

Wednesday April 21st, 2021, Wednesday in the Third Week 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 I hope you are starting the day healthy and happy.

Today we see the start of the Church moving away from Jerusalem with people scattering as bitter persecutions follow the martyrdom of Stephen. Acts 8:26-40 tells us that Philip went to a Samaritan town where his preaching is well received, and he performs many exorcisms. *'There was great rejoicing in that town as a result.'*

Glorious King,

all praise belongs to Your Name forever and ever.

You have all wisdom and power.

You control the course of world events;

You remove kings and set up other kings.

You give wisdom to the wise and knowledge to scholars.

All honour belongs to You alone.

Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Jesus continues his sermon on the Bread of Life, which will lead people to heaven. John 6:44-51 gives us the comforting words that, *'It is my Father's will that whoever sees the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and that I shall raise him up on the last day.'*

Bread of Life, you feed us

through word and sacrament.

The bread we share

a remembrance

of your presence with us.

Strengthen us for service,

that seeds we sow

in fertile places

might grow and flourish,

that food we share

in fellowship

might nourish and revive,

*that words we share
in our daily walk
might glorify your name.
Bread of Life, you feed us
through word and sacrament
that we might feed others.
Blessed be your name!*

For a Eucharistic Hymn today, let's sing 'Godhead Here in hiding.'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0vkukCN82LY>

As I was saying at the weekend, I thought the Duke of Edinburgh's funeral was beautiful – great pageantry and dignity, and the most beautiful music – and quite an eclectic selection, I thought, but all beautiful sung, and played, with the wonderful classical music beforehand. It's always interesting to find out what music people want at the crematorium, where, literally, anything goes. At a funeral a couple of weeks ago, the deceased was a voracious traveller, and particularly loved Africa. The family arranged for a beautiful piece of African music to be played, which accompanied a video about an artist who had been pencil drawing a life size picture of an elephant named Makavuzi, and the deceased actually knew the elephant that is being drawn. Check it out:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-h3Fhm9xSDM>

Managed to get quite a long walk in yesterday, mainly, for various shopping reasons, around Blackpool, and it did involve both tram and bus. I still managed to listen to 'Orpheus in the Underworld' as I walked and travelled around. I got back to the presbytery just as the finale, the 'Infernal Galop' better known as the 'Can-Can' was just starting. I didn't dance it myself, but, as you can see in the picture, Tobias, the Presbytery cat, definitely did shake a leg to it! As Cole Porter said:

*If an angry Lutheran can,
If a gangly Anglican can
If the whole of the Vatican can,
Then you can Can-Can too!*

Have a great Wednesday.

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.