

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



95a, Kingsley Road

Liverpool L8 2TY

Tel 0151 709 4434 & 07932 045 070

Email stbsliv@yahoo.co.uk

admin@stannestbernardliverpool.org.uk

Website www.stannestbernardliverpool.org.uk

St Anne & St Bernard Liverpool

@annebernAdmin

St. Anne's, 7, Overbury St. L7 3HJ

The Transfiguration of the Lord

06.08.17

Revolution in kindness. Thought for this week

— Before I start to speak about anybody I need to ask myself three questions
Is it kind?

Is it true?

Is it necessary?

(found handwritten in Mike Doyle's prayer book after he died)

Mass this week is as follows -

Saturday	5.30 p.m.	Private intention
Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Private Intention
Wednesday	<u>11.30</u> a.m.	Requiem Mass for Joe McEvoy
Thursday	12 noon	Parishioners
Friday	12 noon	Margaret Meany
Saturday	5.30 p.m.	Nancy Golding

Funerals this week. Requiem Mass on Wednesday at 11.30 a.m. for Joe McEvoy. Please keep Joe's family and many friends in your prayer.

There will be **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** on Saturday 4.15-5.15 p.m. and on Sunday 9.15-10.15 a.m.

Confessions are heard during the times of Exposition – and any other time you need

The next **Co-Ordination meeting** will be on 23rd. September

The **Prayer Group** meets every Friday at 7.30 p.m. in the Sion Room

The **Fair Trade stall** is open every Sunday after 10.30 a.m. Mass

Tea, coffee and biscuits served after Mass every Sunday. Volunteers needed for August

Fair Trade Stall. In the last month parishioners have purchased £300 worth of Fair Trade products which is wonderful, as this is a practical way of helping small farmers and their communities in developing countries. Thank you. Please keep up the support.

The **Journey to Faith** programme will be starting again at the end of September. We should now be inviting people to seek Baptism and Holy Communion. Those who have not received the Sacrament of Confirmation are invited to join us. Journey to Faith programmes for Farsi and Kurdish speakers have already begun. Both groups meet on Wednesdays.

Money Report. The collection last weekend was **£533.08**. Add on £624.80 from standing orders and tax returns to make a total of **£1,157.88** **Thank you**

Today's Feast. On the Christian feast of the Transfiguration the Atomic Bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. On the day that Christians celebrate the glorious future God plans for us as we see prefigured in the wondrous transformation of Jesus, there occurred this appalling blasphemy. The world has been on a knife edge of fear ever since. Threatened not just by something happening to our family, our city, to our country even – but to the whole world and the possible destruction of humanity.

Matthew presents the Transfiguration as part of a gradual revelation of just who Jesus is, beginning with his conception, and going through a number of experiences until the all powerful experience of the risen Christ. Matthew, writing for his Jewish Christian congregation, always presents Jesus as the new Moses, and so, like Moses on Sinai when face to face with God, Jesus's face shone like the sun. The voice from the clouds proclaims "*this is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased*". It links with the Baptism of Jesus, the walking on the water, Peter's profession of faith – all assertions of Jesus as the Son of God.

The cloud is the Old Testament symbol of the presence of God. It was in a cloud that Moses received the 10 Commandments of the old law. The transfiguration of Jesus takes place while Jesus is praying, and the conversation afterwards is about his suffering. In Jesus glory and suffering are intermingled, another Old Testament figure being the suffering servant of God in Isaiah. The presence of Moses and Elijah, representing the Law and the Prophets, the entirety of the books of the Old Testament, the fullness of God's revelation to Israel points to Jesus as being the ultimate climax of God's revelation.

The key invitation is to **Jesus**, through whom we get our call. He is the one who brings life and light. The awesome moment of the "**transfiguration**" is seen in the "fear" of the three disciples, that fear which is awesome, overwhelming in the presence of God. In the words of Peter "*It is wonderful for us to be here*". In our current political situation in the gross disregard for human life we lose all sense of "awe" of God, the greatest loss possible and the most foolish

Caring for our common world – this week's tip... . **Eat less meat.** Meat isn't cheap, and it's not great for the environment, either. Seventy percent of the Amazon rainforest has been destroyed to raise cows, and meat production results in more carbon emissions than any other protein. Learning to cook a few choice vegetarian meals will save money, add variety to your palate, and give the planet a helping hand.

We are looking for **more musicians** for our Sunday choir. We would love to have many more and different instruments. Lol is anxious that we have a wide variety of instruments. I would love a cello, wind instruments and a bit of brass on occasion. We have three bag pipe players and we do hear from some of them occasionally. Lol is encouraging younger musicians. Also of course more singers. But don't forget the choir does not replace the community singing. The choir is to encourage all of us to sing as well as we can and all for the glory of God.

We pride ourselves at the **international nature** of our congregation Every week there are people from the continents of Europe, Africa and Asia. The last two weeks at 10.30 Mass we have had people from the other two continents as well, Australia and America. That is taking the "catholic" or universal nature of our church very literally. **Praise God!**

"Little Boy" is the nick name given to the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima on **August 6, 1945**. It was Monday morning. Little Boy was dropped from the [Enola Gay](#), one of the B-29 bombers that flew over Hiroshima on that day. After being released, it took about a minute for Little Boy to reach the point of explosion. Little Boy exploded at approximately 8:15 a.m. (Japan Standard Time) when it reached an altitude of 2,000 ft above the building that is today called the "A-Bomb Dome."

