

Tuesday October 13th, Tuesday In The Twenty-Eighth 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.

Looks like a lovely morning, and already I can hear the gardeners outside at their ministrations, making the grounds of the Church look so beautiful for us. We are very lucky to have such a dedicated hard working team – and if anyone would like to join them, just turn up on a Tuesday morning. Mid-morning tea and biscuits are supplied!

And as you will have heard regarding the latest news on restrictions, our public worship can continue, but please socially distance inside and outside, don't forget your masks, and continue to sanitize and do we all we can to keep our masses open.

Today we have our penultimate passage from St. Paul writing to the Galatians 5:1-6, and his message continues. Christ freed us and meant us to remain free. If the Judaizers insist on circumcision then they have to obey the full law and become slaves of the law, separated from Christ and fallen from grace. We are free due to Christ and faith makes its power felt through love.

In Luke 11:37-41 the Pharisees were at their legalism again. Jesus attacks this - they are clean outside, but inside are full of wickedness. Make the inside clean too – and Jesus expressly suggests that giving alms to the poor and needy is one way of making yourself spiritually clean.

*Thank You Lord for the many graces and blessings you have placed in my life. I offer You my heart-felt gratitude for Your countless gifts to me each day.*

*In turn, dear Lord, help me to be aware of the needs of my least sisters and brothers, and to respond to those who are poor and less fortunate with generous expressions of charity, kindness and caring.*

*On that day Lord, when I finally stand before You to give an account of my life, I pray I will hear you say, 'Come O good and faithful servant to share your Father's joy, for when you saw me hungry, thirsty, naked, homeless, ill and imprisoned, you offered your gifts in charity and you lovingly did it for me'.*

*Amen.*

And for today's hymn, let us sing 'Whatsoever You Do To The Least Of My People,'

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsYRDt\\_Bc8A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsYRDt_Bc8A)

Did anyone notice yesterday's deliberate mistake. Well, just a mistake, actually. I told you all about St. Wilfred, whose Feast Day it was, and then gave you the prayer of St. Edward, whose Feast day it is *today*. So here is the prayer of St. Wilfred, which, as I said yesterday, is rather lovely.

*O God, who endowed the Bishop Saint Wilfred  
with outstanding graces for the building up of your Church,  
grant, that by the help of his prayers,  
we may, like him, weather every storm,  
and be brought at the last into the haven of your peace.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

And I'm sure whoever wrote that prayer would have no clue about how appropriate it would be in these sad covid times.

So, Saint Edward the Confessor! Edward, who was of royal stock, the son of King Etherlred 'the Unready', was sent to Normandy, his mother's homeland, for safety in political exile when he was ten years old. Thirty years later in 1042 he returned when he was called to be King of England. His religious and just administration endeared him to the people. He was generous to the poor and strangers, and a great encourager of monks. Every morning, no matter how busy he was, he attended Mass. He refounded and endowed the Abbey Church of Westminster and died in 1066, one week after it was opened. And we all know what happened in 1066 after that. We are told that *'Thirty-six years after his death, his holy body was exhumed and was found entirely incorrupt, while it exhaled so delicious a fragrance, that all who were present greatly rejoiced.'* He is the only English King ever to be canonised.

*Lord,  
you raised Saint Edward, king and confessor,  
to excel in good government and faithful service.  
May these ideals survive and flourish among us through his prayers.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

As you know, I like every day to be a school day, and it got me wondering why Edward's Dad, Ethelred was 'Unready'. Ethelred was certainly unready to rule on his own due to his youth so the first few years of his reign he was guided by advisors. The records state that Ethelred was led astray by counsellors who advised him to seize church lands and redistribute it to the nobles as part of a back and forth dispute between monastic reforms and the rights of the aristocracy. It is probably from this, that Ethelred started to earn the Unready nickname. 'Unready', as it turns out, is a modern mashup of the original Old English which 'un-ræd.' This is a pun on Ethelred's name which means 'noble

counsel' and 'un-ræd' means 'no counsel or ill-advised counsel.' So Ethelred is actually 'Noble Counsel the Not-so-Noble Counsel.' There you go.

Whatever you do today, I hope all is good and safe for you.

Sunday morning's mass was recorded (and I am *definitely* perkier than I am at 5pm in the afternoon) and thanks to our techno wizard Ian is available on the YouTube at <https://youtu.be/BGYDUVLTzYo>  
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.