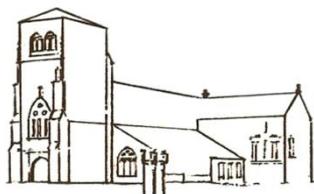


# Newsletter for the parish of St. Anne & St. Bernard.



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## Third Sunday of Lent

19.03.17

**Today's Scripture.** The primary concern in all the readings in the next three weeks is to prepare us to welcome new Christians into our community. Easter is the celebration of new life which comes through the celebration of Baptism. Hence the theme of water resounds, especially in the Gospel readings. **Today's Gospel** is a case in point. Jesus meets and talks with the woman at the well. It is a conversion moment. The life giving symbolism of water echoes throughout this conversion. To hear Jesus' word is to be saved.

In the dry climate of Palestine water is an obvious symbol of salvation. In his Gospel John is constantly alluding to the Sacraments and the life they bring. In this conversation with the Samaritan woman Jesus is proclaimed as the one who brings salvation, who exposes our sin, who inaugurates true worship of God in spirit and in truth. It is because he brings the final revelation that he draws everyone to himself as the Saviour of the world.

This Gospel reading is so full of richness, with a variety of ideas. To enable us to reflect on them more easily it seems a good idea to break it up into parts as we do with the reading of the Passion, the narrator, Jesus, and the woman, with the rest of us making the great act of faith at the end. It provides wonderful food for thought and prayer during the week. So will you please take the sheet provided home with you.

**Family Fast Day Collection** today after Mass. We remember the Famine.

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

Saturday	5.30 p.m.	Peter Kennedy	Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Jo & Mike's Intention
Tuesday	12.15 p.m.	Requiem Mass for Patricia Kirwin			
Wednesday	7.30 p.m.	Parishioners			
Thursday	12.00 noon	Mary, Bernie & family			
Friday	12.00 noon	Mary Connor & Margaret Hargreaves			
Saturday	5.30 p.m.	Carol & family Peter Kennedy			

**Funerals this week** Tuesday 12.15 p.m. Requiem Mass for Patricia Kirwin  
1.30 Funeral Service for John Hughes.

Please pray for the repose of their souls and keep their families in your prayer

**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.

**Stations of the Cross** every Wednesday in Lent at 7.00 p.m.

**Retreat at Noddfa**, The Social and Community group are organising a **retreat at Noddfa**, Penmaenmawr, 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. 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. It will go ahead. 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.

The **Men's group** meets on Monday, 20<sup>th</sup>. March, at 7.30 in St. Bernard's.

The **Journey to Faith**. Tuesday evening at 7.00 p.m.

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

**Money Report**. The collection last weekend was **£460.31** . Add on £624.80 from standing orders and tax returns to make a total of **£1,085.11**. **Thank you** very much

Blessed **Oscar Romero Centenary Celebration, 19 Mar, 11.00a.m.** in the **Cathedral**, with a homily by Fr Jim O'Keefe. Refreshments & talk afterwards in the Gibberd Room with Sr. Martha Zeichmeister

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..

The Liverpool-based Volunteer Mission Movement [www.vmminternational.org](http://www.vmminternational.org) is looking for volunteers (18-80+ years) to become members of our local support group. The group aims to help raise funds and also to recruit new volunteers to serve for periods of 2 weeks to 2 years in East Africa. It is a fun, worthwhile, and rewarding group, which provides a sense of satisfaction for its members. Please contact Van at [van@vmminternational.org](mailto:van@vmminternational.org) or phone 0151 291 3438

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.

### **Understanding CAFOD**

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March, 7-9.00, CAFOD Liverpool, 27 Croton Road, L13 5UJ**

*All are welcome to our informal evening to learn about the work of CAFOD, meet people involved here in the Liverpool Archdiocese, and get involved yourself! For more information contact [liverpool@cafod.org.uk](mailto:liverpool@cafod.org.uk) or call 0151 228 4028.*

Thank you to everyone who came to enjoy our 'Big Brew' celebration at the end of **Fair Trade Fortnight**.

If you would like to support cocoa farmers in developing countries, then you might be interested in purchasing one 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.

These same Easter Eggs are being advertised and sold by Tesco. Same price. Come to us.

**Nugent Charity Shop** on Allerton Road is in urgent need of stock consisting of clothing, books, bric-a-brac, shoes, handbags. If you have any unwanted items please consider donating them to our Charity Shop, and these can be dropped off at 73, Allerton Road, Liverpool L4 2DH from 9.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m., Monday to Saturday. At present we are asking if people can drop off their donations only as we do not have the facility to collect donations at the moment. Thank you.

From 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2017, the Government is withdrawing entitlement to housing benefit for young people aged 18-21. The consequences will be disastrous and there will be even more young people sleeping on the street.

