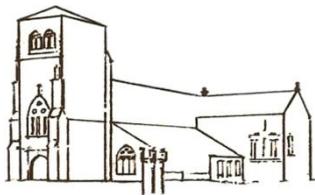


Newsletter for the parish of St. Anne & St. Bernard.



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Palm Sunday

02.4.17

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, the death and resurrection of Jesus. Jesus enters on a donkey - in contrast to the people's expectations. The Scripture readings for the Mass have their climax in Matthew'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 the 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 while reflecting on his Agony.

Good Friday. It is unique. The whole day is a day of fasting, abstaining from meat and practising self denial. The 3.00 p.m. service, is held at the traditional time of the death of Jesus. The Passion account is taken from St. John's Gospel. 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, Lord Jesus, you are more dignified than a thousand kings upon a thousand thrones in a thousand empires,*" Words of Khahil Gibron (The Prophet)



The great climax to Holy Week, the Easter Vigil, will be the focus of next week's liturgy and of course, newsletter. The Vigil will start at **8.30** p.m. on Saturday.

Services for Holy Week

Saturday Mass at 5.30 p.m. - (with blessing of Palms) Betty Brereton
Passion Sunday Mass at 10.30 a.m. (with Palm Sunday Procession) –Parishioners
Tuesday Mass 7.30 p.m. - a successful conference
Wednesday Mass 12.00 noon Ann Jones's intention
Mass of Chrism in the Cathedral at 7.30 p.m. all are invited.

Maunday Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper at at 7.30 p.m.
followed by private prayer (the time of watching)

Good Friday Celebration of the Lord's Passion at 3.00 p.m.

Saturday Easter Vigil Mass at 8.30 p.m.

Easter Sunday Mass at 10.30 a.m.

The three days from Maunday Thursday to Easter Sunday are known as the **Easter Triduum**. The three services celebrated on those days are the most sacred in the Church's year. They are full of the richest symbolism. *Through our celebration we share in a very true way in the saving work of Jesus*. It is not just 'going to church' and thinking about what happened a long time ago. We share in it, we are part of it, we are immersed in it.

Please note that the Mass on Tuesday will be at **7.30 p.m.**

Preceded at 7.00 p.m. by the **Stations of the Cross**

Good Friday Walk of Witness. The annual walk with the cross will begin as usual from St. Clement's Church in Beaumont Street at **11.00 a.m.** The route this year will be slightly different to the past. Good Friday is THE day to witness to the cross. Do come **everyone**.

Please note that on **Wednesday, 12th. April** at **2.00 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**. A list is available at the back of church, a line for each chapter in order. The first sixteen names down will be the privileged readers.

Lampedusa Pilgrimage. Following the Gospel reading of Matthew's Passion from 2.00 p.m. next Wednesday there will be a short, symbolic pilgrimage named after the Mediterranean island on which many, fleeing Libya, sought refuge and safety. The 15 minute walk of prayers and reflections around the church seeks to show solidarity with those fleeing war, poverty and persecution. In the Year of Mercy, Pope Francis invited us all to make a pilgrimage to mark 'an extraordinary moment of grace and spiritual renewal'. A cross from a boat smashed on the shores of Lampedusa leads our way, and reminds us of the many who have died making the journey

Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament - Sunday 9.15-10.15 a.m.
Confessions are heard during these times.

We have these Easter eggs and **we need to sell them before next Sunday**.

If you would like to support cocoa farmers in developing countries, then you will want to purchase one or more 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.



A very hopeful picture.

Cardinal Nichols led a delegation of British Muslims to meet with and negotiate with Pope Francis and the Holy See. Moulana Sayed Ali Abbas Razawi said: "I was deeply moved by the audience with Pope Francis. I could see the sincerity and love in his eyes as he offered words of encouragement to all of us as we came together in unity. "This is an important meeting offering hope

for everyone, regardless of religion. There is a common humanity to all of us. Some seek to divide people, religions, east versus west, but there is no east or west; there is just our common humanity as we seek a peaceful future for all based on justice and compassion."

Arising out of the Wednesday reflections on *Laudato Si* The group asked for the following **Reflection 66** to be shared: *Human life is grounded in three fundamental and closely intertwined relationships- with God, with our neighbour and with the earth itself.*

CAFOD prayer: All powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exist. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one. O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey upon it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

Tip for caring for our common home- Aim to buy food that is home grown, and not flown or shipped half way across the planet.

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.

During our **Easter Vigil Service**, which is the most important celebration in our year, we will be welcoming eight new Christians who are taking the names of Charlotte, Faith, Monica, Benjamin, Leo, Liam, Michael and Sean. They will all be baptised, confirmed and make their first Holy Communion. Marianne, Teresa and Yolanda will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please pray for them.

Holy Week. Today, **Palm Sunday**, you will find the Gospel inserted into the Mass sheet. It will be a dialogue Gospel as usual with you, the congregation, taking part. There will be booklets for the services for the Holy Triduum ie. Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

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.
Men's meeting Monday, 10th. April at 7.30 p.m. St. Bernard's House.
The **Prayer Group** meets on Friday at 7.30 p.m. in St. Anne's.

Money Report. The collection last weekend was **£454.29**. Add on £624.80 from standing orders and tax returns to make a total of **£1,079.09**. **Thank you.**

For those who donate with envelopes. 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.

“Jesus says that if we are to be his disciples, then we must take up our cross and follow him. That may sound rather masochistic, as if we must positively want to suffer. Sometimes it has made Christianity seem grim. But it means that we dare to embrace the life that is given to us, with its joys and suffering, its blessings and limitations. It is no good wishing we were someone else. This is our life, a gift from God, and even its rough and hard moments are steps towards happiness” Fr. Timothy Radcliffe O.P.

Little Mick's Spot (Paws for thought). TD and I have been on a collision course this week.



He says that all these visitors to the house have been spoiling me and that I need proper training. I think he's over the top, something is getting at him. OK, maybe I have been a bit demanding and expect to be taken out too frequently – Jacob, Sima, Bob, Daniel and lots of others take me out on my field next door. When they can't I want him to take me - all the time. Every afternoon Bob gives me a long walk. The thing is I was cross with TD because last Monday he promised to take me to West Kirby. And he didn't. He didn't even take me to the park. We have a contract. He keeps me happy with runs, the ball and tasty bits to eat, and I - well. I don't know. What is my side of things? What should a little dog do to earn his keep? Don't tell him I am not sure about my role in this friendship. Yes!! – That's it. I'm his best friend. But then why did he get cross with me? Ah! I know now what it was. Didn't Liverpool beat Everton last week. THAT's what upset him – and he took it out on me!! And he's supposed to be a priest!! And he takes it out on his little friend.