for this. We must accept responsibility.

There is a parallel between the first reading and the Gospel. Unlike Adam Jesus does not give in to the temptation.

His response to temptation tells us what his ministry is about :

*“Man does not live on bread alone but on every word which comes from the mouth of God”*

*“You must not put the Lord your God to the test”*

*“You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone”.*

Have you ever confronted temptation by using God's Word? To read the Scriptures is a “must” for every Christian, and there is no better weapon than to quote it when tempted.

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

**Confessions** are heard during these times.

**MASS** this week will be as follows:

Saturday	5.30 p.m.	Mary O'Connor's ints.	Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Parishioners
Tuesday	12.00	Neil Hughes	Wed'day	7.30 p.m.	Ruth Tares
Thursday	12.00	Joan & Michael Ungar			
Friday	9.00 a.m.	Special intention (unborn baby)			
Saturday	5.30 p.m.	Maureen Scott			

There will be the **Stations of the Cross** on Wednesday at 7.00 p.m. and on every Wednesday during Lent.

There will be Mass at 7.30 p.m. every Wednesday during Lent.

**Lenten reflections.** On Wednesday evenings during Lent you are invited to come for one hour to reflect on Pope Francis's letter on the environment, *Laudato Si*. These focus on living simply and sustainably, in solidarity with our brothers and sisters across the world. The five reflections have been prepared by the Archdiocese J & P Commission.

**Professor Gillian Ahlgren** from Xavier University, Cincinnati, will be visiting us in two weeks time. Gillian is an extra ordinary woman who is a world authority on Catholic spirituality. She has a great gift in sharing the prayer of the great mystics with very ordinary people like ourselves. Her last visit to Liverpool was very inspiring. Now we are doing the hosting.

Gillian will be staying in Carmel and speaking to University students and Religious. There will be two open meetings for the rest of us.

1. In **St. Anne's on Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup>. March** at 7.45 p.m. after Mass.

Talk entitled *The Tenderness of God: reclaiming our humanity* (after Mass)

Mass that evening will be at 7.00 p.m. Stations will be at 6.30 p.m.

2. In **the Pauline Media Centre in Bold Street. 16<sup>th</sup>. March** at 5.00 p.m.

Talk entitled *Can Tenderness Counter the Globalization of Indifference?*

Gillian draws the inspiration for these and many of her talks from Pope Francis' reflection on the "Revolution of Tenderness". Gillian asks what does tenderness look like in a world of consumption, fear, and violence?

On **Wednesday, after morning prayer at 9.00, in St. Bride's, Catherine St.**, Gillian will lead a workshop. Her last one there was very, very good. This and both the talks are open to everyone. You are strongly invited to take part in all three events.

**Pastoral Area Lenten Confessathon.** On Saturday, 11 March, at St Charles, Aigburth, and on Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> April, at St Francis, Garston, there will be an opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Priests of the Pastoral Area will be available from 12 noon until 5pm to hear Confession. Throughout the afternoon the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for private prayer.

Blessed **Oscar Romero** Centenary **Celebration, 19 Mar, 11a.m. in the Cathedral** with a homily by Fr Jim O'Keefe. Refreshments & talk after in the Gibberd Room with Sr Martha Zeichmeister

**Rite of Election.** This afternoon , at 3.00 p.m., ten new parishioners will be presented to the Archbishop, prior to their Baptism and/or Confirmation at Easter. Everyone is welcome in the Cathedral to this service. So please pray for Abdoula Ghasemi, Nader Khodaveisi, Navid Khodaveisi, Bita Chehrazi, Mehren Sayari, Mandana Sharifian, Colin Stewart, Purnima Sabikhi, Sehrish Wilson and Valentina Garcia.

**Retreat at Noddfa, Penmaenmawr.** 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. The Social and Community group are organising a retreat at Noddfa and have made a provisional booking for Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup>. May to Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup>. May. Cost will be £110.00 per person and will include full board, accommodation and all meals. We need to gauge interest fairly quickly before finalising the booking. There are individual rooms and family rooms. If you would like to be included please talk to Marie Grey or Patsy Kelly. To be highly recommended.

March is a key month for **five** of our parishioners. All of them are at Mass every week without exception, and each of them is appealing against the decision of the Home Office to deport them. We are very hopeful for a successful result for Daniel who was in court last Wednesday. Then this Monday it is the turn of Nader and Navid, the following Monday it is Omid, and the following Tuesday it is Jacob's turn. All of these will be before the Manchester Tribunal. Do please pray very earnestly for them.

