

Saturday April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Saturday 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 making the best of another glorious day!

We are back to the adventures of St. Peter again this morning. He is now in the town of Jaffa by the sea, and we see him curing people and even raising people from the dead in the name of Jesus, in particular a fine dressmaker named Tabitha or Dorcas in Greek. We are told that she never tired of doing works of charity, and when they take Peter to see her body they also show him an array of *'tunics and other clothes Dorcas had made when she was with them.'* After Peter raises her from the dead, *'the whole of Jaffa heard about it, and many believed in the Lord.'*

*O God, the exaltation of the lowly,  
who willed that blessed Tabitha should excel in the beauty of her charity and patience,  
grant, through her merits and intercession  
that, carrying our cross each day,  
we may always persevere in love for you.  
Through our Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Incidentally, the name 'Dorcas' means 'gazelle' and there is a species of gazelle in Palestine named the 'Dorcas Gazelle.'

Many of Jesus' own followers at this point just don't understand his Eucharistic teaching and feel unable to accept it. Jesus knows that they are thinking, and which of them do not believe, and we are told that, *'After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him.'* Jesus offers the Apostles the chance to leave him too, but they remain faithful, *'Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'*

*Lord, You are the Holy One, the Almighty God,  
who sanctifies us that we might worship You in spirit and truth.  
You are the God that draws us to Yourself and pursues us with Your love.  
You have called us to be holy, just as You are holy, not in and of ourselves,  
but through the precious body and blood of Jesus.  
Your grace really is sufficient when we choose to drink from Your well.  
Help us keep You ever before us for You are the Holy One who will lead us into holiness.  
Teach us to love You with all of our hearts, our souls, our minds, and our strength.*

*You are our all in all and we love You dearly.*

*Through Christ our Lord.*

*Amen.*

‘Holy God we Praise Thy Name,’ seems an appropriate hymn after that prayer:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MC4pQJs6gmc>

I have got to say a big thank you to one of our children in school. Throughout Lent, Finley Potter saved up all his pocket money, and yesterday I was presented with the ten pounds that he has collected as a donation to the Church. So huge thanks to Finley, and very well done indeed!

And yesterday we had a jolly day on the playing field as I treated everyone at school to a little cupcake with a flag in it to help celebrate the Feast of St. George – with Mrs. Satterthwaite helping me out, as you can see in the picture.

And in the end, yesterday wanting a Shakespeare themed listen I chose ‘Romeo et Juliette’ whilst I was walking on the prom. There is an English version, which I actually saw in London - Wakefield’s own Jane McDonald played the Nurse - but the lyrics are so bad I prefer to hear it in French, even if I don’t know what they are singing (if that make’s sense). This is the Wedding Scene from the end of Act One, in French with a translation. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2v\\_d5HZ0iAY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2v_d5HZ0iAY)

Don’t forget we have Mass at 5pm tonight and 10am tomorrow morning (both of which are live streamed and available on the YouTube site, with our Holy Hour at noon, during which I am in the Sacristy if anyone wants the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Have a great weekend!

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.