The European Court of Justice has ruled that employers can ban workers from wearing any religious symbols in the work place. Originally this seems to have been about Muslim head scarves, but it applies to crosses and every other symbol

A new study suggests that British people are less worried about **climate change** than other Europeans. Questions are asked about the Churches' expressed concern, despite Pope Francis writing an encyclical *Laudato Si*.

**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. There is an appeal for children's books because there are many children without schooling. Cameron will tell you how you can help.

Tip for caring for our common home –cook large amounts of food at one time so you can freeze some

**Little Mick's Spot** (*paws for thought*) TD asked me what I was giving up for Lent so that



I could become a more thoughtful and less noisy little dog. I pretended not to hear him. You understand, don't you? I don't have many pleasures in life.

Can you think of anything I could give up? O dear, my conscience is pricking me.

A little while ago TD bought a new pair of shoes. I liked the look and smell of them so I thought I would leave my mark on one of them. I had a little nibble and left it on the stair for him to find it. He was far from pleased but he didn't scold me too much, once he realised he could still wear them. But then the very next day he was wearing these new shoes, and I decided to leave my mark on his old pair. Not much, just a little nibble here and there. Have you seen him cross? I didn't want to. I got away quickly, hoping he would blame someone else. I just kept out of his way. Perhaps after all I do need Lent,

**FOUR YEARS OF POPE FRANCIS:** Pope's compassionate 'disruption' of the Church shows no signs of slowing down Two months after his election Pope Francis held a meeting with senior figures from the Church's charitable arm inside his new home, the Casa Santa Marta, where he made a startling claim. The work of Caritas, he stressed, was not just about providing first aid to people in a crisis but must focus on giving ongoing care to the most vulnerable. He admitted this was big, expensive task but nevertheless there shouldn't be compromises. "If that is too expensive," Francis explained. "We'd even have to sell the churches to feed the poorest of the poor."

Caritas executives were stunned although pleasantly surprised by Francis' willingness to stake the Church's assets to help further their good work, a global operation which helps everyone from the homeless in Rome to Syrian war victims. Inside the Vatican, however, they were worried. Anxious phone calls were made to Caritas from senior officials explaining what the Holy Father really meant to say while stressing the new Pope was not about to put the Holy See's real estate portfolio on the market.

It is a story that gives an insight into this papacy as a disruptive force, where the old ways of being Pope have been upended in order to push a radical message of mercy out into the world's margins. That meeting with Caritas revealed a simple truth for this Pope: the needs of the institutional church come second to the needs of humanity. Today marks exactly four years since Jorge Mario Bergoglio stepped onto the balcony of St Peter's to begin this mission, a ministry which might be described as a "start-up" pontificate aimed at a "compassionate disruption" of Catholicism.

I was there standing among the rain-sodden crowd when the first Latin American pontiff came out to greet the world where for the first few moments in front of the glare he almost froze. This was a surprise choice, a successor of St Peter chosen from the "ends of the earth" who had become the first to name himself after the "poor man" from Assisi. Those early moments, however, defined much of what has come since. The informal "buonasera" greeting, the wearing of the same pectoral cross he had in Buenos Aires and his asking for the crowd to pray for him. It was a new, pastoral style seeking which later sought revolutionary new ways to connect with the people who make up the Church.

It has been a papacy where risk taking is favoured over protocol, where making mistakes is better than the "sickness" of becoming "self-referential" and where the agenda is set through off the cuff remarks rather than pre-prepared speeches. "I prefer a church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the street," the Pope says, "rather than a church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security."

The last four years have been marked by dramatic, headline-grabbing charitable gestures winning the Pope plaudits from across the world, and sky high approval ratings. We've seen Muslim refugees rescued from Lesbos, Greece, the building of showers for the homeless in St Peter's Square and just last week a 100,000 euro papal donation to the poor in Syria. All of this has helped Francis give new credibility to a Church which, in the western world, is either ignored or criticised. If the Pope's namesake followed God's command too literally to "rebuild my Church", then this Francis has done major rebuilding work when it comes to improving public perceptions of Catholicism.

But this papal disruption has caused turbulence. The Pope's restless drive for a radical, pastoral conversion inside the Church has upset people, particularly more traditional believers. They feel his freewheeling style is unbecoming of the papal office and are hurt by his repeated criticisms of Catholic conservatives as rigid. Meanwhile, Francis' attempts to allow remarried divorcees to be given communion has let the genie of Church division out of the bottle, with opposition spilling out into the streets of Rome with anti-Pope posters and public challenges from cardinals. It has led to public disagreements between bishops and cardinals, and open debate in the Church not seen in decades. To progressives this is liberating, and allows for a discussion on topics that were previously "off limits." Today there is a papal commission examining female deacons while Francis says the option of ordaining married men should be looked at. For the Pope's critics, however, moves such as giving communion to remarried divorcees threatens Catholicism's fragile internal unity and could lead to Anglican Communion style splits further down the line. Francis, however, has warned against a "false peace" inside the Church while preferring an honest discussion and development. (from the Tablet)