

Easter 2015



Dear Friend,

Throughout LENT, we have spent Prayer time at the Saturday Club, WALKING WITH JESUS to CALVARY. Our PATHWAY of PAPER FEET to the foot of THE CROSS, began to show signs of wear and tear over the weeks requiring several applications of FIRST AID, applied by eager volunteers!

Bishop Arnold's prayer, "STAY WITH US LORD on OUR JOURNEY" was beautifully apt, and we were soon accustomed to the refrain. [The benefit of meeting 'Bishop John', at our Diocesan Fellowship NEW YEAR PARTY, was evident from questions such as "WHEN is HE {the Bishop}, COMING AGAIN ?", which preceded each recitation] !

Indeed we were all delighted at the initial encounter with our new Bishop, who warmly greeted and conversed with each of us. It was also good to have our friend Father Steven Parkinson accompanying him.

Our attempts at Drama are often unwittingly amusing, as was a simple enactment of The Sixth Station of the Cross, 'VERONICA Wipes the Face of JESUS'. As 'St. Veronica' asked 'Jesus' if she could wipe His face - 'Jesus' first response was, "Yer what?" On being asked a second time, 'Jesus' grabbed the veil, with an expression of "Give it 'ere, I'll do it meself!" Then 'He' relentingly exclaimed, "Oh all right, go on then!" [Much more precious than 'The West End']!

We explored the theme of JESUS and OURSELVES as 'LIVING STONES' being used to build the HOUSE of GOD, THE CHURCH. That's US, on the FRONT COVER, 'LIVING STONES' building the Church. Jesus, loving us so much, and wishing US to love HIM in return, shows us the way to come closer to Him. Like the stonemason, He chips away at us to make us more perfect.

Frank read about a boy whose father was a stonemason and built houses. Before he commenced construction he would lovingly shape the stones to remove all the rough edges. This fascinated the boy, who watched in awe, as his father painstakingly and patiently created the desired form.

We collected rough and smooth stones and talked about how we were a little like the unrefined stones at the beginning of Lent, but as we built up our love for God, we became finely honed, the better to build a fine house for God, HIS CHURCH!

Each of us chose a smooth stone to take home as a reminder of how we would like to be by Easter!

As a sign of NEW LIFE and THE RESURRECTION, we eagerly await the growth of the seeds we have planted and prayed over, especially the SUNFLOWERS – what wonders await us?!

EVENTS SINCE THE ADVENT NEWSLETTER

Saturday 13 December Christmas Party in St Cuthbert's Church Hall. Our (South Manchester) Group was joined by the Salford Group and members of L'Arche. Brian Keogh-Peters was our disc jockey and master of ceremonies as in previous years.

Father (now Canon) Ryder opened the proceedings with Grace and the lighting of the Advent wreath. Jennifer carried baby Jesus very carefully to His crib where He slept undisturbed by the surrounding activity.

Refreshments were provided by several members of our Group, notably Pauline Zagaroli and by the Salford Group.

After enjoying the delicious fare and pulling crackers, the exuberant party-goers welcomed Father Christmas and his little helpers who handed out presents to everybody.

Birthday Cards were presented to those whose birthdays fell during the break.

The party ended with dancing to Brian's rhythmic music.

Sunday 1st February New Year Party.

Again organized by Maureen Fitzgibbon but with a change of venue - The Talbot Catholic Club, Salford.

This year we were joined by a V.I.P., our newly installed Bishop, as mentioned in the Introduction (page 1). Anne-Marie and Andrew presented Bishop John with a large 'Welcome' card made at the South Manchester Group 'Saturday Club'.

THE SATURDAY CLUB

Much has already been mentioned in the Introduction about the Saturday Club.

Over the weeks we have welcomed Bobby and Rodney as new beneficiaries and also new carers from the various residences.

Again, we designed coloured baubles to hang on the Prayer Tree at Christmas. Then a 'miraculous' change to brilliantly coloured Easter Eggs at the end of Lent bearing our prayer intentions.

A new table tennis table will be ordered when suitable storage for it can be arranged.

L'ARCHE

Boogie Nights continue to be popular with some of our Beneficiaries.

16th May There is to be a celebration of the re-opening, after extensive re-development, of the Chorlton Central Church where we have in the past attended Prayer Meetings organised by members of L'Arche.

A service at 2pm with cutting of the ribbon will be followed by afternoon tea, live music, and entertainment until 5pm. In the evening from 7 to 10pm there will be a Ceildh.

FUTURE EVENTS

May Procession and Crowning. This year we have no organized Procession and Crowning of Our Lady, but we will continue with our May Crowning Devotions at The Saturday Club.

There is, of course, the Annual Procession and Crowning in October from St Edward's, Rusholme, to Platt Fields Park which is for all the Diocese. (We have not organized a presence at this, though we may do so in future).

Candle Factory Outing. Maureen Fitzgibbon has kindly arranged another outing at the candle factory, Burwardsley, on Friday 22nd May.

Diocesan Annual Outing. On Saturday 13th June at St Matthews RC School, New Moston. Details to be announced later.

SUNFLOWERS - what wonders await us?

David Ward raised hundreds of pounds for the South Manchester Group by taking part in the Bogle Stroll, a 55 mile round Manchester walk with fellow students. They started on Friday 6th March in the evening and finished the next day in the evening. Well done David - our HERO!



DIOCESAN ANNUAL MASS

The Mass takes place every year on the first Sunday of October at the Church of Our Lady of the Assumption, Langley, Middleton.

PLEASE PRAY:

FOR OUR FRIENDS AND BENEFACTORS

St Cuthbert' Parish
L'Arche
The KSC
Miss Alison Davis R.I.P.
(SPUC Handicapped Division -
'No Less Human')

FOR OUR MEMBERS WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR FROM JANUARY TO MAY

FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR HOUSEBOUND

Mr Bob Shepherd
Mrs Frances Morris
Mrs Helen Larkin
Miss Helen O'Hara and Family
Mrs Anne Lavin
Mr Paul Hannon (in nursing
home)
Mr David Evans (formerly
a Ring & Ride driver)

Master Jamie Arnold
Mr Stephen Atkinson
Mr Martin Bell
Miss A J Blacklock
Mrs Helen Blackwell
Mrs Pat Cavanagh
Mr Michael Chemney
Mr Séan Deay
Mrs Nora Fairbrother
Mr D Fitzgibbon
Miss Carmel Goley
Mrs Mary Goley
Miss Sharon Harper

Mrs Veronica Hopkinson
Mr Aidan Keeley
Mr Peter J Kennedy
Miss Jean Kirby
Mrs Betty Nolan
Mrs Ita M O'Reilly
Miss Veronica Power
Mrs F E Pugh
Miss Evelyn Reilly
Mrs Ellen Seddon
Mrs Margaret Stones
Mrs C Usher
Mrs Monica Wiszniewska

Wishing you all the Joys of the Risen Lord

Aileen Power

St Jude, pray for us and for all who honour thee and invoke thine aid

