

Wednesday January 13th, Wednesday of Week 1 in Ordinary Time Year 1.

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.

After yesterday's beautiful day it is somewhat a damp start, but hey ho!

Through his suffering, Jesus identified with all humanity; Hebrews 2:14-18 reminds us that he feels for us, he can sympathise with us, he can understand suffering. As a result of all of this he can truly be the one who helps us.

Another miraculous healing in the Gospel today, in which we essentially have 'a day in the life' of Jesus. Mark 1:29-39 tells of how Jesus healed Simon Peter's mother-in-law and then, in the evening went on to cure many others who were ill of various diseases. But afterwards, *'in the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there.'* The Gospel concludes with Jesus going all through the towns and villages of Galilee, preaching in the synagogues. It's a perfect day, involving prayer, preaching and healing. Let's pray for a perfect day today:

Thank you for getting me up this morning

to greet another day and live for You.

You make my life truly good.

*I know that there are a thousand different things that can go wrong today,
but I choose to focus on Your goodness.*

*I pray that You will help me have a good day today,
despite our present difficult circumstances.*

*Give me the wisdom and discernment to know how I can help someone
or reach out to someone who is hurting.*

*Help me be a good part of someone else's day,
and encourage me to think of others before myself.*

And at the end of this day,

remind me to thank You for every blessing You have given me.

May I always take delight in every small or large blessing from You God.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

And today we think of St Kentigern or Mungo as he is sometimes known. Kentigern was born near Edinburgh, Scotland in the sixth century. His mother, St Enoch, was daughter of the King of Lothian. Her pregnancy was the result of an attack by one of her suitors, whose identity she refused to reveal. Her father was so incensed, he had Enoch and her child cast adrift in an open boat on the Firth of Forth, expecting them to perish. The currents carried them across to the other side of the Firth, bringing them to land near the present town of Culross where they were offered shelter at the monastery of St Serf. Serf took the boy under his special care, educating him and training him in the monastic life. When he reached manhood Kentigern left the monastery and journeyed across to the west of Scotland, finally establishing his own religious foundation on the site of the cathedral in Glasgow. Here he set about converting the area to Christianity. At a later stage he journeyed south into England and many parishes along his route still bear his name, although I'm not sure if he actually came to Blackpool. Legend has it that he finally reached North Wales and spent several years there before returning again to Scotland, where he died around 603. From the time of his death Saint Kentigern was venerated as Glasgow's patron saint, and the cathedral of Glasgow was built in his honour, with his various reputed miracles represented in the city's coat of arms.

*Lord our God,
you chose Saint Kentigern as bishop
to spread the light of faith
by the preaching of your Word:
grant our prayer
that we who celebrate his memory
may be always true to his teaching
and so grow daily in faith and holiness.
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.*

Whilst we are in Scotland I attach a pic of a sign I took in a café on Edinburgh's Royal Mile. I wonder if it worked?

Many thanks for the contributions I have already received for the 'Tech Fund' to help our children with their online learning in these difficult times, they are most gratefully received. If you wish to make a contribution directly into the Parish Account you can do so to 'Parish of St. Bernadette – Blackpool, Account no 41334581, Sort Code 40-27-02. Please use the reference 'School Laptops'. Huge thanks in anticipation.

Have a damp but enjoyable day. And maybe some haggis for tea?

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.