

Sunday June 7th, The Feast of The Most Holy Trinity

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.

First of all, with the permission of their families, I have to start with the very sad news indeed of the deaths of two of our dear parishioners, Karen Gregory (Pat's daughter) and Constance Ellwood (who people might know from the First Friday Mass and Coffee), both of whom died yesterday. *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.* I have spoken to both their families, so please keep them in your prayers too. I will have notification of their funeral services this week. *Requiescat in pace.*

Today we celebrate the great Feast of the Holy Trinity, the mystery of the Holy Trinity. Three persons in one God. One God, three persons. One big mystery. So how an earth can I possibly say anything about this? There's a story that one day St. Augustine was walking along the sea shore one morning trying to fathom out and come to an understanding of the Mystery of the Trinity, when he saw a young girl in the sand, digging a hole with her hands and running to the sea and filling the hole with water. He asked her what she was doing, and she, said, 'I'm trying to empty the ocean into this hole'. Augustine said, 'You'll never be able to do that,' and she said, 'No, and you'll never be able to understand the mystery of the Trinity.' And with that she disappeared. So if we can't **understand** the **how** of the Trinity, perhaps we should ask **why**? Why God should reveal himself to us in three persons?

God firstly reveals himself to us as a Father, the word that – shockingly – Jesus himself used himself. This reminds us that our all-powerful creator is tender, forgiving, and welcoming, a source of love, promoting love, and engenders our love in return. In Jesus we have a real God and a real human being, one stunning, unforgettable life, lived here for thirty three years on earth. Here is a God and man who can laugh and cry, thirst and hunger, suffer and die, rejoice and rise from the dead. And a God and Man who gave himself absolutely on the cross so that through his victory of love over death and sinfulness, we might through his saving grace know the Father in the fellowship of the Spirit. In the Bible the Spirit is seen as God's life and breath, as a Good Lady Wisdom who allows people to see the world as it is and as it could be and lead them to do something about it, and as the fire which

empowered and brought about the creation of the Church at Pentecost. In short, the Spirit allows us to have an active faith, giving birth to and then nurturing us, the children of God, the Church.

So, Three Persons, One God. One God, three Wonderful Persons, each allowing us in their distinct way to come to a better knowledge of both the godhead and ourselves in whose likeness we were made. I hope that helps somewhat with the Why we have a Trinity. As to the Church's great mystery of the How we have a Trinity, well if the great St. Augustine couldn't work it out, I can tell you, there's certainly no hope for me. But fortunately the mystery is not about understanding, it's about loving. It's about love. And in a sense, that *does* explain the Holy Trinity.

Glory be to the Father,

*Who by His almighty power and love created me,
making me in the image and likeness of God.*

Glory be to the Son,

*Who by His Precious Blood delivered me from death,
and opened for me the gates of heaven.*

Glory be to the Holy Spirit,

*Who has sanctified me in the sacrament of Baptism,
and continues to sanctify me*

by the graces I receive daily from His bounty.

*Glory be to the Three adorable Persons of the Holy Trinity,
now and forever.*

Amen

And at last some very Good News indeed. Yey! We have been informed that our Churches will be able to open for private prayer from Monday June 15th. There are still no services or any gatherings, and there are restrictions such as no Holy Water or books, but it is a step in the right direction. Only certain benches and kneelers will be available, and these will be cleaned every night, numbers in church at any one time will be limited, and we are still waiting to find out if it will be necessary to have stewards there making sure social distancing is observed. Modified rapture, I guess, as they say in 'The Mikado.' Still, it's a step in the right direction!

*Dear Lord, I wait, I hope, I dwell in this place of expectancy,
not alone but with you at my side.*

You are all that I need, for here I can lean into you and find rest.

*Lord, guard my mind, fill it with heavenly hope
and my soul with a peace that surpass understanding.*

I pray for good news, news that brings release and freedom for us.

Yet I know that you are the good news!

*That in you I have found the greatest treasure,
the safest harbour, the most beautiful sanctuary.*

So I wait, I hope, I dwell with you. Amen.

So, let's 'Open the doors and let Jesus return as we all sing together 'Colours of Day.'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mw-7CJhlp0>

Any more suggestions for how I can raise money for a statue of St. Bernadette for the school Memorial Peace Garden?

This weekend is Food Sunday. Many thanks for everything that has been donated, and thanks in anticipation for what will come. It is all much appreciated, and still very much needed. I've noticed through lockdown that many of my regulars who are homeless have not been calling, probably because of the council getting them into accommodation. However there have been more calls from people on lower incomes, unemployed, and/or waiting for benefits to come through, and they are very grateful for the bags that I can give to them. Continued thanks to those who place their offertory envelopes in the post box, or continue to make offerings by bankers order. It is much appreciated at this time. Many blessings to you all.

Many thanks for all the great pictures 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. I've been asked to keep this running for another week, so the result will be announced next Sunday, 14th June!

Mass for the Feast of the Holy Trinity it now available at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g6QctJirdk4&feature=youtu.be>

Our Two hymns were 'Be Still For The Presence Of The Lord,' and 'As I Kneel Before You,' for a hymn to Our Lady at the end. The texts for today's Mass can be found by clicking

<https://www.rpbooks.co.uk/uploads/www.rpbooks.co.uk/12TheMostHolyTrinity.pdf>

This is an official link given to us by Redemptorist Publications as they are not sending out paper copies at this time. Paper copies of all of the above are available in the porch for you to take, and perhaps take to friends and neighbours.

In other news, Tobias, The Presbytery Cat, has spent much of lockdown acting out scenes from his favourite musicals. In the attached pick he is performing the opening scene of *Les Miserable*.

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; 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.

Watching YouTube on a Smart TV

1. You must have a Smart TV, that is one that is connected to the Internet. There is not a normal TV channel called YouTube.
2. Click the remote control to find the SOURCE – this should also show you things like a cable box, or a DVD player or recorder that is also connected to your TV through things like the USB ports or the HDMI ports.
3. On the SOURCE area, find APPS which is the place to see things like the catch up channels that work through the internet such as All4 or the BBC iPlayer.
4. On APPS, look for YOU TUBE.
5. On YOU TUBE, look for the search part and type in St Bernadette's Bispham Church as the search. It didn't show up on our TV until I had started to type the u of church.
6. You should be seeing a picture of the altar at our church with the words 'Fr Peter celebrating Mass 10 May 2020'. The date will change as I upload different MASS each week.

I hope that works. That is how I found it on our TV, starting from scratch.