

Friday March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Friday in the Second Week of Lent

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.

In the Scriptures today the character of Joseph, he of the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, is compared with Jesus, being betrayed by their own people and servants. Genesis 37:3-4,12-13,17-28 tells us that Joseph, the favourite son of Jacob, was sold by his brothers because they were very jealous. But for Reuben, they would have killed him but instead. *'They sold Joseph to the Ishmaelites for twenty silver pieces, and these men took Joseph to Egypt.'*

In the Gospel Jesus tells the parable of the unjust stewards, which is really an allegory of the History of Salvation. They went so far as to kill the owner's son, the heir. This prefigures Christ's death. Grace came through this death. Jesus quotes psalm 118: *'It was the stone rejected by the builders that became the keystone. This was the Lord's doing and it is wonderful to see.'* With Christ let us pray that beautiful psalm:

*Open to me the gates of righteousness,  
that I may enter through them  
and give thanks to the Lord.  
This is the gate of the Lord;  
the righteous shall enter through it.  
I thank you that you have answered me  
and have become my salvation.  
The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the chief cornerstone.  
This is the Lord's doing;  
it is marvellous in our eyes.  
This is the day that the Lord has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.  
Save us, we beseech you, O Lord!  
O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.\*  
We bless you from the house of the Lord.  
The Lord is God,  
and he has given us light.*

*Bind the festal procession with branches,  
up to the horns of the altar.*

And let us sing the beautiful hymn 'I Watch the Sunrise' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vm-A5NikI8U>

And today is Women's World day of Prayer 2021. The theme and prayers have been put together by women from the Island of Vanuata, an island country located in the South Pacific Ocean, about three thousand miles east of Australia. The theme they have worked on is 'Build on a Strong Foundation' and all their prayers reflect creation and building, reminder us of Jesus' Parable of the Wise and Foolish Builders.

*Sand is good for walking on; playing and paddling in the sea.  
It is also found in the desert where grows no shrub or tree.  
It can be used for drainage and also making glass,  
Making concrete and other things, but no good for growing grass.  
It is no use as a foundation for buildings larger and tall,  
For it gets washed away by floods leaving the building to fall  
Rock and stone are hard to break and last for many year  
Hard and rocky mountains for some cause many tears.  
It takes much time for them to form pressed hard under the ground  
Some like marble are wrought with fire, yes, rocks are all around.  
That's why builders dig so deep for building large and tall  
For with firm foundations, floods cannot make it fall  
There is a rock who came to earth, his name is Christ the Lord  
Those who saw his miracle spread his fame abroad.  
People build their lives on him even in this age  
He can enhance any life, whatever time or stage.  
If Christ is your foundation, you will stand strong and tall  
For he is the cornerstone, the rock, your building can't fall.*

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Charles Kelly, whose funeral I will be celebrating this morning in Church, then at the Carleton. *May he rest in the peace of Christ.*

I recorded the children's video yesterday on the prom, extolling the beauty of God's creation and how lucky we are. This is a still from the video.

Enjoy the day, and let's look forward to the weekend.

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.