Saturday September 12th, Saturday in the Twenty-Third Week of 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.

Looks like a lovely day, so the last chance for a while to gather in groups of more than six! Thank heavens this does not apply to Church, and we will open as usual for our public masses through the weekend and the week.

In our first reading today, I Corinthians 10:14-22 , Paul comes back to the problem of those who sacrifice to idols - they are dealing with demons. You, on the other hand, he tells us, have the one bread, which is a communion with the body of Christ. We share the same loaf, showing that we are one with Christ. *‘Though there are many of us, we share a single body, because we all have a share in the one loaf.’*

And in the Gospel, Luke 6:43-49, Jesus stresses sincerity. Judge yourselves by the fruit you produce. If you haven't good in you, you cannot produce good. Ensure that you have a solid base in life - like the man who built his house on rock, as opposed to man who built his house on soil*, ‘as soon as the rive bore upon it, it collapsed; and what a ruin that house became!’*

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Most Holy Name of Mary. The Feast of the Most Holy Name of Mary began in Spain in 1513 and in 1671 was extended to all of Spain and the Kingdom of Naples. In 1683, John Sobieski, king of Poland, brought an army to the outskirts of Vienna to stop the advance of Turkish armies loyal to Mohammed IV of Constantinople. After Sobieski entrusted himself to the Blessed Virgin Mary, he and his soldiers thoroughly defeated the Turks. Pope Innocent XI extended this feast to the entire Church in 1684, a powerful example of the might of Blessed virgin’s intercession.

 *Mary, Star of the Sea, today we venerate your most holy name.*

 *We thank God for all the privileges He has been pleased to bestow upon you:*

 *- your holy and Immaculate Conception, your soul free from any stain or blemish, your many virtues, your perpetual virginity, the indwelling of the Son of God within your womb, your dignity as the Mother of Christ, your happiness of being Mother of the Church, your elevation of Queenship in heaven.*

 *We rejoice in these singular graces given to you*

 *and are grateful that God has given us so pure, kind, and holy a Mother.*

 *On this special feast day, remember your children who still traverse in this wilderness.*

 *Give us succour when we begin to flag,*

 *bolster us up when we stumble,*

 *and carry us when we fall.*

 *Intercede for us always and let us experience your lifesaving help.*

 *Commend us to your Son, that we may please Him in all that we do.*

 *We ask this in your holy name and in the Name of your Most Holy Son. Amen.*

And for our hymn today let us sing the Lourdes Hymn, ‘Immaculate Mary’ in honour of the Holy Name of Mary <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dcs6WPjZi0k>

Once again, I just add Eileen’s message about her forthcoming escapade: ‘*Next Sunday 13th September I will be putting my best foot forward to walk around the parish boundary in an attempt to raise a lot of money to pay for new curtains for the windows in the Parish Hall. The present ones have been up for about 30 years. Not one to go anywhere without a change of clothes I thought I might try to do the walk in costumes, based on parts of the ‘Sound of Music’. I will start walking after 10am Mass. I’m not handing out or filling in forms. I will collect money after masses or you can drop it off at the sacristy/presbytery clearly marked ‘sponsored walk’. Cheques payable to St Bernadette’s Church. Thank you and let’s pray for good weather.’* So let’s support Eileen, and if I am feeling well enough I will join her as the Bishop of Salzburg for the ‘wedding party’ part of the walk. And apparently this is Eileen von Trapp in her ‘Play Clothes’ all ready to teach us how to sing…

Medical Bulletin: lots of improvement. The Doc says it has been a very bad throat infection partly due to tiredness and low bloods. Or something. I’ve been taken off the medicine, in case it starts showing side effects (like getting better?), and the doctor wants to see me in a couple of weeks. Onwards and upwards, and again, thanks for your thoughts and prayers.

Mass tonight will be recorded and will be up on the YouTube tomorrow morning. I attach the Newsletter and Bidding Prayers Texts for masses this week can be found at <http://universalis.com/>

And make sure you have a lovely weekend, and I look forward to seing some of you over the week. God bless.

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.