

Thursday June 4th, Feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest

Good Morning from St. Bernadette's.

I hope everyone is keeping safe and well, and following all the advice from the government and the medics about what we should be doing in this time of crisis.

And I hope everyone is praying together for our all our intentions in this time of need.

Today, the Thursday after Pentecost, the Church celebrates the Feast of 'Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Eternal High Priest'. It is a relatively new addition to the calendar so the texts don't yet exist in our printed books and www.universalis.com and the iPad came to my rescue to enable me to celebrate the Mass of the Feast this morning. (I often say that working through the Liturgical Calendar is sometimes as difficult as working out your Income Tax Form). The theme of the Liturgy of the Word is that what God is looking for is not the sacrifices of animals but a willingness to obey his will (Hebrews 10:4-10 and Psalm 39). This is exemplified by Jesus' prayer in the garden of Gethsemane 'Let it be as you, not I, would have it' (Matthew 26:36-42).

*O God, who for the glory of your majesty
and the salvation of the human race,
made your Only Begotten Son the Eternal High Priest,
grant that, through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit,
those whom he has chosen as ministers and stewards of his mysteries
may be found faithful in carrying out the ministry they have received.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.*

Another significant text today is the Preface of the Mass which is the Preface of Priesthood which is used at the Chrism Mass on Maundy Thursday and also at the ordination of priests. It speaks of the priesthood of Christ, the priesthood of all the baptised, and the priesthood of the ordained. Therefore all of us through baptism share in the priesthood of Christ and we can unite ourselves to him in listening out for and doing God's will in our world today. Although the preface is particularly about the ordained priesthood, it is a reminder that we should all share in the mission of Christ. The preface indicates some of the roles of the ordained Priest

*They are to renew in his name
the sacrifice of human redemption,
to set before your children the paschal banquet,*

*to lead your holy people in charity,
to nourish them with the word
and strengthen them with the Sacraments.*

These are roles which it is very difficult to carry out under the present conditions, so please pray for your priests, many of whom are trying to do their best in these bizarre circumstances. Your prayers and encouragement are most welcome.

My sister in Australia emailed me the other day:

Subject: Question on The Chase Australia

Q. Which explorer introduced the horse to The Americas

A. Dora

We are both fans of Quiz Shows (when the Australians were over at Christmas The Quiz Show Channel was never off), and we often send each other terrible answers that people give, wondering why on earth they deemed themselves intelligent enough to go on a quiz show in the first place. Some of our favourites include:

Q: What nationality is the Pope?

A: Jewish

Q: Which literary character lived in a cabin in the Alps with her Granddad and had a friend called Peter?

A: Anne Frank (the contestant was a Primary School Teacher which is worrying)

Q: Which Andrew Lloyd Webber musical is based on the last seven days of Christ?

A: Cats

Q: What surname links Canadian Prime Ministers Pierre and Justin?

A: Bieber

and our all term favourite, from Tipping Point:

Q: Which biblical character was crucified on Mount Calvary on Good Friday?

A: Joan of Arc

Oh, and the answers were Columbus, Argentinian, Heidi, Jesus Christ Superstar, Trudeau, and Jesus. But you all knew them. If you know of any terrible answers please mail them to me!

Yesterday I was chatting to a homeless guy in the village, who is hoping to be housed very soon. Through your generosity I was able to give him a new sleeping bag, a survival bag in case it rains, and a sweatshirt. Many thanks for your kindness. This Sunday is the first of the Month, so it is food Sunday, and any contributions will be most welcome, as always, and put to good use. Thank you in anticipation. And thank you for sharing in the mission of Christ – see above!

Well done to the children who have already claimed their egg and posted a picture of Tobias! Cadbury's Cream Eggs are now in the porch, sheltered from the sun opposite the R.I.P. board, and you are all welcome to take one. Don't forget, to take an egg, you have to place a picture of Tobias on the noticeboard above the basket of eggs. Put your name on it and there will be a prize for the one Tobias thinks is the best. The result will be announced next Sunday!

In other news, signs that you may be going stir-crazy during lockdown: Eileen and I could not hide our excitement when the new Henry Hoover was delivered for the presbytery, and the excitement only heightened when we saw that on the new models the attachments actually fit the body of Henry rather than being in a separate bag. As you can see in the attached pic...

Once again many thanks for all your return mails. Apologies if I don't reply immediately, sometimes they seem to get lost. 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; 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.