

Second Sunday of Lent

28th February 2010

Hanging on

There's an air of anxiety in our scripture readings at the liturgy today. God shows Abram (before he became Abraham) that he will stand at the top of a lineage with many descendents and that he will take possession of the land. But Abram is still worried about the future: "My Lord, how am I to know that I shall inherit it?" And God has to reassure Abram, to keep him persevering in faith.

The same is true with Peter, James and John. Jesus gives them a real boost to the their faith by letting them see him being transfigured on the mountain top, talking with Moses and Elijah... a sure sign that he is from God. But Peter, like Abram, is worried that things won't always be like this and so he tries to get three booths or tents set up to preserve the atmosphere of the moment.

Both Abram and Peter are privileged to be in the presence of God, yet they are worried about the road ahead and whether or not they will really see things through. Sound familiar? No matter how strong our faith is, we still have moments when we wonder what it's all about, whether

we can cope with present difficulties and how we will match up to the demands of the future. Of course, that's what faith is all about. If faith were a manual of answers, an instruction book that couldn't fail, then it would no longer be faith. When we stop praying for perseverance in faith we have become muscular Christians who think they can reach heaven by religious effort.

But as we go through life we come across people and events that strengthen our faith. It seems that when everything is rumbling on in a mundane way we suddenly are given a glimpse of what lies beyond.

These mountain-top experiences boost our faith because they redirect our hope and recharge our enthusiasm.

Last week we began Lent by looking at the temptations that lie in wait for us as we try to follow Christ. This week we are given a shot in the arm as we glimpse something of the glory of Jesus in the Transfiguration.

So Lent isn't just about sin. It's also about faith, promise, perseverance, hope, dreams, compassion, trust, reconciliation and renewal.

Have a Happy Lent!



Mass Intentions this week

Day	Church	Time	Intention
Second Sunday of Lent			
"My Lord, the Lord" Abram said, "How am I to know that I shall inherit this land?" <i>(Genesis 15:8)</i>			
Saturday	St Bernadette's	5.30 pm	Vic Sherlock
	St Marie's	7.00 pm	Mary Dawber
Sunday	St Bernadette's	9.30 am	People of the Parish
	St Marie's	11.00 am	John Carey
Monday	St Marie's	9.15 am	Roland Williams
Tuesday	St Bernadette's	9.15 am	John McGrath
Wednesday	St Marie's	7.00 pm	Special Intention (Heart surgery)
Thursday	St Bernadette's	9.15 am	Gerald O'Neil
Friday	St Marie's	9.15 am	Frances Wiswall
Third Sunday of Lent			
Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. But unless you repent you will all perish as they did. (Luke 13:4-5)			
Saturday	St Bernadette's	5.30 pm	L.I.S.C.F
	St Marie's	7.00 pm	William Rainford
Sunday	St Bernadette's	9.30 am	People of the Parish
	St Marie's	11.00 am	Frank Cheetham

Clergy: Father John Hindley
St Marie's Presbytery
Almond Brook Road
Standish, Wigan, WN6 0TB
Telephone: 01257 423291

Serving the Parishes of:

St Marie of the Annunciation
Standish

www.stmariesstandish.co.uk

St Bernadette Shevington
www.stbernadetteshevington.org.uk

Parish Office at St Marie's:

Open 9.00 am to 12 noon

Monday - Friday

jointparishes@gmail.com

Baptisms: By prior arrangement.
Information available from Fr John after weekend Masses. All baptisms take place during Mass. St Bernadette's first Sunday and St Marie's third Sunday of the month.

Confessions:

St Bernadette's

Sunday 9.10 am - 9.20 am.

St Marie's

Wednesday 6.30 pm - 6.50 pm.
or by request.

Funerals and Marriages: By arrangement.

Mass Requests: Please place in an envelope and hand in to the Sacristy or to the Parish Office at St Marie's. Please indicate which church you would prefer, if any. If you would like a particular day please request early.

Visits to sick and housebound: Please inform Fr John if you know of parishioners who are sick or housebound and would like to receive Holy Communion.

Hospital Visits: If you wish to see a priest please let the hospital staff know.

Repository: Open after each weekend Mass at the back of church for greeting cards for most occasions, small gifts, prayer books, etc.

Newsletter Notices: Please e-mail to jointparishes@gmail.com or hand in to the Parish Office by Thursday morning.

St Marie's Hall: All bookings for hall usage should be made in advance with the Parish Office during office hours.

Liverpool Roman Catholic
Archdiocesan Trustees Incorporated.
A registered charity. Number 232709.

This weekend:

CAFOD Lenten Fast Day
collection at all Masses.

Sunday: **Coffee morning** after 9.30 am Mass. Proceeds to Nugent Care.

Sunday after 11.00 Mass: **Tea and coffee** in the Church Hall.

Please note that the Ecumenical Songs of Praise at St Bernadette's has been cancelled.

