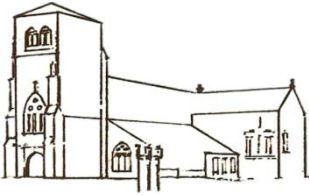


# Newsletter for the parish of St. Anne & St. Bernard.



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## Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord 25.03.18

**Holy Week** is special. It is unique. It is so sacred. We must let its power enter us. Let us stay with Jesus this week, building up to the Lord's Supper, staying with Jesus during the time of his agony, his condemnation, his passion, to the Crucifixion, living quietly and reflectively through Friday and Saturday until we come to the joyous celebration of the Easter Vigil. This week is the time of spiritual awakening. If we integrate the tasks of every day with the Holy Week programme Easter will be so much a time of life and celebration.



**Today's readings.** The solemn entry into Jerusalem is the prelude to the main concern of Holy Week, his death and resurrection. Jesus enters on a donkey - in contrast to the people's expectations. The Scripture readings for the Mass have their climax in Mark's account of the Passion.

We are prepared for it by the second reading *"Jesus...emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave...he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross"*. We see in this Gospel the desolation of Jesus, how totally alone he is *"My God, my God, why have you deserted me"*.



Holy Thursday Mass is known as the **Mass of the Lord's Supper**. We will have our service of washing in which everyone ministers to others. By which we are saying that we are servants to each other as Jesus made himself a servant to us. The altar is then stripped of its cloths to symbolise the stripping of Jesus, and we are invited to spend some time in prayer in union with his suffering that night.



**Good Friday** is unique. The whole day is a day of fasting and self denial. The Walk of Witness to the Cross, the three hour watch. The 3.00 p.m. service is held at the traditional time of the death of Jesus. In the words Khahil Gibron (The Prophet) - *But Jesus never was humiliated. He never lived a life of fear. There were no complaints as he died. He lived as a leader. He died with a heroism which frightened his tormenters. He defied despots. He confronted oppression. He crushed evil. He came to make the human heart a temple, the soul an altar, the mind a priest. "On the cross you are more dignified than a thousand kings upon a thousand thrones in a thousand empires,"*



**THIS WEEK OFFERS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCOVER THE SOUL OF OUR FAITH. AT ITS CORE IS THE AMAZING LOVE OF GOD, POURED OUT IN THE MOST VIVID OF WAYS, THROUGH THE DEATH OF JESUS, AND SHARED WITH US OUT OF SHEER LOVE THROUGH HIS WORD AND THROUGH HIS SACRAMENT. COME THIS WEEK. SHARE IN EVERYTHING.**

**Today's Gospel.** Each of the Gospel writers has a distinctive emphasis when proclaiming the Passion and death of Jesus. In Mark's Gospel the emphasis is on the *suffering* of Jesus, how he was tragically rejected by those close to him, unfairly condemned, viciously beaten, horribly insulted, and cruelly mistreated. There is no mention of his mother, John, or Mary Magdalen being there. His isolation was total. Also seemingly forsaken by God. It is a pagan soldier who, seeing "how he died", declared him to be the "Son of God", and this is the climax of Mark's Gospel. Some people say his Gospel is one long passion narrative, leading up to this act of faith. Mark is saying that there is no easy route to being a true disciple. To recognise the man on the cross for who he really is, is to accept the consequences of following him in my own life.

**Revolution in kindness** (as encouraged by Jean Vanier). Thought for this week – *Be kind to unkind people. They need it the most*

**Adoration 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.	Parishioners
Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Michael Armstrong
Tuesday	12.00 noon	Bill Whitehead
Wednesday	12.00	Joseph McNamee
<b>The Sacred Triduum</b>		
Thursday	7.30 p.m.	Mass of the Lord's Supper
Friday	3.00 p.m.	Good Friday of the Passion of the Lord
Saturday	8.00 p.m.	The Easter Vigil Service

The **Mass of the Lord's Supper** is followed by a period of watching before the Altar of Repose. If ever there is a moment for prayer it is now – with the agony and betrayal of Jesus. As Jesus asked Peter "*Can you not watch one hour with me?*" From childhood I have believed there is only one place to be on a **Good Friday afternoon**, with the people of God, the followers of Jesus, commemorating the Lord's Death. Then the **Easter Vigil** is the greatest and most meaningful celebration of the Year. We celebrate the victory of Jesus. God has even turned death to good, to life. We welcome new Christians into our family. We renew our faith, our commitment. God turns to good all things – if only we let him.

Fr. Robert Gallagher will again lead the **three hour prayer before the Cross**, beginning at 12.00 noon.

The **Ecumenical Walk of Witness** to the Cross will commence at St. Clement's Church, Beaumont Street 11.00 a.m. Make it a real walk of witness by coming in great numbers. By the cross we are set free.

