

Friday October 2nd, Friday in the Twenty-Sixth Week In Ordinary Time Year II

Good Morning from St. Bernadette's.

I hope everyone is keeping safe and well, and following all the guidance we receive to overcome these strange times, and continuing to pray for all our needs at this time.

After over thirty chapters of dialogue between Job and his three friends (seriously, thirty chapters), we have God speaking to Job in this great poem, Job 38:1.12-21.40:3-5. If you were able to understand how God looks after the world, know the extent of the world, experience both life before and after death, then you would be like God. And Job admits his pride - *'I have been frivolous.'*

Yesterday we saw Jesus telling his disciples what to do if they were rejected in a town. Now in Luke 10:13-16 he speaks of the consequences for the towns who have rejected his message and have not realised that in rejecting the message of the Disciples they are in fact rejecting God the Father himself. *'Anyone who listens to you listens to me, anyone who rejects you, rejects me and the one who sent me.'* From Psalm 139:

*You have looked deep into my heart, Lord,
and you know all about me.
You know when I am resting or when I am working,
and from heaven you discover my thoughts.
You notice everything I do and everywhere I go.
Before I even speak a word, you know what I will say,
and with your powerful arm you protect me from every side.
Where could I go to escape from your Spirit or from your sight?
If I were to climb up to the highest heavens, you would be there.
If I were to dig down to the world of the dead you would also be there.
I thank you for the wonder of my being,
for the wonders of all your creation.*

So let us sing of God's creation, the great hymn 'Morning Has Broken.'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oa-mWuBY-is>

And today is another feast celebrating God's care for us, following on from the Feast of the Archangels on Tuesday, we celebrate the Memorial of our Guardian Angels. We often think of guardian angels as a special angel only for children, but the truth is that we all have a guardian angel for our entire lives. Our angels are a gift from God. They watch over us, aid us in prayer, enlighten us, guide us and protect us at every moment. In the Book of Exodus we are told, *'The Lord says this; "I*

myself will send an angel before you to guard you as you go... My Angel will go before you.'', whilst in the Gospel of Matthew we hear Jesus saying *'See that you never despise any of these little ones, for I tell you that their angels in heaven are continually in the presence of my Father in Heaven.'* We can hope that our Guardian Angel will help us during our journey to eternal happiness in Heaven. In his March 31, 1997 Regina Caeli address, Pope Saint John Paul II referred to the concept of guardian angel and concluded the address with the statement: *'Let us invoke the Queen of angels and saints, that she may grant us, supported by our guardian angels, to be authentic witnesses to the Lord's paschal mystery'*.

Loving God, you are so good that you gave me a Guardian Angel to protect my body and my soul. Help me to know and follow my angel so that, with their guidance, I will be worthy of being in Heaven with You!

My sweet Guardian Angel, you are my counsellor every day of my life. Inspire me to be holy and good like you. Inspire me to be the person that God is calling me to be. Inspire me to be a light for others to know and love the Lord. You are with me all the time so you already know these my intentions that I ask you to deliver to the Lord.

My guardian angel, my counsellor, inspire me! Amen.

And here is the hymn to the Guardian Angels https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zS_Hu5pH8as

You'll recall that yesterday I asked you to pray for Selena Smith whose funeral I celebrated in the afternoon. I was given a beautiful eulogy to read, which had the interesting fact that Selena was born in a leap year, 1936, on the 29th February, and so she actually celebrated her 21st birthday only this year, 2020- beautifully surrounded by all her family! Just like Frederick in 'The Pirates of Penzance'!

News and a couple of pictures from the family in Hong Kong who are celebrating the Festival of Lanterns, the Mid-Autumn Festival. According to my brother it is a kind of harvest-festival-meets-bonfire-night, with kids being given lanterns, family dinners, and a story about a princess and a rabbit on the moon (my brother added that China's first lunar explorer was named after the rabbit). Special 'moon cakes' are eaten during the family dinner, traditionally being egg yolk in a lotus seed paste, although, as you can see in the pic, my brother prefers the ones Hagaan Daz specially make every year, and I don't blame him! So Happy Mid-Autumn Festival!

Saturday evening's mass was recorded, and is available for the week on the YouTube at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdHv0p8amIk&feature=youtu.be>

with texts being available at <http://universalis.com/mass.htm>

Once again many thanks for all your return mails. Apologies if I don't reply immediately, sometimes they seem to get lost (or kind of bunched up). Any suggestions for ways to keep our faith and spirits up at this time are most welcome!

And remember, St. Bernadette's is not closed, though the building is, most of the time. We're just doing things differently for a while, until we are allowed to gather together once more, more stronger, more faithful, more loving, more creative, and more grateful for the amazing community that is St. Bernadette's.

With love and faith in Jesus.

Fr. P.