

Monday January 18<sup>th</sup>, Monday in the Second Week 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.

And so we start another week in semi-lockdown. Apparently, the rest of the week it's going to be pouring down, so we need to get our exercise in today! I'll see you on the prom!

Every high priest can understand human weakness, and is appointed by God, we are told in Hebrew 5:1-10. He has to deal with things concerning God, and he must offer sacrifices for his own sins and for the sins of his people. Christ was appointed by God and could understand human weakness, even though he was not weak, and he did the things pertaining to God. He offered prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears. Christ *'became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation and was acclaimed by God with the title of high priest of the order of Melchizedek.'*

And in Mark 2:18-22 the Pharisees confront Jesus with the question of why his disciples do not fast, when the disciples of John the Baptist did. While the bridegroom is still at the party there will be no fasting. But when he goes the guests must fast. *'Nobody puts new wine into old wineskins... New wine, fresh skins.'* The following is 'A Prayer to Be Made New Again'.

*O Blessed Lord,  
I don't want to be fooled or distracted.  
The world offers me peace and security, but it can't.  
Tell it to my soul again, O Lord:  
All I need is Jesus.  
Show me once again how much you loved me  
That you gave me your Son.  
Your only Son. Innocent. Holy. Faith Christ almighty.  
Reveal to my heart again  
A love so deep and strong  
That it casts out all fear and doubt.  
It's not about an easy life, no.  
It's about my soul safe with God.  
So I'll lift my head and do my best.  
And when I am unable, you will pick up the broken pieces.  
Even broken, in Christ I rise up.*

*I am a beloved child of God.*

*He makes me new again.*

Let us sing ‘Now the Green Blade Riseth... Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.’

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UVduV0ustWw>

As I said, it’s a new week in semi-lockdon, but we have no idea what it may hold (other than an awful lot of rain!), but let us pray that we can all stay as safe and well (and as dry!) as possible:

*Bless the week ahead.*

*May its challenges*

*not overwhelm us,*

*circumstances*

*not discourage us,*

*and in all things*

*may we remember*

*You are with us*

*in our journeying,*

*Your love is our fuel,*

*Your word is our guide,*

*today and always.*

*Amen.*

In other news, in the presbytery office Eileen has taken delivery of a new laptop, which will help in the office but also with streaming masses. Eileen would like to thank everyone who contributed to her ‘Walk for WiFi’ which raised £347. I’m not sure whether Tobias, the Presbytery Cat, approves of it or not...!

Start the week with a smile – even if it is behind a mask.

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.