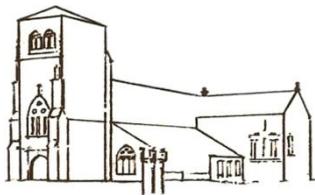


Newsletter for the parish of St. Anne & St. Bernard.



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Third Sunday of Easter

30.4.17

Today's Scripture readings. Today's Gospel passage illustrates very clearly why Luke has written his Gospel. We meet the risen Christ, not in the flesh, not visually, not in our senses, not in our feelings. **We meet him in faith, we meet him in his Word, we meet him in the Breaking of the Bread – the holy Eucharist.**

We are enthused by the proclamation of the Gospel, filled with hope even when faced with human calamity, aware of his presence in the poorest and the weakest. Today we hear that we meet him in the celebration of the Eucharist, the weekly Mass in which we hear the Gospel and share in the food of life

*“Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us
on the road and explained the Scriptures to us”*

*“Then they told their story of what had happened to them on the
road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread”.*



This reading shows us how early Christians worshipped, and they show the truth in the way that we worship. Like the travelers in the Gospel we come to church, our minds and hearts full of many things. Then in the celebration we meet the risen Christ – first of all in our fellow Christians, their minds, probably, full of many things as well. Then we hear the Word of God, and we celebrate the Mass, our Sacrament of the Eucharist, integral parts of Christ being present to us and communicating his grace. The Word of God, read, proclaimed, and explained is the necessary preliminary to what follows, the celebration of the Lord's Supper and the sharing together of the sacred food. We could add here the words of St. Paul *“whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup you are proclaiming the Lord's death until he come”*

Today, at Mass, we celebrate not only Christ's victory. We celebrate our share in that victory and the ongoing glory given to God as that victory is lived out in our lives. The more we believe with all our hearts the more the Word and Sacrament to change us.

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

Confessions are heard during these times.

Money Report. The collection last weekend was **£456.80**. Add on £624.80 from standing orders and tax returns to make a total of **£1,081.60**. **Thank you**

Mass this week

Saturday	5.30 p.m.	Simon Weiss (ill)
Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Parishioners
Tuesday	12.00 noon	Carmel O'Sullivan
Wednesday	11.00 a.m.	Requiem Mass for Kenneth Bennett
Thursday	12.00	Sammy
Friday	12.00	Deacon Paul
Saturday	5.30 p.m.	Barbara Lindfell

Funerals in church this week.

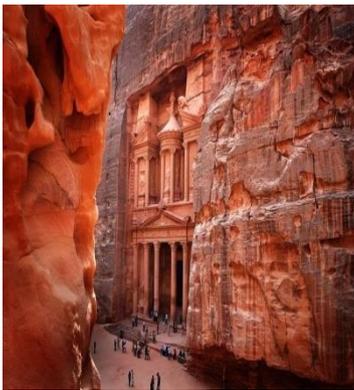
Wednesday	11.00 a.m.	Requiem Mass for Kenneth Bennett
	1.00 p.m.	Funeral Service for Teresa Geddes
Friday	1.00 p.m.	Funeral Service for Teresa Pembele

May they rest in peace. Please remember their families in your prayer

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

Men's meeting Monday, 8th. May at 7.30 p.m. St. Bernard's House.

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



Pilgrimage to Jordan. We have been asked to include details of this pilgrimage in your newsletter. "We have a few places left on our eight-day pilgrimage in Jordan. Travelling from the 30th October to the 6th November 2017 and flying direct from the UK we will be based in Amman and will visit the most amazing places. Petra, Jerash, Nebo, Wadi Rum and Madaba all feature on our itinerary. This pilgrimage will support the local Christian community as we will stay in Amman in the very modern and comfortable guest house of the Rosary Sisters in Fuheis. This pilgrimage includes all meals and is fully guided. You will be able to ride into Petra on horseback (optional) and our visit to Wadi Rum includes a two hour Jeep safari.

The cost for eight days is £1650 with a single supplement of £170.

Please contact us for more information or to book your place.

Email Elizabeth on office@pilgrimagepeople.org Call us free on 0800 6123423"

The dates for the next Co-ordination meeting and the Assembly will be announced next week.

Little Mick's Spot (Paws for thought) TD was away last weekend. He didn't tell me how long he would be away for and I felt abandoned. I was sad all day Saturday and stayed in bed more than usual. But I went a bit crazy when he came back on Sunday afternoon. Then I began to feel rather cross. He had been away and he hadn't even sent me a postcard. I think he has tried to make it up to me though. I went



along with it because we dogs are very forgiving. We have had some great runs in the park this week with the ball. This young Beagle was pleasant enough but I had to chase him away. I had my ball chasing to do. An old retired greyhound thought he could out run me. He could. His legs are long and spindly. Mine are very short. But I was very pleased with myself, I put up a good show. They tell me I have been a bit noisy this week. TD wanted to know what kind of throat lozenges I took because my bark never seems to hurt my throat. I hadn't thought of that. Of course I don't take any. I just drink lots of water. TD has felt like a naughty boy. Two of my balls and the yellow ring have gone over people's walls. He even broke one of his own windows with my ball. You'd think a man of his age would respect property. Enough story telling for now. See you next week.

Would you like to speak Spanish like a Spaniard?

If so, write your name and your current level of Spanish on the lists provided at the back table. If you are a starter –say starter. If you speak or write Spanish but need to develop your skills please say so. Our own (native) Spanish teacher offers two courses - one for children 5-10, the other for adults, This can include young people at secondary school. She is happy for these classes to start in May. Venue has to be decided.

