

Tuesday March 30th, 2021, Tuesday in Holy Week

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.

Today we talk about glorification. Once more we turn to the book of Isaiah, in which the coming Messiah is referred to as 'my servant in whom I shall be glorified... I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.' Isaiah 49:1-6 is filled with such hope – the hope that can see us through the crucifixion to the resurrection.

*Thank You, Father,
that my eternal future is built upon Christ Jesus, my Lord
and I pray that I may hold unswervingly to the hope I have in Him,
knowing that He Who died on the cross to pay the price for my sins,
and drew me with His cords of everlasting love into His family,
is faithful to complete the good work that He started in my life,
for His Word stands fast for ever and ever. Amen.*

The words 'Night had fallen' become a chilling metaphor in John 13:21-33.36-38 as Judas goes out into the darkness, to betray Our Lord. After he has gone Jesus gives a little sermon to the disciples about the hour of his glorification, 'Now has the Son of Man been glorified... You will look for me, and, as I told the Jews, where I am going you cannot come.' When the disciples question him he answers, 'you will follow me later,' perhaps referring to their own martyrdoms, their own glorification of God, years later, knowing that at this point they will all run away, and Peter deny him, despite Peter's protestations that he will follow him everywhere. Let us glorify God as we recite Psalm 96:

*Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth
Sing to the Lord, bless his name; proclaim his salvation day after day.
Tell his glory among the nations; among all peoples, his marvellous deeds.
For great is the Lord and highly to be praised, to be feared above all gods.
For the gods of the nations are idols, but the Lord made the heavens
Splendour and power go before him; power and grandeur are in his holy place.
Give to the Lord, you families of nations, give to the Lord glory and might;
give to the Lord the glory due his name! Bring gifts and enter his courts;
bow down to the Lord, splendid in holiness.
Tremble before him, all the earth; declare among the nations:
The Lord is king. The world will surely stand fast, never to be shaken.*

He rules the peoples with fairness. Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice.

Let's 'Sing It In The Valleys, Shout It From The Mountain Tops.' You can be joyful in Holy Week, you know! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6bbmYOccWnk>

I was sent an email colouring book of Stations of the Cross, which I've forwarded to the school, and has been much appreciated. The Stations concluded with this beautiful Prayer to Our Lady for these Covid Times:

*O Mary,
you always brighten our path
as a sign of salvation and of hope.
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,
who, at the Cross, took part in Jesus' pain
while remaining steadfast in faith.
O loving Mother,
you know what we need,
and we are confident you will provide for us
as at Cana in Galilee.
Intercede for us with your Son Jesus,
the Divine Physician,
for those who have fallen ill,
for those who are vulnerable,
and for those who have died.
Intercede also for those charged with
protecting the health and safety of others
and for those who are tending to the sick
and seeking a cure.
Help us, O Mother of Divine Love,
to conform to the will of the Father
and to do as we are told by Jesus,
who took upon himself our
suffering and carried our sorrows,
so as to lead us, through the Cross,
to the glory of the Resurrection. Amen.*

One of our parishioners from Saturday evening mass is in Italy at the moment, but it hasn't stopped him joining in with our services here at St. Bernadette's, as you can see in the attached pic he took on Saturday evening. The power of the t'interweb!

I will be celebrating Palm Sunday again this Tuesday lunchtime, blessing and distributing palms once again. I'll be celebrating amongst the Stations of the Cross which our teachers from the school have laid out on the altar and windowsills, and which the children will be praying around during the day. I'll take some photographs to share with you.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Anne-Marie Truelove, whose funeral I will be celebrating at Holy Family Church and Carleton Crematorium this afternoon. *May she rest in the peace and love of Christ.*

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.