

Wednesday April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Wednesday in the Fourth 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.

Bit chilly this morning, so wrap up if you're doing your healthy exercise walk! And please note this message is devoid of all shepherd and sheep jokes, so it is safe to read on!

With Saul, having completed his novitiate with Barnabas, the two men return to Antioch from Jerusalem. In Acts 12:24-13:5 we hear that there, whilst praying and observing a fast Saul was chosen by the Holy Spirit to go off with Barnabas on the first missionary journey, and together they set sail for Cyprus, with John acting as their assistant. *'They landed at Salamis and proclaimed the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews.'*

Beautiful, consoling words from the Lord in John 12:44-50, *'I, the light, have come into the world, so that whoever believes in me need not stay in the dark anymore... I have come not to condemn the world, but to save the world.'* Jesus goes on to explain how his words come from the Father, *'therefore what the father has told me is what I speak.'* This prayer very is a help to see us through these present dark times into the light of the Lord:

*Loving God,*

*At the beginning of Creation, You calmed the chaos of the world. Be present now to those whose lives have been effected by this time of pandemic. Grant them the grace of calm in the midst of confusion.*

*Lord, You have always shown us the way from darkness into the light. For those struggling now to see the light, we ask that You shine it a bit brighter in our world. Grant us all the grace to see a way forward through the present darkness.*

*The Psalmist sings, 'Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord'. Let it also be our song this day. May we, and those we pray for, truly hope in the Lord. And may that hope give us all the strength and heart we need to move from darkness into light.*

*Amen.*

Today's hymn just has to be 'Shine, Jesus, Shine'. *'Lord the light of your love is shining.'*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rce9UHYZw14>

News from Australia, where over the weekend they celebrated Anzac day. This is a national day of remembrance in Australia and New Zealand that commemorates all Australians and New Zealanders

‘who served and died in all wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping operations’ and ‘the contribution and suffering of all those who have served’. Observed on 25 April each year, Anzac Day was originally devised to honour the members of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) who served in the Gallipoli Campaign, their first engagement in the First World War. These words by Kemal Attaturk, the founder of modern Turkey, from 1934, are inscribed on a monolith at Ari Burnu Cemetery (ANZAC Beach) which was unveiled in 1985. Coming from the country's leader the words did a lot of healing.

*Those heroes that shed their blood  
And lost their lives.  
You are now lying in the soil of a friendly country.  
Therefore rest in peace.  
There is no difference between the Johnnies  
And the Mehments to us where they lie side by side  
Here in this country of ours.  
You, the mothers,  
Who sent their sons from far away countries  
Wipe away your tears,  
Your sons are now lying in our bosom  
And are in peace  
After having lost their lives on this land they have  
Become our sons as well.*

And the photograph shows my nephew, Paddy, playing the Sousaphone in St. Patrick's School Band Memorial Day parade in Ballarat. He's either playing it or being strangled by it?

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Ann Walker, whose funeral I will be celebrating here in Church and at Carleton this afternoon. *May she rest in the peace of Christ. Amen.*

And have a lovely 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.