There are **key points** which must be considered in **this election**. Our criterion is Catholic Social teaching. This week's Tablet reflects on the erosion of the welfare state and its consequences for the poor:-

It is axiomatic that *the acid test of a decent society is that it does not neglect the most vulnerable. Britain is in danger of failing this test.* The welfare state, invented in wartime to banish permanently the five “giants which stalked the land” – poverty, disease, squalor, ignorance, idleness –has reached a crisis, not only of resources but of purpose. There is a growing class of people in distress because they cannot make ends meet, for whatever reason. Yet there seems no enthusiasm in any major party to take their side. *In so far as the Catholic Church, indeed all the Christian Churches, have a stake in this election, this is where it ought to be planted.* Theresa May, who can expect to be reconfirmed as Prime Minister on 9 June, has inherited an antiwelfare bias in Conservative thinking that stands in the way of her wish to see the country's unity restored after the divisive shocks of Brexit. George Osborne, Chancellor of the Exchequer under David Cameron, devised a political strategy to turn public opinion away from those who were dependent of benefits. On the basis of a small minority who abused the system, they were all vaguely stigmatised as “skivers and scroungers” who would rather stay in bed in the morning. The scale of the welfare budget, he intimated, was an unsustainable burden on the economy. And it was all the fault of Labour, the party he branded as the “welfare party”. This might have been clever politics, but it was cruel to the people who were used as ammunition.

The consequences, which Mrs May does not appear to have questioned, are that the number of children officially classed as living in poverty is rising, homelessness is on the increase, and those, with any disability, have new bureaucratic mountains to climb if they want assistance from the state –and then are as likely as not to be refused. Many poor parents – some of whom have jobs –struggling to feed and clothe their children, are at the end of their tether and a general state of depression and hopelessness has descended across many sections of the community. Then there are the refugees who are admitted to the country and after a month are left with no support, forcing them into destitution and life on the streets. Such measures as the so-called bedroom tax and the cap on benefits for third and later children – and its abominable “rape clause” to exempt women whose third child resulted from them being coerced into sex –add to the general indignity of being poor. The illogical belief persists that reducing their welfare benefits is actually beneficial to them, as it forces them into a desperate search for work on any terms.

If Mrs May does not want the Tory party to slip back into being the “nasty party,” as she once described it, she needs to relaunch the welfare state and put compassion back at its heart. That does not rule out its radical overhaul, with a new statement of its aims and priorities. But it does rule out continuing with Mr Osborne's war on welfare as a way of gaining party political advantage. It is no longer hurting Labour, if it ever did. It is hurting the poor.

Pope Francis in Egypt.

In a message ahead of the trip, Pope Francis said he wanted the visit to be "a witness of my affection, comfort and encouragement for all the Christians of the Middle East" and "a message of brotherhood and reconciliation with all the children of Abraham, particularly the Muslim world". Francis' major event of the day was a landmark visit to Cairo's Al Azhar university, the revered, 1,000-year-old seat of Sunni Islam learning that trains clerics and scholars from around the world. There, he warmly embraced Sheikh Ahmed el-Tayeb, Al-Azhar's grand imam who hosted the pope and other senior Muslim leaders, students and scholars at a peace conference. Speaking to the crowd, Pope Francis recalled that Egypt's ancient civilizations valued the quest for knowledge and open-minded education, and said a similar commitment to education is required today to combat the "barbarity" of religious extremism among the young.

While Al-Azhar has strongly condemned Islamic fundamentalism, Egypt's pro-government media has accused its leadership of failing to do enough to reform the religious discourse in Islam and purge canonical books from outdated teachings and hatred for non-Muslims.

"As religious leaders, we are called to unmask violence that masquerades as purported sanctity," Francis said to applause from the crowd. "Let us say once more a firm and clear 'No' to every form of violence, vengeance and hatred carried out in the name of religion or in the name of God."

"To counter effectively the barbarity of those who foment hatred with violence, we need to accompany young people, helping them on the path to maturity and teaching them to respond to the incendiary logic of evil by patiently working for the growth of goodness," he added.

"Egypt, in the days of Joseph, saved other peoples from famine; today it is called to save this beloved region from a famine of love and fraternity," he said. "It is called to condemn and vanquish all violence and terrorism."

This week's tip concerning **Caring for our Common Home** is: Don't leave water running any longer than you need to. You can save gallons of water simply by not running water when brushing your teeth.

Irenaeus is a teaching project, based in the presbytery of St. Thomas of Canterbury, Waterloo. Here are two projects. The first is

'I will not leave you or desert you' A journey through the **Book of Joshua**.

Friday 19th - Sunday 21st May

Fr Chris Thomas will be exploring the Book of Joshua and its relevance to us today. If you live outside the Liverpool area, we have residential places or you can just come daily if living close by. If you have never been to the Irenaeus Project, we are in a great location, right near the coast. If you look at our website www.irenaeus.co.uk you will see more about us. You will find a booking form on the website or email jenny@irenaeus.co.uk or phone 0151 949 1199. Then secondly

don't forget also the **COME & SEE CONFERENCE** with keynote speaker **TIMOTHY RADCLIFFE OP**, on 14th & 15th OCTOBER. There are workshops by prominent speakers including Fiona Castle and Dermott Donnelly, with music by Jo Boyce and friends, and mime with Steve Murray. Again, have a look at our website for further details or contact us by phone or email

