

Friday April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Friday in Easter 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.

Welcome to Friday in the first week of Eastertide!

Today in Acts 4:1-12 we see the first arrest of Peter and John having angered the Sadducees for preaching Christ crucified and risen, as the Sadducees do not believe in the resurrection. However when the High Priests interrogate them the following day, Peter, *'filled with the Holy Spirit'* uses it as an opportunity to preach the message once again, *'This is the stone rejected by you, the builders, but which has proved to be the keystone.'*

*Lord Jesus,  
as I commit myself to making You God the keystone of my life,  
I surrender my all to You.  
I will forever seek Your face.  
I know I can always count on You, for Your love never fails.  
You are the guiding hand that directs my path,  
The light that leads the way.  
Amen.*

And after Jesus visited the Apostles yesterday and proved his bodily resurrection with a piece of grilled fish, so today in John 21:1-14 Jesus visits Peter and some of the other disciples and helped them catch lots of fish – one hundred and fifty-three, to be exacts - after a whole night of not catching anything. It was thought at that time that there were only 153 species of fish in all the world, hence, the disciples caught 153 fish, signifying that people of every class and time would be saved through the Gospel. Again they were amazed at the power of this man - who seemed to be more than a mere man: hence the question, *'Who are you?'*

*Lord Jesus,  
Who caused the disciples to catch many fish, and be fishers of men,  
Steer the ship of my life to your quiet harbour,  
where I can be safe from the storms of sin and conflict.  
Show me the course I should take.  
Renew in me the gift of discernment,  
so that I can always see the right direction in which I should go.*

*And give me the strength and the courage to choose the right course,  
even when the sea is rough and the waves are high,  
knowing that through enduring hardship and danger,  
in your name, we shall find comfort and peace.  
Amen.*

For today's hymn, let's all have a bash at 'This Joyful Eastertide', beautifully sung here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J7TFuqp97cs>

And today let us say a prayer for Bishop Paul as it is the third anniversary of his Episcopal Ordination as the seventh Bishop of this Diocese of Lancaster.

*Heavenly Father,  
in these trying times  
when the spirit of the age  
threatens Christian values,  
on the third Episcopal anniversary of Bishop Paul  
we ask you to give him holiness of life and wisdom  
to direct and guide our diocesan family  
so that we may grow in your love  
deeper in faith,  
and ever draw closer to you.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.*

Well for my last walk on the Prom listening to Biblical Musicals I just have to end the week with the classic 'Jesus Christ Superstar' which was first produced as an album in 1970 before becoming a Broadway Show in 1971, which was completely over the top and a bit of a disaster, even Lloyd Webber saying 'Opening night was probably the worst night of my life. It was a vulgar travesty'. 'Superstar' opened at the Palace Theatre in London in 1972, starring Paul Nicholas as Jesus, and ran for eight years, and has hardly ever been of the stage somewhere since: in 1999, even the Vatican officially endorsed it, including a production in its 2000 Jubilee Year celebrations. The last time I saw the show was at the Marine Hall in Fleetwood three or four years ago, performed by Thornton Operatics, which sounds a recipe for disaster, but it was actually a thrilling evening (having some of the high Priests performed by women was really clever). At the end I went up to the band to congratulate them. It was stunning. So which version? I actually have eight different recordings of 'Superstar' but I'm going to listen to the latest one, the live television cast recording from a couple of years ago, with John Legend as Jesus. It was this American television edition that finally gave Lloyd Webber and Rice 'EGOT' status. Someone who is in the exclusive 'EGOT' group are people who have won an Emmy Award for a TV role or production, a Grammy Award for a recording, an Oscar

for anything to do with film, and a Tony, which is the American New York Theatre awards. Only sixteen people in history are members of the club, including Whoopi Goldberg and Mel Brookes. Pretty impressive. This is 'Gethsemane' from that production, sung by John Legend.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AvH19feEhsM> I noticed a change of lyric in this song I've never heard before. '*God thy will is hard, but you hold ev'ry card,*' has now become '*God, thy will be done; destroy your only son.*' I'll have to go back and check all the other versions now... It's going to be a very long walk...

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Bridie Bird, whose funeral and burial I will be celebrating at Carleton this morning. *May she rest in the peace and love of Christ.*

Enjoy the end of the week, as well as this beautiful rainbow on the Prom that Eileen took this morning!

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.