

Friday October 16th, Friday 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.

Friday again, the end of another week. Only one more week in school and it's half term. Now that I'm recovering I'm really looking forward to starting to say mass in St. Bernadette's and Holy Family again, and re-connecting with our families.

In Ephesians 1:11-14 Paul continues his poetic description of what God has done for us. 'It is in Christ that we were claimed as God's own, chosen from the beginning under the predetermined plan, to be the people who would put their hopes in Christ.' You have heard that news; you have believed it, now you are stamped with the seal of the Holy Spirit, which is the pledge of our inheritance. For those whom God has chosen as his own, there is freedom. Through this we give praise to God.

In Luke 12:1-7 Jesus warns us to be on our guard against the yeast, the hypocrisy, of the Pharisees. Do not be afraid of those who may be able to kill the body, but cannot kill the soul. Every hair on your head is numbered, so there is no need to be afraid.

*Father, we come to you in prayer,
asking you to forgive us of any hypocrisy we have shown in our Christian walks.
Deliver us from any desire to be seen.
Deliver us from needing acceptance, approval, and acknowledgment from man.
Help us to keep our minds on things above.
Help us to walk uprightly and godly before you,
without dissimulation or hypocrisy.
In Jesus's name. Amen.*

And today we have the Memorial of St Margaret-Mary Alacoque. Margaret-Mary lived in Burgundy in France. After a tough childhood, she joined the convent of the Poor Clares. She had great devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and had many visions of the Lord. It was through her that the First Friday devotion and the Holy Hour grew up. She was instrumental in getting the Feast of the Sacred Heart established. She died in 1690 when she was fifty-three, and canonized in 1920.

*O most holy heart of Jesus, fountain of every blessing,
I adore you, I love you, and with lively sorrow for my sins I offer you this poor heart of mine.
Make me humble, patient, pure and wholly obedient to your will.*

*Grant, Good Jesus, that I may live in you and for you.
Protect me in the midst of danger.
Comfort me in my afflictions.
Give me health of body, assistance in my temporal needs,
your blessing on all that I do,
and the grace of a holy death. Amen.*

And let's sing the hymn to the Sacred Heart <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G2Ejipe3rVE>

A friend of mine bought a new car the other day – well, actually not a new car, a really, really old car. He bought it back to the presbytery so that I could bless it with the official blessing of a new car. It's a rather clever prayer, referring as it does to Acts 8:26-30 where the Deacon Philip meets an Ethiopian Official reading the Scriptures in his carriage, but not understanding them. He invites Philip to climb up and sit in his carriage with him so he can explain them, and they drive off to a watering hole in order that he can be baptized.

*Let us pray.
Lend a willing ear, Lord God, to our prayers,
and bless this vehicle with Your holy right hand.
Direct Your holy angels to accompany it,
that they may free those who ride in it from all dangers,
and always guard them.
And just as by Your deacon Philip You gave faith and grace
to the man of Ethiopia as he sat in his chariot reading the Sacred Word,
so, point out to Your servants the way of salvation.
Grant that, aided by Your grace,
and with their hearts set on good works,
they may, after all the joys and sorrows of this journey through life,
merit to receive eternal joys, through Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

I have a little clip on the sun visor of my car, given to me by dear Pat Gregory, which says 'Never drive faster than your guardian angel can fly,' which is probably good advice!

*Lord, give me firm hands, attentive eyes, prudence and perfect control
so that I may make a good journey and arrive happily at my destination.
You are the Author of life. Do not let me suffer any accident,
hurt anyone or be the cause of anyone's death.
Lord, arouse in me the feelings of the Good Samaritan and Simon of Cyrene.
Make me calm and patient in difficult traffic.
Protect me against all incompetence, accidents and troubles.*

Together with me, protect my passengers.

Teach me to respect the signs, to use my car for good purposes and to moderate my speed.

May Your grace always accompany me on my journeys.

Amen.

I think it might be just easier to send for a taxi. Gerry....!

Have a great end to the week and a great start to the weekend.

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.