

Tuesday October 6th, Tuesday in the Twenty-Seventh 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 things seem to have got back to normal with the email thingy, and as I sent yesterday's Message, Ian's phone (he was counting the collection) almost immediately pinged to say he'd received it, whereas Sunday he texted me to say that he had just received The Message at 10pm at night, which had been 'sent' at 11am in the morning!

This week (and in to next week) in the Scriptures we listen to St Paul's letter to the Galatians. He had visited this Christian community around 53 AD during his third missionary journey. He was surprised to find that they had been led astray by 'false brethren', Judaizers, who made out that Christians should conform to the Mosaic law of the Jews. He wrote this letter, mainly to refute these errors. If anyone preaches a version of the gospel different from the one you have already heard, he is to be condemned. This was one of the big issues raised at the first Council of Jerusalem as recorded in Acts of the Apostles. Today, in Galatians 1:13-24 Paul speaks of his own credentials, especially how he was so zealous initially in being a good Jew. He gives details of his training and time of preparation to be one of the apostles.

Today's Luke 10:38-42 Gospel is the story of Martha and Mary, with Jesus attending a supper at their house. Mary sits listening to the words of Jesus, while Martha busies herself with the food preparations. Jesus calls on Martha to not worry, and focus on what is important. It's a reminder to us all take time off from the everyday rat race to be in the presence of Christ, and to feel his peace and tranquillity, however and whenever we can.

Almighty God,

We bless you for our lives,

we give you praise for your abundant mercy and grace we receive.

We thank you for your faithfulness even though we are not that faithful to you.

Lord Jesus, we ask you to give us all around peace in our mind, body, soul and spirit.

*We want you to heal and remove everything that is causing stress, grief,
and sorrow in our lives.*

Please guide our path through life and make our enemies be at peace with us.

*Let your peace reign in our family, at our place of work, businesses
and everything we lay our hands-on.*

*Let your angels of peace go ahead of us when we go out
and stay by our side when we return.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

And today is the Memorial of St. Bruno. Bruno was born in Cologne to a noble family, studying at the Cathedral school at Rheims. On his return to Cologne about 1055, he was ordained returning to Rheims in 1056 as professor of theology, became head of the school the following year, and remained there until 1074, when he was appointed chancellor of Rheims by its Archbishop, Manasses. Bruno was forced to flee Rheims when he and several other priests denounced Manasses in 1076 as unfit for the office of Papal Legate. Bruno later returned to Cologne but went back to Rheims in 1080 when Manasses was deposed, and though the people of Rheims wanted to make Bruno archbishop, he decided to pursue the silent life of a hermit. He moved on to Grenoble with six companions in 1084. They were assigned a place for their hermitages in a desolate, mountainous, alpine area called La Grande Chartreuse, by Bishop St. Hugh of Grenoble, whose confessor Bruno became. They built an oratory and individual cells, roughly followed the rule of St. Benedict, and thus began the Carthusian Order. They embraced a life of poverty, manual work, prayer, and transcribing manuscripts, though as yet they had no written rule. The fame of the group and their founder spread, and in 1090, Bruno was brought to Rome, against his wishes, by Pope Urban II (whom he had taught at Rheims) as Papal Adviser in the reformation of the clergy. Bruno persuaded Urban to allow him to resume life as a hermit until his death on October 6. Bruno was never formally canonized, as his religious Order looked unfavourably on such honours, but in 1623 was officially declared a Saint of the Church.

*O glorious St. Bruno,
whose name I have the happiness to bear
and to whom God confided the care of my salvation when, in holy Baptism,
He adopted me as one of His children,
obtain for me, by your intercession,
grace to lead a life in keeping with the spirit of our holy religion.
Aid me, charitable protector of my soul,
to recover the grace of Baptism which I have forfeited by sin.
By your prayers, obtain for me from God the assistance
which I need to imitate faithfully your virtues.
Protect me against the many dangers of this life,
and do not abandon me at the hour of my death. Amen.*

Please note that he is not, nor ever has been, the Patron Saint of Tobacco, despite a marketing ploy in the seventies, and has no links with St. Bernard dogs in the Alps (my brother will refer to that as a ‘very age specific reference’).

And that's not St. Bruno in the picture, but Fra Cippole, an Italian monk, who every now and then helps me in my morning prayer videos for the children. I'm hoping to put some on the YouTube so you can have a look.

It's an absolutely foul day, but I look forward to seeing some of you at Mass at noon, after which I will be popping out for my monthly spiritual direction, which I missed last week due to illness, and which always does me the world of good. Whatever you doing, I hope you all make it through the rain.

Saturday evening's (somewhat droopy and very coughing) Mass was recorded and available on the YouTube at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GYySDK388Uc&feature=youtu.be>

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.