

Monday November 2nd, The Commemoration of the Faithful Departed, All Souls' Day

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.

Breezy start to the month and the week!

Just beginning with a reminder that our last public mass before lockdown will take place on Wednesday evening at 7pm., but Church will be open every day for private prayer between 12noon and 1pm. from Thursday. If you could volunteer for some stewardship please give us a call here.

And today we celebrate All Souls Day, our annual Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed, and in doing so we renew our hope of eternal life, firmly continuing our journey's to heaven through life and death to life, founded on Christ's own death and resurrection. Here are some words from Pope Benedict:

“I am risen, and I am with you always”, the Lord tells us, and my hand supports you. Wherever you fall, you will fall into my hands and I will be there even to the gates of death. Where no one can accompany you any longer and where you can take nothing with you, there I will wait for you, to transform for you the darkness into light. Christian hope, however, is not solely individual, it is also always a hope for others. Our lives are profoundly linked, one to the other, and the good and the bad that each of us does always affects others too. Hence the prayer of a pilgrim soul in the world can help another soul that is being purified after death. This is why the Church invites us today to pray for our beloved deceased and to pause at their tombs in the cemeteries.’

So let us pray;

*O God, glory of the faithful and life of the just,
by the Death and Resurrection of whose Son,
we have been redeemed,
look mercifully upon your departed servants,
that, just as they professed the mystery of the resurrection,
so they may merit to receive the joys of eternal happiness.
Through our Lord, Jesus Christ, you Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

I couldn't find a video of 'Help Lord the Souls' to the tune that we know anywhere on the internet, and, inexplicably, it is not in our hymnbook, so here are the beautiful words of the November Hymn. They are by our very own St. John Henry Newman.

*Help, Lord, the souls which Thou hast made,
The souls to Thee so dear,
In prison for the debt unpaid
Of sins committed here.*

*Those holy souls, they suffer on,
Resign'd in heart and will,
Until Thy high behest is done,
And justice has its fill.*

*For daily falls, for pardon'd crime,
They joy to undergo
The shadow of Thy cross sublime,
The remnant of Thy woe.*

*Oh, by their patience of delay,
Their hope amid their pain,
Their sacred zeal to burn away
Disfigurement and stain;*

*Oh, by their fire of love, not less
In keenness than the flame,
Oh, by their very helplessness,
Oh, by Thy own great Name,*

*Good Jesu, help! Sweet Jesu, aid
The souls to Thee most dear,
In prison for the debt unpaid
Of sins committed here.*

And so how about for a hymn let us sing 'Soul Of My Saviour'

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tO_is6VPn3w

I attach a picture which I was just sent on Saturday of the cemetery in my home parish, St. Mary's Cleator, which I guess must have been taken with a drone or something. We lived in the house twelve doors up from the Church on the left hand side. It really is the most beautiful of places, and if the executor of my will does his job, I will end up there. Although not for a long time, I hope! If you are visiting a grave today, or throughout this month, you may like to pray this prayer for your loved one.

*Eternal God, we give thanks for N.
We come to remember him/her,*

*for the bonds of love are not unravelled by death.
Keep us all one in your love and care
so that at the last, with N.,
we may be gathered together in your loving embrace.
O God, when memory is sad, hold us gently in your hand.
When memory is sweet, give us grace to thank you.
Watch always over N., and at the last may we all be united in your glory.
These things we ask through Jesus Christ,
your Son, our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever. Amen.*

Make the most of Monday!

Sunday morning's Mass was videoed and is available for the week on the YouTube at <https://youtu.be/63XLnffSIDY> and texts for Mass each day can be found at <http://www.universalis.com/>

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.