The July 24, 1995 issue of Newsweek writes:

*"A bright light filled the plane," wrote Lt. Col. Paul Tibbets, the pilot of the Enola Gay, the B-29 that dropped the first atomic bomb. "We turned back to look at Hiroshima. The city was hidden by that awful cloud...boiling up, mushrooming." For a moment, no one spoke. Then everyone was talking. "Look at that! Look at that! Look at that!" exclaimed the co-pilot, Robert Lewis, pounding on Tibbets's shoulder. Lewis said he could taste atomic fission; it tasted like lead. Then he turned away to write in his journal. "My God," he asked himself, "**what have we done?**"* (special report, "Hiroshima: August 6, 1945")



The Little Boy generated an enormous amount of energy in terms of air pressure and heat. In addition, it generated a significant amount of radiation (Gamma ray and neutrons) that subsequently caused devastating human injuries. The people who saw the Little Boy often say "We saw another sun in the sky when it exploded." The heat and the light generated by the Little Boy were far stronger than bombs which they had seen before. When the heat wave reached ground level it burnt all before it including people.

The strong wind generated by the bomb destroyed most of the houses and buildings within a 1.5 miles radius. When the wind reached the mountains, it was reflected and again hit the people in the city center. The wind generated by Little Boy caused the most serious damage to the city and people. The radiation generated by the bomb caused long-term problems to those affected. Many people died within the first few months and many more in subsequent years because of radiation exposure. Some people had genetic problems which sometimes resulted in having malformed babies or being unable to have children. It is believed that more than 140,000 people died by the end of the year. They were citizens including students, soldiers and Koreans who worked in factories within the city. The total number of people who have died due to the bomb is estimated to be 200,000.

St. Anne's development. Dai tells us that the Building regulations have been approved by the City Council. There are the usual security checks about exits etc. which we are only too pleased to follow. Dai also says the floor of the St. Anne's Room, the proposed big meeting room, has parquet tiles under the vinyl covering. He asks for some volunteers to remove the vinyl covering so that we can get a good view of the tiles. If they are in good shape and can be restored we could save some money, and have an even better hall.

St. Bernard's development. The proposed plans to pull down the hall, which is an appalling eyesore, and turn the church into apartments are shortly to be presented to the City Council for approval. Various jobs have to be done first – one of which was to have a “bat watch” at dawn and at dusk to see whether any bats are nesting in either building. The answer seems to be “no”. There were four men viewing from different points with special transmitters. There were bats flying over Mick’s field but apparently coming from another direction. I had never noticed them. Maybe they answer some of Mick’s unexplained barks.

The recently ordained Fr. Michael Barrett is 61 and is a former primary school head teacher whose wife died twelve years ago. We pray for his new ministry and that all his previous experience of life will give a new vibrancy to the proclamation of God's Word.

Called Beyond

This is a new initiative developed by the **National Office for Vocations**. It is an opportunity for all Catholics to celebrate the call of Christ in our lives.

This Pastoral Area has been chosen to launch a pilot scheme which will take place in October of this year. It will explore the vocation of all of us from youth, young adults, married people as well as those called to religious life and the priesthood.

More information will be given in due course.

The Path of Descent (Fr. Richard Rohr)

*What I have seen is the totality recapitulated as one,
received not in essence but by participation.*

*Just as if you lit a flame from a flame,
it is the whole flame you receive.*

—St. Symeon the New Theologian (949-1022) [1]

The path of descent involves letting go of our self-image, our titles, our status symbols—our false self. It will die anyway. So don't make anything absolute when it is only relative. This is one of the many meanings of the First Commandment: "You shall have no other gods before me" (Exodus 20:3 and Deuteronomy 5:7). We must let go of our false images of God (which mostly serve our purposes) and also of ourselves.

The German Dominican mystic Meister Eckhart (c. 1260—c. 1328) preached, "God is not found in the soul by adding anything, but by a process of subtraction." [2] But in the capitalistic West, we think very differently. We all keep trying to climb higher up the ladder of success in any form. We've turned the Gospel into a matter of addition instead of subtraction. All we can really do is get out of the way. The spiritual life is often more about unlearning than learning, letting go of illusions more than studying the Bible or the catechism.

When C. G. Jung was an old man, one of his students read John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress* and he asked Jung, "What has your pilgrimage really been?" Jung answered: "In my case Pilgrim's Progress consisted in my having to climb down a thousand ladders until I could reach out my hand to the little clod of earth that I am." [3] Wow!

The word "human" comes from the Latin *humus*, which means earth. Being human means acknowledging that we're made from the earth and will return to the earth. We are earth that has come to consciousness. For a few years we dance around on the stage of life and have the chance to reflect a little bit of God's glory. As a human, I'm just a tiny moment of consciousness, a tiny part of creation, a particle that reflects only a fragment of God's love and beauty. And yet that's enough. And then we return to where we started—in the heart of God. Everything in between is a school of love.

Little Mick's Spot (paws for thought).



TD sometimes treats me like a human being, the way he talks to me and what he expects of me. I try to tell him that I am a dog and proud of it. I would not swap the pleasures I have in life for anything he has. I won't bore you with the detail but I have senses he can only marvel at. I had an interesting evening with the bat man, yes, the bat man. Before the old parish club can be pulled down or the church turned into

apartments the new owners must ensure there are no bats there. Conservationists would be on to them. It was getting dark and, Francis, the bat man, could not believe that I could find a ball in the long grass and the bushes. I had great fun chasing after it and finding it – every time. Uncle Bob takes me out and says I can race the grey hounds. I don't tell him I wouldn't have a chance were the distance any longer. Actually I haven't been at my best today. A rear paw was bleeding a bit. TD says it will cure itself – if only I rest it. Probably will. But I am a working dog (I caught another rat this week. And a couple of pigeons. TD's not too happy about that). Rest is not in my job description. Maybe I have no choice. Ps. Next day—better now