The **Prayer Group** will meet in **St. Anne's House** on Friday at 7.30 p.m.  
The **Men's Group** will meet on Monday, 9<sup>th</sup>. April, 7.30 p.m. in St Bernard's.  
The next **Justice & Peace** group is on Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup>. April in St. Bernard's  
**Messy Church** will re-commence in May

There is a **funeral service** on Thursday at 12.00 for Andrea Harding. May she rest in peace. Please keep her family in your prayer.

**Please keep our sick friends in your prayer** -Eddie Barrett, Pat Brown, Adam Dean, Stephen Woo, Nancy Goss, Bill Whitehead, Selamawit, Saadat, Ken Otu, John Donohoe, Flo Coffey, Sister Win, Ann McMahan, Bernie Connolly, Andy Murphy, Trish Riley and the many who have asked for our prayer this week. 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. We can take Holy Communion to them.  
Please pray for those who have died recently – Andrea Harding, Darnley O'Neale Forde, Mary Awang

**Money Report**, The collection last weekend. was £424.30. Add on £624.80 from standing orders and tax returns to make a total of **£1049.10**. Thank you all very much.

**The Eucharistic Congress.** The main day of the Congress is the Saturday, September, 8<sup>th</sup>., when ten thousand people from all over the country will gather in the Echo Arena. We have been asked to provide **five people from our parish** to represent us. We have three. We need two more. More information to follow.

**Aideen** is an Iranian asylum seeker who has been placed in Ashton in Makerfield. He wants to become a Catholic Christian. He is a very fine young man. His English needs to improve for him to join the local journey to faith group. We alone have access to an interpreter. He also needs support within the parish from fellow country people which we also can provide. I am looking for people who can provide accommodation for him on a Saturday evening. He would come here for his preparation on a Saturday morning and be part of our Sunday Mass celebration. For him to be able to stay in the UK he needs to demonstrate to the Home Office that he belongs to a Christian community with a priest who can speak for him. If you can help please see me.

**Messy Church** will be starting up again on the first Saturday of May, 2.30-4.30 p.m. Anyone who would like to volunteer please see Frances Ripley

**Divorced & Separated** The next series of meetings offered by the Marriage & Family Life Dept starts in February. Meetings are in small groups & are free, confidential, informative & affirming.  
For details of times & venue for **South Liverpool** contact Frances Trotman 0151 727 2195  
General enquiries to Maureen O'Brien 0151 522 1044 or [m.obrien@rcaol.co.uk](mailto:m.obrien@rcaol.co.uk).

**Walk of Witness** in Liverpool City Centre, Holy Saturday, 31 March at 2pm. Begins at the Metropolitan Cathedral Piazza through city centre to Liverpool Parish Church.

Turn to our Facebook page and see Sister Rachel's post of a Holocaust hero.

**Care for our common home.** Let's spread some Easter hope and joy this week as Spring arrives, Cheer up some one by giving a lovely plant or a bunch of flowers.

**Fair Trade Easter Eggs.** We are selling Real Easter Eggs with the Easter message again this year. The price is still £3.99.

**The Parish Rooms.** New problems have arisen regarding the floor in the St. Anne's Room, delaying the opening even further. Probably another week.

There will be a planning meeting for **our parish sponsorship of a Syrian refugee family** at St Charles Church Hall, Aigburth Rd., on Tuesday at 7.30. If you feel you would like to contribute to this, please come along

If you go to the website of **Aid to the Church in Need** there is an appeal for prayer for Syria and one can see the valiant work the charity is doing in horrific circumstances".

We get a number of appeals for money from people we have known who have been deported. One such person is Ann Marie who was deported to Jamaica about twelve years ago. I recently told her that I could not send her any more money. What follows is part of a text she sent me this week "*all I am asking you to do is to find someone who can assist Aaron (her son) to be able to go to school. He needs text books and school fees, and travelling and lunch money daily and proper meals. He didn't go to school for two weeks because I wasn't able to provide fare and lunch. Please find someone to help Aaron*".

The Bishops have complained at the "shameful" treatment meted out to asylum seekers in the detention centres. Some of our parishioners know a lot about them from first hand experience. I have visited a number myself.

**Little Mick's Spot** (paws for thought ). TD complains that I never say thank you. He says that I sit there, waiting for something, very patiently, but when I have finished my tasty bit or had a good run I just stroll away without even a glance of thanks. You take everything for granted, Mick, he says. I want to tell him that people tell me I am the best behaved Jack Russell they have ever met. God help all the other TDs, he would say, if you're the best behaved!! He loves me really. You'll be interested to know that this week the Archdiocese formally signed an agreement and handed over St. Bernard's church to the Charity for development into houses and the hall for demolition. There is something for me in it – I'll have fun during the demolition and at the end of it I will get a small garden. TD is delighted. For 36 years he has looked at that ugly wall. The new houses next door are coming on very well after the delay when the roof trusses were blown down– they are deliberately designed to be as tall as our house. The builders' site is still my hunting ground. I am very fit because it is like an obstacle course and I do a great deal of jumping and leaping. TD has threatened me with fasting and abstinence on Good Friday. Let him try!!

