

Friday April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021, Good Friday

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 a beautiful Mass of the Lord's Supper yesterday evening (somebody watching online has told me it was great that they were allowed to sing at home!), today's Message is a short Good Friday service, which you may like to pray, especially if you are unable to come to Church for one of the services today.

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Hymn: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4\\_fvFfPqjO4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4_fvFfPqjO4)

*When I survey the wondrous cross  
On which the Prince of glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss,  
And pour contempt on all my pride.  
Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,  
Save in the death of Christ my God!  
All the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to His blood.  
See from His head, His hands, His feet,  
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?  
His dying crimson, like a robe,  
Spreads o'er His body on the tree;  
Then I am dead to all the globe,  
And all the globe is dead to me.  
Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were a present far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all.*

Be mindful, Lord, of this your family, for whose sake our Lord Jesus Christ, when betrayed, did not hesitate to yield himself into his enemies hands, and undergo the agony of the cross; he who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

From the Prophet Isaiah: *See, my servant will prosper, he shall be lifted up, exalted, rise to great heights. As the crowds were appalled on seeing him - so disfigured did he look that he seemed no longer human - so will the crowds be astonished at him, and kings stand speechless before him; for they shall see something never told and witness something never heard before. Without beauty, without majesty (we saw him), no looks to attract our eyes; a thing despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and familiar with suffering, a man to make people screen their faces; he was despised and we took no account of him. And yet ours were the sufferings he bore, ours the sorrows he carried.*

From the Gospel of St. John: *Jesus knew that everything had now been completed, and to fulfil the scripture perfectly he said, 'I am thirsty.' A jar full of vinegar stood there so putting a sponge soaked in vinegar on a hyssop stick they held it up to his mouth. After Jesus had taken the vinegar he said, 'It is accomplished,' and bowing his head he gave up the spirit. After this, Joseph of Arimathaea asked Pilate to let him remove the body of Jesus. Pilate gave permission, so they came and took it away and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, following the Jewish burial custom. At the place where he had been crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been buried. Since it was the Jewish Day of Preparation and the tomb was near at hand, they laid Jesus there.*

**Prayers of Intercession** (the shorter form of the Universal Intercessions for Good Friday)..

As we recall Christ's saving death, let us offer up our prayers to God our heavenly Father.

The Response is: **Through the death of your Son, Lord hear us.**

Sanctify by your Spirit the entire people of God.

Deepen the faith and understanding of those preparing for baptism.

Gather all Christians into unity.

Bring the Jewish people to the fullness of redemption.

Shed your light on those who do not believe in Christ.

Show the signs of your love to those who deny your existence.

Show the signs of your love to those who deny your existence.

Guide the minds and hearts of governments and rulers.

For all victims of the global pandemic.

Comfort those who live in sorrow.

Grant to the dead eternal rest.

**The Lord's Prayer.** Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Let us pray. Almighty and eternal God, you have restored us to life by the triumphant death and resurrection of Christ. Continue this healing work within us. May we who participate in this mystery never cease to serve you. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord, send down your abundant blessing upon your people who have devoutly recalled the death of your Son in the sure hope of the resurrection. Grant them pardon; bring them comfort. May their faith grow stronger and their eternal salvation be assured. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

And may Almighty God bless us all, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

I attach a picture I took in Jerusalem of the slab they laid Jesus upon after he had been taken down from the cross.

Let us worthily celebrate this most Sacred of Days. Don't forget that our 3pm Solemn Celebration of the Passion is being streamed live, and will be available on the YouTube site for Easter Week.

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.