

Wednesday October 7th, Wednesday 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.

Well yesterday was a shocking day, absolutely torrential in the morning, but it was lovely to see people made it through the rain to come to the noonday Mass.

In Galatians 2:1-2. 7-14 today, Paul relates more of his life after his conversion, continuing the discussion about how it is not necessary to become a Jew or observe Jewish practices before you become a Christian. When Paul's apprenticeship was over he went to Jerusalem. Many tried to persuade him to get one of his Greek companions to become a Jew. He was under great pressure, but did not give in. He was well-received in Jerusalem and even opposed some of the other disciples' practices whom he believed had had given in to the pressure of the 'Judaizers.' *'You have no right to make the pagans copy Jewish ways.'*

Yesterday, with the story of Martha and Mary we were reminded to take time out of our busy lives for time with Jesus. Today in Luke 11:1-4 Jesus gives us his special prayer, the pattern of all prayer that is the 'Our Father.' The Catechism tells us that, *'The Lord's Prayer is truly the summary of the whole gospel. Since the Lord... after handling over the practice of prayer, said elsewhere, 'Ask and you will receive,' and since everyone has petitions which are peculiar to his circumstances, the regular and appropriate prayer, the Lord's Prayer, should be said first, as the foundation of our further needs and desires.'*

Heavenly Father, we humbly praise and honour you.

Our Father, who art in Heaven Hallowed be they name.

We seek an earth that lives out your Gospel values.

Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

We ask for all our daily spiritual and material for ourselves and the world.

Give us this day our daily bread.

We seek forgiveness - as much as we are prepared to mete out to others.

Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

We acknowledge our weakness, and the help of your grace.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Amen.

Today let us sing the simple hymn to the Trinity, 'Father, We Adore You.'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ph-ZBiJETB0>

October, of course, is the month of the Rosary, and today we celebrate the Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary. In 1520, Pope Leo X officially approved the universal use of the rosary, though the prayers actually go back to the thirteenth century. In 1571, St. Pius V on the anniversary of the naval battle of Lepanto, the feast of the Holy Rosary was instituted, later made universal by Pope Clement XI. It was said that the Christians were victorious because of the help of the holy Mother of God invoked by the saying of the Rosary. In 1917 the Blessed Mother selected for herself the name 'Our Lady of the Rosary' at Fatima when she appeared to three children in Fatima saying, 'I want you to continue to say your rosary every day in honour of Our Lady of the Rosary to obtain the end of the war and peace in the world'.

*Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord,
your grace into our hearts,
that we, to whom the incarnation of Christ your Son
was made known by the message of an angel,
ma, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
by his passion and cross
be brought to the glory of his resurrection.
Through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen.*

Today's celebration urges us to meditate on the mysteries of Christ with Our Lady, and treasure the great gift that is the Rosary. Mary was very closely associated with all her son's important actions, and in the twenty mysteries we have the life of Christ as seen through the eyes of our Blessed Mother, and truly all the central themes of our faith. The Rosary is truly a 'holistic' prayer that involves the full person - the body, as the hands finger the beads, the voice, as we say the prayers, and the mind, as we meditate on these mysteries. So let's pick up our rosaries and through the intercession of our Blessed Mother pray for the needs of this sad world.

I attach a picture of Mary and Jesus, which you might think comes from the Far East, but it is actually a mosaic in the chapel of the Annunciation in Nazareth. Rather beautiful. Have a lovely day, as best you can.

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.