Next week:

Monday: **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** at St Marie's at 2.00 pm.

Tuesday: **Lenten Service** of reflection and prayer at the Methodist Church, Standish at 2.00 pm.

Wednesday: **Stations of the Cross** at St Marie's at 6.30 pm.

Thursday: **Stations of the Cross** at St Bernadette's at 7.00 pm, followed by **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** at 7.30 pm

Friday: **World Women's Day of Prayer** will be celebrated with an Ecumenical Service at St. Anne's Church, Shevington at 7.30 pm.

Friday: **CAFOD Quiz Night** at the Plough & Harrow, Shevington at 7.30 pm. Proceeds to the Haiti Appeal.

Next weekend:

Saturday: **A meditative journey for Lent** at the Methodist Church, Standish, 10.00 am – 12.30 pm.

Sunday after 11.00 Mass: **Tea and coffee** in the Church Hall.

Sunday: **Hunger Lunch**, 12 noon until 2.00 pm 17 Newgate Avenue, Appley Bridge. (253380). £3 per person / £10 family. Proceeds to Angela Price's Hambantota Funds.

Sunday: **'Living with Luke'**, a reflective workshop on the **Gospel according to Luke**. 2.00 pm-4.30 pm at St Patrick's, Southport.

Thank you for your offerings

St Marie's	£970.65
St Bernadette's	£685.53

Church Development Fund

Bill McCracken has decided to 'hang up his pen' due to various other commitments. Consequently, the parish is looking for a volunteer to take over the running of the Development Fund. Please contact Bill on 422867 for further details.

Women's World Day of Prayer

Women's World Day of Prayer is a worldwide ecumenical movement of Christian women of many faith traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year on the first Friday in March.

Throughout the entire day, they collectively pray all over the world, beginning with the first sunrise and ending at the last sunset. Their prayers follow the sun's path around the globe.

The Women's World Day of Prayer motto is "Informed prayer leads to prayerful action." Through World Day of Prayer, women affirm that prayer and action are inseparable and that both have immeasurable influence in the world.

This year the prayer focus has been prepared by the women of Cameroon with the title "Let everything that has breath praise God". It takes its cue from Psalm 150 and begins the way the psalm does, "Praise God." Through this invocation, God is called up as "our refuge and strength, ever ready to help, strengthen, guide and enlighten us in times of joy and sadness." Wherever we find ourselves in life, we also find God's unconditional love. Blessed with great cultural wealth, this perspective of God's unconditional love is at the very core of the Cameroonian capacity to praise God.

An Ecumenical Service will be held on Friday 5th March at St. Anne's Church, Shevington at 7.30 pm.

Confirmation catechesis

A series of meetings run by John Biggins, Animate Youth Ministry Adviser for the Formation of Young People on 3rd, 10th and 24th March at St Marie's, 7.30 pm to 9.00 pm about Confirmation catechesis. If anyone would like to attend, please provide contact details by email to peteandmargjennings@hotmail.co.uk.

Eucharistic Ministers

Thank you to those Eucharistic Ministers who provided names and addresses of the sick and housebound each visits. Would Eucharistic Ministers take copies of the newsletter and The Grapevine to sick and housebound to keep them in touch with news in the Parishes.

Easter Chicken Cards

Easter Chicken Cards will be on sale after each Mass next weekend 6th and 7th March. The cost of £1.00 each will buy a day old chicken for a mission in Kenya run by the Sons of Divine Providence. The income from the chickens helps to pay for a school for handicapped children.

CAFOD Fun Run

Thank you to everyone who sponsored the Hill Family for the CAFOD Fun Run. They raised £342, most of which was gift aided.

At the back of church.....

- Mothering Sunday and St Patrick's Day cards;
- Rotas for St Marie's Eucharistic Ministers and Readers.

Bonus Ball

No.19 - Joan Johnson - £20.

Fairtrade

Please note change of date of the home-made Fairtrade cake and biscuit sale in St Marie's Church Hall after Mass on Sunday 14th March. If you fancy doing some baking, please speak to Christine Catlow (426890).

The Grapevine

Ann Fairhurst has agreed to produce one more issue of The Grapevine. If you have experience in desktop publishing and would consider taking over, please let Fr John know. Thank you.

Parish websites

The websites for both parishes have been updated recently with additions to groups serving each parish. Would group leaders take the opportunity of viewing the respective websites and notify any changes to the parish office.

Ladies' Section

Ladies Section day out to Chesire Oaks on Wednesday 7th April. Cost £8.00. Leave Standish at 10.00 am, return 3.30 pm. Contact Marjorie (424332) or Monica (400558) asap.

Date for your diary

Wednesday, 10th March: **Standish Churches Men's Fellowship** meeting at the Globe Inn at 7.30 pm. A talk by Ebrahim Adia on "A Muslim View", followed by a buffet supper. Cost £6.00. Contact Joe Fairhurst 402185. Ladies are also invited to attend.