

6th July

On Saturday the people of the USA celebrated their Independence day. And later this summer we in this country will celebrate 800 years since the signing of the Magna Carta. Indeed that and the American declaration of Independence and the American Bill of Human rights are on display in London as we speak. At the root of all these great historical events is freedom. Freedom to live the way we do, freedom to be the people we are called to be. Freedom to live in peace and harmony with each other and creation as a whole. Sadly not all can enjoy freedom, and still fight for it.

As we think today of these events let's protect our freedom and help our young people grow in a deeper sense of what it means to be free. To be truly free is not a freedom **from** things to do what we want, but freedom **to do** things and grow and develop better lives. Let's be free to grow and become a better people a people who walk in freedom and justice, peace and harmony

This is Fr Francis Parkinson, from the Catholic parishes of St Brendan, St Columba and St John, Bolton