

Saturday May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Saturday 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.

Welcome to the weekend! Having celebrated the coming of the Holy Spirit last Sunday we have the Feast of the Holy Trinity this week, but first, let's check out today's readings.

Our final passage from Ecclesiasticus should really be written and read in the original Hebrew as it is a word game, an acrostic, with each line beginning with a different letter of the alphabet.

Unfortunately, my Hebrew is not what it was (actually it never was anything), but all in all Ecclesiasticus 51:17-27 is a great prayer of praise and thanksgiving as the author continues their great search for Wisdom, with joy and praise for the Wisdom they have already attained; *'The glory be to Him who has given me wisdom.'*

In the Gospel, Mark 11:27-33, Jesus, with no effort at all, outwits the Scribes and the Pharisees, who come to Jesus questioning his authority to perform miracles and to preach to all the peoples. When Jesus questions them on the authority of John the Baptist, they are too afraid to answer, in case they incur the wrath of the people, who considered John to be a Prophet. *'And Jesus said to them, "Nor will I tell you my authority for acting like this."'* Whenever we conclude our prayers, 'Through Christ our Lord' we are aligning our prayers with the authority of Jesus, so let us make sure our prayers are worthy, steadfast, and true.

*Lord Jesus, we want to know Your will and pray Your will  
so that we may have full faith, having no doubt, that You will fulfil our prayer.  
May the church pray such a prayer with authority for the carrying out of God's will on earth.  
You taught us to pray 'Thy will be done' to our heavenly Father,  
And you echoed that prayer in the garden of Gethsemane the night before you died.  
May those be at the heart of all our prayers, our requests, and our meditations.  
And may our prayers be worthy of bearing your authority,  
Through whom we make all our prayers,  
The same Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Acknowledging our need of God's authority in our prayers and actions, 'Guide Me O Thy Great Redeemer' would make a great hymn to sing today. Actually, it is a great hymn to sing any day, if you ask me. This video is a long way from Wales, but it is rather good!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L2QvFKKCzss>

And today we remember Pope Saint Paul VI. The Vatican announced in 2019 that Pope St. Paul VI's feast day will be celebrated annually on May 29 as an optional memorial, celebrating the pope who guided the Church through the Second Vatican Council. The date of the memorial, May 29, is significant in that it is the ordination anniversary of Paul VI — then Giovanni Battista Montini — to the priesthood in 1920. He was made Archbishop of Milan and then a cardinal before being elected pope in 1963. Paul VI was canonized by Pope Francis on Oct. 14, 2018 along with Oscar Romero, and five other new saints. As Pope, Paul VI oversaw much of the Second Vatican Council, which had been opened by Pope St. John XXIII, and in 1969 promulgated a new Roman Missal. Paul VI also made history as the first pope to leave Europe. With his first apostolic journey to the Holy Land in 1964, Paul VI paved the way for the frequent worldwide travels that characterize the modern papacy, with trips to Jordan, India, the U.S., Turkey, Colombia, Uganda, Indonesia, Pakistan, and Iran, among others. He died in 1978, and was beatified by Pope Francis on October 19<sup>th</sup> 2014. Just before his death, Paul VI wrote in his meditation, 'Pensiero alla morte,' *'I pray that the Lord will give me the grace to make of my approaching death a gift of love to the Church. I can say that I have always loved her and I feel that I have lived my life for her and for nothing else.'*

*Almighty ever-living God,  
who chose blessed Paul VI to preside over your whole people  
and benefit them by word and example,  
keep safe, we pray, by his intercession,  
the shepherds of your Church along with the flocks entrusted to their care,  
and direct them in the way of eternal salvation.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

As you may have noticed in Church on the Sanctuary, we now have different coloured sanitiser bottle covers, to fit in with the liturgical cycle. This came about after we had decorated the Sanctuary with all its candles and beautiful flowers, ready for our Easter Weekend celebrations. The whole look of the Sanctuary was spoiled by the bare sanitiser bottle sticking out like an ugly sore thumb. Eileen got to work and overnight created the white cover for our Easter celebrations. But now we have moved to Ordinary Time, as well as moving out of white to celebrate other colourful liturgies, Eileen has stepped up to the plate and created other sanitiser covers in all our liturgical colours - as you can see from the attached photo. To me it looks like a liturgical procession – with the Altar server in white coming first, followed by the Cardinal in his red, with his lacey trim, followed by the priests! I think Eileen should copyright the idea and make a fortune! Nevertheless, the beautiful colours remind us of the great pageant that is the colourful liturgical year.

*God of Light,  
Thank you for all the different colours  
Which help us celebrate the seasons of Your Liturgical Year.  
Remind us to always shine our light, that's made up of many beautiful colours.  
Help us to never stop being amazed by what you can do in our lives.  
Look kindly upon our services  
filled with the colours of your love,  
and the intentions they represent.  
We make this prayer through Christ, your son.  
Amen.*

Fill today with beautiful colours, the best way you can!

Don't forget our weekend Masses for the Feast of the Holy Trinity, 5pm and 10am, are available live streamed and on the YouTube, with our Tuesday and Thursday NoonDay masses back to normal next week. See you there (or online!). Please note there is no lunchtime Private Prayer tomorrow.

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.