**500<sup>th</sup>. anniversary of the birth of the Reformation.** Catholic and Lutheran leaders produced their "Common Word" – their shared reflection entitled "Healing memories-Bearing Witness to Christ". After five centuries of condemning and inflicting wounds on each other the two leading Churches in Germany intend to celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup>. anniversary of the Reformation as a "Feast for Jesus Christ". Pope Francis has said that he wanted to do everything he could "to overcome the obstacles that still remained". Some people are looking for a far greater commitment to unity.

**Money Report.** The collection last weekend was **£534.91** . Add on £624.80 from standing orders and tax returns to make a total of **£1,159.71**. **Thank you** very much

The next **First Holy Communion** class is Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup>. March  
The **Men's group** meets on Monday, 20<sup>th</sup>. March, at 7.30 in St. Bernard's.  
The **Journey to Faith**. No meeting this week.  
The **Prayer Group** meets on Friday at 7.30 p.m. in St. Anne's.

**Fair Trade Fortnight** continues this week.. Drawing attention to the injustices within our world trading system and demanding justice for the food producers in the developing world.  
Next Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup>. , in thanks for your constant support of our free trade stall, Fair Trade biscuits and fruit will be given out with the tea and coffee after 10.30 a.m. Mass.

If there is anyone ill in the parish 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.

Today we have the **SVP monthly collection** for the poor of the parish.

**Asylum Link Fund raising concert** will take place in St. Anne's Church on Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup>. March. Doors will open at 6.45 p.m. and the concert start at 7.00 p.m. These concerts are becoming increasingly popular and the quality of acts really excellent. In this concert there will be six acts –folk, jazz, gospel, traditional pipe music, and our own star, Lol, will do his own thing. Refreshments will be available at the interval. Tickets cost £5 and are available at the back of the church from Bridie Sharkey, or you may pay at the door. Please support us as best you can. Asylum Link need all the help it can get.

**Welcome.** Visitors are always very welcome at St. Anne's. If you wish to be part of our parish family it would be good for you to introduce yourself to people around you in church, and to the parish priest or deacon. We intend to have some welcoming cards available with details about the parish and who and where to contact.

**Tip** for caring for our Common Home is Remember to unplug your mobile phones, toothbrush or shaver when charged as they still draw electricity even when the battery is full

Great News!! **Link to Hope** delivered 43,928 Christmas shoeboxes to families in need and isolated elderly people in Eastern Europe. This is the best collection ever, and we in St. Anne's contributed 50 boxes. So a huge thank you from Link to Hope and the people they serve.

Thank you for £550 for the Water collection – to give sight to children. Received with thanks.

Last week Pope Francis became the first Pope to attend an Anglican service in Rome-the 200<sup>th</sup>. year of the foundation of All Saints Church. In his sermon he mentioned the possibility of a joint visit to Southern Sudan with Archbishop Welby, to raise awareness of the civil war and devastating famine in the country.

The commission looking into the ordination of women as deacons is still on track.

Has anyone rented accommodation available for a few months for a mother and daughter while they choose and purchase a house? It needs to have easy access for a wheelchair? Can you help? Please see me.

**Refugee Support Greece** is an ecumenical volunteer charity. They look after refugees at Alexandria, Greece, among other camps. 1000 people, Christian and Yazidis from Iraq and Syria, are stranded in Greece, unable to move to Germany due to border closers. Many things are needed. Children need kids Bibles and story books in English. A small package thru EU air mail costs about £3. Please send your Children Bibles and Story books to address below. Please see Cameron or send to John Sloan, Hotel Manthos, El. Venizelou, Alexandria 59300 Greece.

**Little Mick's Spot** (*paws for thought*). I have been so annoyed this week . There are mice in my house.



Poor Jane. I tried to tell her I would protect her. I have done everything I possibly can to catch them – squeezed into all sorts of uncomfortable places. I just could not get my paw far enough. And how I have barked! The little monsters will probably die of fright. But I never give in. TD says he will never take me near a rabbit hole because I will dive in – and never come out. I must admit, I am rather hot headed and act impulsively, before I think. It is what they call it instinct. Maybe that is why I don't like cats. They haven't hurt me but I get very cross when I see one. Maybe it's in my genes.

Now to reply to my fan club. Lois, from Somerset, expressed concern that I didn't have a winter coat. I am grateful for your concern, Lo, and have given your suggestion serious thought. But I am a very active dog. A working dog. I was in the park this week and got so muddy. I can't see TD washing my coat every day. And a coat would hinder my training. You see I twist, turn and jump all the time. a dog can't do what I do hindered by a coat. But there is something else. We Jack Russells are made of stern stuff. We're 'ard. And then - I am a scouse dog. (if born a Manc). Thanks for your concern, Lo, but – No