

Saturday October 3rd, Saturday 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.

And another week of restrictions over as we slip into the weekend yet again. Let us continue to be grateful for our public masses throughout the week.

And we come to the end of our flying visit to the book of Job 42:1-3. 5-6. God rebukes Job's friends and restores Job to health and wealth with even more blessings than he had before his time of trial. Job's experiences make him realise that more than ever the Lord is all-powerful. *'I am the man who obscured your designs with my empty-headed words. I have been holding forth on matter I cannot understand, on marvels beyond me and my knowledge.'* His rewards for remaining faithful to God include fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, and thousand yoke of oxen, and three beautiful daughters named Turtledove, Cassia and Mascara, with Job going on to live to the age of one hundred and forty seven, seeing his children, and his children's children up to the fourth generation.

In Luke 10:17-24 The disciples come back after their first missionary journey, and all has gone really well, as they come back rejoicing. This brings forth a wonderful prayer of praise from Jesus, as he is filled with the Holy Spirit, and prays to his Father, *'I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do. All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.'* It is a truly beautiful moment.

God of all blessings, source of all life, giver of all grace:

We thank you for the gift of life:

We thank you for the mystery of creation:

We thank you for this day, for life, and one more day to love,

For these, and all blessings,

we give you thanks, eternal, loving God,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

And why don't we have a nice rousing chorus of 'Now Thank We All Our God.'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7GStAhbJoSA>

Incidentally, were it not that tomorrow is Sunday, October 4th is actually the Feast of dear St. Francis of Assisi, the Son of a wealthy merchant, who, responding to the Lord's call, embraced poverty, and preached the love of God to all – including the birds and the fishes, of course making him Patron Saint of animals, and all the environment. Children sometimes ask me if their animals go to heaven. If our animals make us happy as far as I am concerned they are most definitely in heaven, and why else would St. Francis have preached to them? This is St. Francis' great prayer of praise:

Most High, all powerful, good Lord,

Yours are the praises, the glory, the honour, and all blessing.

Be praised, my Lord, through all your creatures,

especially through my lord Brother Sun, who brings the day.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Wind,

and every kind of weather through which You give sustenance to Your creatures.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Water,

Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Fire,

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Mother Earth,

who sustains us and governs us and who produces

varied fruits with coloured flowers and herbs.

Praise and bless my Lord, and give Him thanks and serve Him with great humility.

And the song adapted from that prayer, taken from the film about St. Francis is here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WRDxpmV27p8>

And that surely is an excuse for attaching another picture of Tobias, the Presbytery Cat. I thought my G&T seemed to be going down rather quickly...

Whatever you are doing this somewhat chilly weekend, I hope it is all good. Don't forget to try and reach out to anyone you know might be feeling a bit lonely in lockdown.

This afternoon's mass will be recorded and available on the YouTube by tomorrow morning. Texts for each day can be found 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.