

Saturday October 10th, Saturday 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 here we are at the weekend again! Last week seems to have flown by, and we have quite a busy week in Church next week, with a funeral service and a requiem mass – although with Covid restriction only thirty people can be present at each service, and even fewer at the Crematorium. We are not allowed to have congregational singing at the services either, but Stephen will be playing and Kath will sing the chosen hymns for us up in the gallery. Another aspect of the 'new normal' I guess. Let's hope it won't be too normal for long – I really miss the music in our masses (even though I'm not quite up to belting out 'Jerusalem' yet). Let's hope and pray over this weekend that there are no local restrictions with regard to our Church worship. Even Tobias looked suitable solemn when I told him all about it, as you can see in the attached pic.

As he continues writing to the Galatians 3:22-29, St. Paul seems to have calmed down a little and comes on to one of the most important messages to the Galatians, that we are now all one in Christ. The old law simply made people realise that they were sinful, and as they had found it impossible to keep the law, so they would always be in sin. That is, until grace through faith in Jesus came along. Now, all of you are sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. There is no more distinction between gentile and Jew. We are all part of the posterity of Abraham, and through our Baptism you have put on Christ.

In today's Gospel, Luke 11:27-28 Jesus gives us a lesson of how blessed we truly are if we 'hear the word of God and keep it'. This is in response to someone remarking how Blessed Jesus' mother was. She heard the word of God and followed and kept it perfectly throughout our life, and we are encouraged to do the same.

*Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary,
that never was it known
that anyone who fled to thy protection,
implored thy help or sought thy intercession was left unaided.
Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my mother.
To thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful.
O Mother of the Word Incarnate,
despise not my petition, but in your mercy*

hear and answer me. Amen

As Pope Benedict said, *'We have a mother in Heaven. And the Mother of God, the Mother of the Son of God, is our Mother. He himself has said so. He made her our Mother when he said to the disciple and to all of us: "Behold, your Mother!" We have a Mother in Heaven. Heaven is open, Heaven has a heart.'* So let us all sing 'The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came'. We may think of this as a Christmas Carol, but it is really about the Annunciation, which we celebrate on March 25th, and it was at this moment that Mary said 'Yes' to God, fulfilling his word so perfectly.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dKIc8JvxGbU>

And today we have another memorial solely for England, that of Saint Paulinus of York, who, in the seventh century was one of the second band of missionary monks sent from Rome to Assist St. Augustine of Canterbury with the mission to the English in 601. After labouring for many years in Kent, he was consecrated the first Bishop of York in 625 – so I am assuming they are having great celebrations there today. He did much to evangelise Northumbria, and baptised King Edwin on Easter Sunday in 627. Following the defeat and death of Edwin by pagan Mercians at the Battle of Hatfield in 633, Paulinus was driven from his see, and he returned to Kent with Edwin's widow Ethelburga, her two children, and Edwin's grandson Osfrid. Paulinus then took up the see of Rochester, which he headed until his death.

*God, who sent the Bishop Saint Paulinus of York
to build up your Church,
grant, we beseech you, but his prayers and example
that we may make known your wonders
and tell of your truth,
that with him we may receive the reward
you prepare for all your faithful people.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

And next week we have some more memorials of early English Saints, which I'll tell you all about on the days themselves.

Ok people, here is a challenge. A lot of the most joyful parts of our worship and fellowship as a parish, the music, the children's liturgy and all the children on the altar, the First Friday anointing, coffee on a Saturday Morning and Tuesday morning and so on, have all been taken away from us for now. So any suggestions how we can instil a bit of joy or fellowship into our services and our a Parish at this time? Over to you! All suggestions welcome!

As I'm still getting a bit droopy mid-afternoon, we've decided to record Sunday Morning's Mass instead of Saturday night, at which I'm hopefully a little perkier, although everything is relative. The

Link will appear on Sunday's message, which may be a little later because of this. Texts for each day can be found at <http://universalis.com/mass.htm> Hopefully I am attaching the newsletter to this Message, as long as the whole thing doesn't go haywire as it did last week. I wonder where we get the word 'haywire'? Hold on, let me Google it. Ah, according to 'Wicktionary' The original meaning of 'likely to become tangled unpredictably or unusably, or fall apart', as though only bound with the kind of soft, springy wire used to bind hay bales comes from usage in New England lumber camps circa 1905 where 'haywire outfit' became the common term to refer to slap-dash collections of logging tools. Well there you go. As I've said many times, every day's a school day.

Have a great weekend!

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.