

Wednesday April 14th, 2021, Wednesday in the Second Week of Eastertide

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.

Another beautiful morning to wake up to!

'Prompted by jealousy, the High Priests and the Sadducees, arrested the Apostles and had them put in the common gaol.' Acts 5:17-26 today recounts how the Lord sent an Angel to free the Apostles from gaol, who tells them to go and preach in the Temple. When the gaol is found empty, the chief priests haven't a clue what to do, and when they receive the news that the Apostles they locked up were now preaching in the Temple, they send for them again - but *'were afraid to use force in case the people stoned them.'* Let us pray for all those imprisoned for preaching the Gospel, using the words of Pastor Wang Yi, who just two years ago was sentenced to nine years in prison for preaching the Gospel in China:

Jesus is the Christ, son of the eternal, living God.

He died for sinners and rose to life for us.

He is my king and the king of the whole earth yesterday, today, and forever.

I am his servant, and I am imprisoned because of this.

I hope God uses me,

by means of first losing my personal freedom,

to tell those who have deprived me of my personal freedom

that there is an authority higher than their authority,

and that there is a freedom that they cannot restrain,

a freedom that fills the church of the crucified and risen Jesus Christ.

Two thousand years after the Apostles were imprisoned, we should remember as we read these extracts from Acts of the Apostles, that it is still happening in parts of the world.

Today we have what has to be one of the most beautiful and comforting Gospels in the whole canon, John 3:16-21 in which the central message of Christianity was given to Nicodemus: and what a wonderful message it is:

'God loved the world so much

That he gave his only Son,

So that everyone who believes in him may not be lost

But may have eternal life.

*For God sent his Son in to the world,
Not to condemn the world,
But so that through Him, the world might be saved.'*

And with what we have been celebrating over the past couple of weeks, the passion and resurrection of Christ, we know that our salvation is assured.

*Glorious Father, we thank You for Your unconditional love.
Thank You for showing us just how great Your love is by sending Christ
to die for us while we were still sinners.*

*Lord God, we thank You for the precious gift of eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.
Your majestic Name fills the earth! Your glory is higher than the heavens!*

We will praise Your Name forever and ever, for You have all wisdom and power.

We put our hope in You, Lord. You are our help and our shield.

Our hearts rejoice in You, for we trust in Your holy Name.

Father, You have performed many wonders for us.

*You have no equal! If we tried to recite all Your wonderful deeds
we would never come to the end of them.*

'Blest be the Lord, Blest be the Lord, the God of Mercy, the God who Saves' would make a lovely hymn for this morning. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BW5DHXIU43Y>

So yesterday afternoon before heading off to Carleton I was privileged to give Barbara and Richard a Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary Blessing. Many congratulations to them!

*May God, the almighty Father, give you joy.
May the only Son of God have mercy on you,
May the Holy Spirit always fill your hearts with love. Amen.*

And here's a pic of the happy couple!

After she woke up, a woman told her husband, 'I just dreamed that you gave me a pearl necklace for our fiftieth wedding anniversary. What do you think it means?' 'You'll know tonight,' he said. That evening, the man came home with a small package and gave it to his wife. Delighted, she opened it - to find a book entitled 'The Meaning of Dreams.' I'll get my coat.

Don't forget there is no public Mass tomorrow, due to the school interviews.

Make it a great day, by doing your best to enjoy every minute.

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.