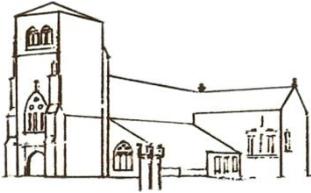


Newsletter for the parish of St. Anne & St. Bernard.



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Feast of the Holy Family 31.12.17

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

Let the first act of every morning be to make the following resolve for the day-

- I shall not fear anyone on earth - I shall fear only God.

- I shall not bear ill will towards anyone.

- I shall not submit to injustice from anyone

- I shall conquer untruth with truth, and in resisting untruth, I shall put up with all suffering. Mahatma Ghandi.

Today's Scripture readings. One of the greatest of the Popes was Pope Leo I who lived some 1550 years ago. In one of his sermons for Christmas he said : *This is the day our Saviour was born: what a joy for us. This is no season for sadness, the birthday of life – the life which annihilates the fear of death, and engenders joy, promising, as it does, immortality.*

Nobody is an outsider to this happiness. The same cause for joy is common to all...My Beloved, let us offer thanksgiving to God our Father, through his Son, in the Holy Spirit...in giving life to Christ, he gave life to us too...so that in him we might become a new creation...sharers in the birth of Christ let us break with the deeds of the flesh.

O Christian, we aware of your dignity – it is God's own nature that you share...remember that you have been rescued from the power of darkness, and been transferred to the light of God.



The Church encourages us to use these two weeks of the Christmas season to reflect on what we are celebrating, the staggering truth of the incarnation, that God is among us, at one with us, in pain with us.

Today's feast spells out a little of what this means. In reflecting on his family our thoughts turn to the true and full humanity of Jesus, his deep and personal human relationships, his feelings, his yearnings, his frustrations, his hopes, that drive for justice which ultimately led to his death.

In the Gospel, Simeon, a symbol of the first covenant, embraces the child and announces that the time for deliverance has come. But, he adds, this revelation of God's truth will bring rejection and suffering, a pierced heart for his mother, but it will throw open the innermost parts of people's souls, innermost thoughts revealed. His parents have brought the offering associated with the poor. It is this child born in poverty who is the Saviour.

Christmas this year was a wonderful occasion for our parish. I wish to thank you all for being in the celebrations. I thank those who made our church look so beautiful. The first Mass for Christmas seems to be more wonderful each year. It was encouraging to see the church full, standing room only, but there were so many very young babies, young children, young people, and so many of older generations too. It was a perfect mix of ages, the parish as a family. Thank you for the flowers, the décor, the crib, the tree – the musicians-everyone.

On a personal note, thank you so much for your great and many kindnesses to me this Christmas (and always). I am staggered and grateful, not just by your generosity by way of gifts, but even more by the words which accompanied them and what you wrote in your cards. No priest could have greater encouragement to become a better priest. The number of people who said *we/I do love you, you know*. I cannot describe how beautiful that sounded to me.

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.	John Dwyer
Sunday	10.30 a.m.	The Darracott family
New Year's Day	12.00 noon	Parishioners
Tuesday	12.00	Jay
Wednesday	12.00	Sister Marie
Thursday	12.00	Christine & Marie
Friday	12.00	Irene Bennett
Saturday	5.30 p.m.	Leonard Stanway (ill)

The next **Parish Assembly** will be held in 17th. March.
The next parish meeting about planning use of the parish rooms 13th. January 10.00 a.m.
The next **First Holy Communion** meeting is 13th. January at 12.00 noon.
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.
The next **Justice and Peace** is Thursday, 11th. January, at 7.30 p.m. in St. Bernard's.
Messy Church will recommence when the new rooms are available.

Care for our common home. Dial it down. Moving your thermostat down just two degrees in winter and up two degrees in summer could save about 2,000 pounds of carbon dioxide per year.

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

Money Report. The collection last weekend was **£462.98**. Add on £624.80 from standing orders and tax returns to make a total of **£1,087.78**.
The **Christmas collection** came to £928.57 **Thank you all very much.**

The **Journey to Faith** is taking a break until January 9th.

Please keep **our sick friends** in your prayer –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 – Helen Webber

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.

