

Friday May 28th, 2021, Friday in Week Eight of Ordinary Time Year One,

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.

Well, welcome to Friday, as once again the weekend approaches (the Feast of the Holy Trinity!).

In our penultimate passage from Ecclesiasticus, the piety of Israel's ancestors is now praised. Ecclesiasticus 44:1,9-13 tells us that those who were heroes and who followed the law of the Lord are remembered, whilst *'others have left no memory, and disappeared as though they had not existed.'* A sobering thought.

And in Mark 11:11-26 we have two lessons. The first half of the Gospel shows Jesus clearing out the money lenders and market traders from the Temple, *'Does not Scripture say; My house will be a house of prayer? But you have turned it into a robbers' den,'* reminding us to have respect for our places of worship. Given the last eighteen months, when many of us have not been able to pop into Church as often as we have liked, let us praise God for our Church building, and look forward to ever greater services there, together, in the not-too-distant future. The second half of the Gospel reminds us to have faith in god, and thus our prayers will be heard – and there is an little addition reminding us to pray for forgiveness, just as we are required to give out forgiveness to others; *'If you do not forgive, your father in heaven will not forgive your failings either.'*

Father,

Your Word tells us that if we forgive those who have sinned against us, then You, our Heavenly Father, will forgive us.

But, if we refuse to forgive others, You will not forgive us of our sins.

Today we choose to forgive.

Father, we declare that we will forgive those who have offended us.

Father, forgive me for my sins.

You are faithful and just to forgive me and cleanse me from all sinfulness.

Father, please forgive us for the times we have not being forgiving.

Lord, remind us of those persons we need to forgive, and help us to forgive,

And thus be worthy of your loving forgiveness

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

'God Forgave My Sin Jesus' Name' seems a great hymn for today. Nice video too!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QJ3eklr3fc0>

There are no Feast Days to discuss today - considering it is now Ordinary Time it has been quite a week, and this is the first time we will have actually worn our Ordinary Time colour of Green. Here is a rather lovely prayer I found to be said on a Friday:

Father, thank You for this Friday. Thank You for seeing us through another work week and bringing us to the weekend. Father, we pray that this weekend will be filled with rest, refreshment, and quiet time with You. Our lives can seem so overwhelming and confusing, but we know that You are there by our side always.

Lord, thank You for guiding our path. We know that You are doing 10,000 things in our lives, even if we are only aware of a few of them. Lord, help us recognize Your Spirit. Bring us deeper into a knowledge of You, so that even in times of adversity, we can rest in the knowledge that You are with us.

Holy Spirit, please wash us with Your love. We repent of our sins, and we pray for help to do better in time. We rejoice that You are forgiving and full of such a grace that ushers us forth into freedom. Our times and our days rest in Your hands, and we know that even in anguish, You have a plan for our benefit and the glorification of the kingdom. Help us to trust You in such times and be filled with overwhelming peace.

Thank You, Lord, for this beautiful day, and this beautiful week. May we increase in You, may we come into an abundance of Your love.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

News from Australia, where my sister sent me this photo of my niece Antonia, with her first car! Question; when did she become old enough to drive a car?! Well done you! We wish her, and all travellers, safe passage to their destinations, as we pray this Driver's Prayer:

Lord, give me firm hands, attentive eyes, prudence and perfect control so that I may make a good journey and arrive happily at my destination.

You are the Author of life. Do not let me suffer any accident, hurt anyone or be the cause of anyone's death.

Lord, arouse in me the feelings of the Good Samaritan and Simon of Cyrene. Make me calm and patient in difficult traffic. Protect me against all incompetence, accidents, and troubles.

Together with me, protect my passengers. Teach me to respect the signs, to use my car for good purposes and to moderate my speed.

May Your grace always accompany me on my journeys. Amen.

The late, great Pat Gregory bought me a visor clip for my car which says, 'Never drive faster than your Guardian Angel can fly.' Sage words! So drive safely into the 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.