

Tuesday October 20<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday In The Twenty-Ninth 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.

It's Tuesday so I look forward to our NoonDay mass to see some of you, and pray for those who are unable to be there.

In his Letter to the Ephesians 2:12-22 St Paul is continuing his great treatise. You were once without hope, you were no part of God's revelation, you were immersed in the world without God. But now through Jesus Christ you have been brought together, Jews and Gentiles, and made one in Christ Jesus. You are no longer aliens, but citizens of God's household. You are all being built into the Lord's house.

In this morning's Gospel, Luke 12:35-38 we are encouraged to be always ready for the coming of the Lord, dressed for action with our lamps lit, *'Happy those servant whom the master finds awake when he comes.'*

*Lord Jesus Christ,  
true light of the world,  
you guide all humankind to salvation.  
Give us the courage, strength and grace  
to build a world of justice and peace,  
ready for the coming of that kingdom where  
you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

So let today's hymn be 'Be Still For The Presence Of The Lord', and let us pray that we are always ready for the presence of the Lord, too. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZugvUQ4m90U>

Following the dreadful news from Lancaster Cathedral at the weekend - which has finally been reported on the news - various prayer groups and friends are starting a nine day novena of the Holy Rosary of the day, as from 7pm this evening through to Tuesday evening of the 27th October for the protection of all our priests throughout the world, from attacks. It would be lovely if we could all join in, whether at 7pm or any other time.

Usually around this time of year the Bishop presides over the Education Mass at the Cathedral, with many people involved in all different parts of education in the diocese coming together: Priests, Teachers, Head Teachers, and people from the Education centre in Lancaster. Names of new teachers, or teachers in new roles, as well as retiring governors etc. are read out and prayed for. With the present restrictions the Mass could not take place this year, so instead a service was held over 'zoom' with over a hundred people watching and praying at their computers. So Thursday afternoon I sat with our headteacher Mrs. Satterthwaite in her office, and we joined in with the service. The Bishop told us 'Education is a key part of the Church's mission in sharing the good news of the Gospel with all people. It recognises that all human experience presents opportunities for developing and deepening our love and knowledge of God and of others.' And some beautiful prayers were prayed, concluding with words from Theresa of Avila.

*Christ Has No Body.*

*Christ has no body but yours,*

*No hands, no feet on earth but yours,*

*Yours are the eyes with which he looks*

*Compassion on this world,*

*ours are the feet with which he walks to do good,*

*ours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.*

*Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,*

*Yours are the eyes, you are his body.*

*Christ has no body now but yours,*

*No hands, no feet on earth but yours,*

*Yours are the eyes with which he looks*

*compassion on this world.*

*Christ has no body now on earth but yours.*

We are truly blessed to have so many wonderful and inspirational teachers in our schools. Throughout lockdown they worked so hard supporting our children in many and varied imaginative different ways, and continue to work in our schools now under very trying conditions.

*Dear God,*

*Grant our teachers an abundance of Your wisdom.*

*Prepare their hearts to welcome and love our loved ones,*

*and may we make sure to show them love and respect in return.*

*Give them grace as they help students who aren't thriving,*

*courage to say what needs to be said,*

*tools and knowledge on how and when to speak love,*

*and strength when they feel weak.*

*When they feel unseen, remind them that no moment goes unnoticed.  
They are shaping the future in one million small - yet incredibly important - ways every day.  
We are overwhelmed with gratitude for the gift of learning they share with our children.  
Bless them, Lord, and may they see even just a glimpse  
of how their faithfulness will forever impact generations to come.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

And long may their great work continue. Talking of imaginative ways, I was asked last week to make a video to help the Year 2 class who are studying baptism. On Sunday I filmed five mini videos taking them through the service, baptising a little bear I have called Alkmaar (don't ask). Since I posted them I've had several requests for more videos, so technology in this strange time is really proving to be a great help. We are hoping to do something with YouTube so that you may be able to access these videos too. In the meantime, here is a 'still' from the video.

It's looking nice outside, so let's make the most of this Tuesday.

Sunday Morning's mass was recorded and available on the YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VUzVtCt6M4A&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. 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.