Pope Francis has forty million twitter followers, a similar number to Brother Donald, but many less than some pop stars. Here are his twitters which have been most frequently re-tweeted

- How often in the Bible the Lord asks us to welcome migrants and foreigners, reminding us that we too are foreigners.
- The earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth.
- Dear young people, do not be afraid of the future! Dare to dream big. Keep joy alive, a sign of a young heart which has encountered the Lord.
- Jesus Christ is risen! Love has triumphed over hatred, life has conquered death, light has dispelled the darkness.
I invite you not to build walls but bridges, to conquer evil with good, offence with forgiveness, to love in peace with everyone.
- I encourage everyone to engage in constructive forms of communication that reject prejudice towards others and foster hope and trust today.
- Let us carry Mother Teresa’s smile in our hearts and give it to those whom we meet on our journey.
- I am deeply saddened by the terrorist attacks in Paris. Please join me in prayer for the victims and their families.
- God is in love with us. He draws us to him with tenderness by being born poor and fragile among us, like one of us. (this from Christmas)

Little Mick’s Spot (paws for thought). Christmas! What was yours like? Mine was –



OK. To find the turkey I had to forage through the vegetables, but I did find some eventually. The rest of the week was quite good really. Someone told TD that pork is bad for dogs’ insides. Happily he still gave me some, I have an iron constitution anyway, so I am still getting tasty bits. You know how I like to chew things – I have the insides torn out in a minute flat. TD has found a ball which is almost as tough as I am. At the moment tougher because I haven’t destroyed it yet. But, and I am in the dog house for this. I found one of his clerical collars and had a little chew. It wasn’t very tasty so I didn’t do much to it – just enough to make him mad. So, put in a good word for me. Anyhow, a very happy year to you, all my friends. TD tells me it will be a special year for me –but he hasn’t told me why. Sounds exciting.

What do you want for our parish his year? I know you share with me the deep desire for a thorough renewal of our parish. After all we pray for this specifically at every Mass at St. St. Anne's. That we don't just sit back, content with our own company, but reach out with a deep sense of mission. After all if we have the world's best news then we cannot keep it to ourselves. I know I have spoken about this in the past, and meant it, and nothing seemed to come from it, but now we have a successful pattern to follow. I encourage you to read two books

1. Divine Renovation, by Fr. James Mallon (a Canadian) (2014 Twenty Third publications)
2. Forming Intentional Disciples, by Sherry Weddell (2012 Our Sunday visitor publications).

Parishes in the USA and Canada, and now in other parts of the world, have successfully followed the programmes suggested, with a profound personal conversion taking place in people's lives, and with amazing consequences for the parishes, not least among children and young adults.

You can order these books from the Pauline Media Centre on Bold Street, or order them through Amazon. If you would like me to get them for you please tell me. Some people are put off from reading non fiction books, thinking they are heavy to read. Both these books are very light reading and very simple in their presentation. But their message is profound.

After we have read them I would like us to meet to discuss their message and start planning a way ahead. It is God's plan that this coincides with our new meeting rooms.

Quotes about Christmas.

And in the Incarnation the whole human race recovers the dignity of the image of God. Henceforth, any attack even on the least of men is an attack on Christ, who took the form of man, and in his own Person restored the image of God in all that bears a human form. Through fellowship and communion with the incarnate Lord, we recover our true humanity, and at the same time we are delivered from that individualism which is the consequence of sin, and retrieve our solidarity with the whole human race. By being partakers of Christ incarnate, we are partakers in the whole humanity which he bore. We now know that we have been taken up and borne in the humanity of Jesus, and therefore that new nature we now enjoy means that we too must bear the sins and sorrows of others. The incarnate Lord makes his followers the brothers of all mankind.

— **Dietrich Bonhoeffer, The Cost of Discipleship**

God could, had He pleased, have been incarnate in a man of iron nerves, the Stoic sort who lets no sigh escape him. Of His great humility He chose to be incarnate in a man of delicate sensibilities who wept at the grave of Lazarus and sweated blood in Gethsemane. Otherwise we should have missed the great lesson that it is by his will alone that a man is good or bad, and that feelings are not, in themselves, of any importance. We should also have missed the all-important help of knowing that He has faced all that the weakest of us face, has shared not only the strength of our nature but every weakness of it except sin. If He had been incarnate in a man of immense natural courage, that would have been for many of us almost the same as His not being incarnate at all.

— **C.S. Lewis, The Collected Letters of C.S. Lewis**

It is good to be children sometimes, and never better than Christmas, when its mighty Founder was a child Himself.

— **Charles Dickens**