

Sunday April 4th, 2021, Easter Sunday

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.

Happy Easter!!!

Prayer for an Easter Morning.

Lord we lift our hearts to you

*As the dawn breaks, may we carry the unity we share into every moment
knowing that we are one with the risen Christ.*

Lord, we lift our eyes to you.

*As the sunrises, may this moment stay with us,
reminding us to look for the beautiful colours of promise in your word.*

Lord, we lift our prayers to you.

*As the dew air falls, may we breathe this morning in,
and know that like the earth, you sustain us, keep us and work within us always.*

And so, we lift our voices to you.

*We celebrate the greatest day in history, when Jesus rose from death,
defeated darkness and bathed the world in stunning resurrection light.*

May we ever live to praise you! Amen.

Let's joyfully sing 'Alleluia, Sing to Jesus' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=56a4w7XxvfY>

Well I have to say the Easter Triduum was beautiful, more beautiful than I ever could have imagined when reading the Bishops' Conference's instructions and restrictions, and indeed, I think some things worked 'better' than 'normal' such as the adoration of the cross, and the arrival of the lit and prepared Paschal Candle, rather than the always-a-bit-of-a-mess trying to light and keep alight the candle outdoors. And we have so many people to thank for their service, and new people to thank in this year of Covid:

The MCs and Altar Servers: who reverently serve the Lord at His table.

The Sacristans: who serve the Lord 'behind the scenes'.

The Singers and Organist: who put their God-given talents at the service of God.

The Readers and Ministers; serving God at the altar and at the lectern.

The Flower-Arranger: who serves the Lord in sharing God's beautiful creation.

The Stewards and Wiper-Downers: who enable us to serve the Lord and come safely to his altar in this time of pandemic.

The Cameraman: who serves God by enabling people to serve God in their homes.

The SVP: who are the epitome of the word 'service'.

The Gardeners: who serve God's creation.

All those who keep the Parish running practically and financially: serving the Lord as the deacons did in the early Church (see Acts of the Apostles)

The Parish Secretary: who organizes us all, that we can all serve God in our individual ways.

All at St. Bernadette's School; who have continued to serve the Lord throughout the whole of this Pandemic.

And all those whose roles have been restricted by the pandemic, but who will hopefully be able to take up active service once again soon: collectors, children's liturgists, catechists, and tea and coffee makers, and so on and so forth.

And everyone who has come to, and viewed at home, our beautiful services.

Thank you.

We praise you, Father of all;

We thank you for calling us to be your people, this Parish of St. Bernadette.

And for choosing us to give you glory by our service of You and one another.

Cleanse our hearts and our lives with your holy word

And make our service pleasing to you.

Guide us by your Spirit as we follow in the paths of the risen Jesus.

All glory and praise are yours, Father, this Easter and for ever,

For ever and ever. Amen.

So! What did one Easter egg say to the other? Heard any good yolks today?

What do you call an Easter egg from outer space? An egg-straterrestrial!

Why shouldn't you tell an Easter egg a joke? It might crack up!

I'll get my coat and make my egg-zit.

Have a most wonderful Easter Day!

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.