

Sunday April 18th, 2021, The Third Sunday of Easter

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.

And another beautiful day to wake up to – which does help now that we are allowed a little alfresco dining!

In our Gospel this morning, Luke 24:35-48, we are still on Easter Sunday – gosh, a lot happened that day. The disciples who had met Jesus on the road to Emmaus, and finally recognised him in the breaking of bread rush back to the Apostles to report their story. This is followed by another resurrection appearance in which Jesus proves his bodily resurrection, and that he is no ghost, by eating a piece of grilled fish – and Eileen has helpfully supplied us with a knitted version of the scene. As with the Emmaus disciples, Jesus explains the Scriptures concerning himself, *'So you see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead.'* He speaks of forgiveness and repentance being preached to all the nations, and the Apostles are to be witnesses of this. In today's first reading, Acts 3:13-15, 17-19, we see this happening as Peter explains to the Israelites in Jerusalem on Pentecost Sunday that, *'this was the way God carried out what he had foretold, when he said through all his prophets that his Christ would suffer,'* and he urges everyone to *'repent and turn to God.'* Just as some of the first words of Jesus as he began his public ministry were a call to repentance, so the same is true for the preaching of the Apostles. This is also reflected in today's second reading, from the First Letter of St. John 2:1-5, where he reminds us that Jesus is the sacrifice who takes our sins away – but if truly believe that then we have to show it by keeping his commandments. Let's pray Psalm 119, which is a prayer that we indeed shall keep God's commandments:

*Let my cry come before You, O Lord;
Give me understanding according to Your word.
Let my supplication come before You;
Deliver me according to Your word.
My lips shall utter praise,
For You teach me Your statutes.
My tongue shall speak of Your word,
For all Your commandments are righteousness.
Let Your hand become my help,
For I have chosen Your precepts.*

*I long for Your salvation, O Lord,
And Your law is my delight.
Let my soul live, and it shall praise You;
And let Your judgments help me.
I have gone astray like a lost sheep;
Seek Your servant,
For I do not forget Your commandments.*

‘A New Commandment I Give Unto You’ would make a lovely hymn for today.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aqM2Ujl7Aas>

And if every you forget the commandments the poet John Bunjan wrote this handy little poem:

- 1. Thou shalt not have another God but me.*
- 2. Thou shalt not to an image bow the knee.*
- 3. Thou shalt not take the name of God in vain;*
- 4. See that the Sabbath thou do not profane.*
- 5. Honour thy father and thy mother too;*
- 6. In act, or thought, see thou no murder do.*
- 7. From fornication keep thy body clean;*
- 8. Thou shalt not steal, though thou be very mean.*
- 9. Bear no false witness; keep thee without spot.*
- 10. What is thy neighbours, see thou covet not.*

Alternatively, why not do the ‘Ten Commandments Rap.’

*Commandment no. 1 says there’s only one God above,
So give him all the glory,
So give him all your love.*

*Commandment no. 2 tells us that idols are bad,
because they make God mad,
The punishment will be so sad.*

*Commandment no. 3 says do not misuse his name,
The Lord God is holy,
Don’t take His name in vain*

*Commandment no. 4 says that just one time a week,
To keep the Sabbath holy,
His great presence you should seek.*

*Commandment no. 5 tells you to honour Mam and Dad,
If you don’t it won’t go well for you,*

You'll be wishing that you had.
Commandment no. 6 says do not ever kill,
We are all made in God's likeness,
So spread peace 'cause it's God's will.
Do not commit adultery, is Commandment no. 7,
Keep your marriage promises,
until we get to Heaven.
Commandment no. 8 says, don't take what isn't yours,
You know if you're caught stealing,
They'll be slamming steel bar doors.
Commandment no. 9, about your neighbour do not lie,
Love your neighbour as yourself,
Telling a fib, it just won't fly.
Don't covet what your neighbour has, is commandment no. 10,
Think you're being perfect in life,
Then study these words again.

Well, they do say that Moses downloaded the Ten Commandments from the iCloud onto his tablet...

Don't forget the Church is open for private prayer in front of the Blessed sacrament between 12noon and 1pm, and I'll be in the sacristy should anybody require the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Enjoy the rest of the weekend. Definitely a prom walk this afternoon, so may see you there!

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.