

Wednesday June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021, Wednesday in Week Nine of Ordinary Time Year II

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 let us hope this beautiful weather continues!

A very long, but absolutely gorgeous, first reading today from the Book of Tobit, both about prayers being answered, just not necessarily in the way we might expect. First of all Tobit 3:1-11.16 gives us the great prayer of Tobit, faced with so much misfortune, praying for forgiveness and permission to be allowed to go to his eternal home, *'For it is better to die than still to live in the face of trouble that knows no pity.'* We then move to hear about the poor unfortunate Sarah, who also contemplates eternity, having been widowed seven times, and finding herself an outcast. She too prays for death. And, *'This time the prayer of each of them found favour before the glory of God, and Raphael was sent to bring them remedy to them both.'* We'll have to read on for the rest of the week to find out what happens next!

And other trap is set for Jesus today in Mark 12:18-27 where the Sadducees, who don't believe in the resurrection, question Jesus about who will be the husband to a woman who has been widowed seven times in eternity. Jesus changes the focus to God being *'God, not of the dead, but of the living.'*

*Lord of mercy, God of the living,  
grant that we might see beyond the ruins that lie about us;  
that we might take to heart the lessons of Scripture  
which testify to your willingness and ability to answer our prayers  
in ways which we may be unable to fathom.  
Give to those who despair a vision of the resurrection which awaits all those who believe .  
Help us all to order our lives by the principles of your everlasting kingdom  
that kingdom in which faith, hope and love transfigure all that they touch,  
Where you live and reign for ever and ever.  
Amen.*

And so through the darkest night and darkest days, 'Walk With Me O My Lord.'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn199-QOr7M>

Saints Marcellinus and Peter are remembered today, of whom we actually know very little. Tradition tells us that Marcellinus was a priest and Peter an exorcist. Peter, was cast into prison at Rome for

confessing the Christian faith. He there set free Paulina, the daughter of Artemius, the keeper of the prison, from an evil spirit which tormented her. Upon this, Artemius and his wife and all their house, with their neighbours were converted. Peter brought them to Marcellinus the priest, who baptized them all. When the Senator heard of it, he called Peter and Marcellinus before him, and sharply rebuked them, adding to his bitter words threats and terrors, unless they would deny Christ. Marcellinus answered him with Christian boldness, whereupon he shut him up naked, in a prison strewn with broken glass, without either food or light, with Peter also being imprisoned. But when both of them were found to continue professing their faith they were beheaded on the outskirts of Rome. A few years after the bloody event, a little boy from Rome heard about their deaths from the mouth of their very executioner, who later became a Christian. That little boy was named Damasus, and he went on to become Pope from 366–384. Decades later, remembering the story he had heard as a child, Pope Damasus honoured Marcellinus and Peter by adorning their tomb with a marble inscription recounting the details of their martyrdom as he had heard them so long ago. Marcellinus and Peter are commemorated in the Second Intercession of the Roman Canon, the First Eucharistic Prayer.

*O God,  
Who by the glorious confession of the holy martyrs Marcellinus and Peter,  
dost surround and protect us,  
grant that we may go forward under their protection  
and be sustained by their prayer.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
Amen.*

Last week a parishioner asked me to publish a prayer to St. Cajetan for all those who are seeking employment after the covid events of the past eighteen months are so. St. Cajetan was an Italian Catholic priest who had a great heart for the poor. His compassion for the unfortunate became so great that he decided to set up a bank to offer them trainings and alternative livelihood, and also to offer an alternative to usurers (loan sharks). That bank is now called Bank of Naples. He was canonized as Patron Saint of Job Seekers, or those looking for work because of his general concern with those who had difficulties finding a job. Let's say this prayer for all who need this particular intention at this time:

*St. Cajetan, you lovingly provided financial assistance to the unemployed and often went without in order to bless the families of the unemployed with the basic necessities of life.*

*Pray, dear Saint, for all those who are currently unemployed and seeking employment.*

*Intercede for them now before the Lord and beg Him to not only provide for their immediate needs but to lead them to gainful employment so that they can be financially secure.*

*Inspired by your example, may we be kind, generous, and helpful in every way to those we know who are seeking employment.*

*Thank you, St. Cajetan, for your example and your unceasing prayers.*

*Amen.*

And in our latest throwback pictures from Paul, we have three fascinating images of the building of the Parish Hall, following on from seeing the foundations last week. If you look carefully through the construction, you can see that Denebank, the flats opposite, were being built at the same time, and the Petrol station opposite was still functioning! Cheers, Paul!

Please pray for the repose of the soul of William Hansell whose funeral I will celebrate at Carleton this lunchtime. *May he rest in the peace of Christ. Amen.*

Have a truly blessed day – and I'll see you in the Prom this afternoon. But what will I listen to? I'll report back 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.