

Wednesday June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Wednesday in the Tenth Week 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.

Many thanks for asking: both funeral services went as well as they could yesterday, and once again, families and friends were touched that we, as a community of St. Bernadette's, are privileged to pray for the repose of peoples whom we don't even know, and will continue to pray for them, not least at our annual bereavement Mass in November. Another early start – Mass at 8:15am in Church this morning, as we have a funeral service at 9am in Church followed by a service of Committal at the Crematorium at 10am, so we'd better crack on with this morning's Scriptures.

Once again in II Corinthians 3:4-11, Paul gets very personal, answering his detractors, who have many and varied notions as to exactly how their teachers have their qualifications and titles to do their job. Not for the first time in the Scriptures, Paul has to insist that his qualifications, titles, and entitlement come directly from God himself, *'He is the one who has given us the qualifications to be administrators of this new Covenant,'* the covenant of the Spirit, the covenant of life. The old covenant was not able to bring life, even though it had its great and powerful moments, *'and if what was temporary had any splendour, there must be much more in what is going to last for ever.'*

*Dear Lord, thank you for establishing a new covenant with us and showing us the way through Christ Jesus. I pray that your promises be fulfilled in my life today and teach me to follow your commands diligently. Let your Covenant have an impact on my life. Amen.*

In the Gospel Jesus gives us an introduction to the next few days of teaching from the Sermon on the Mount. In our next few extracts Jesus will look at the Old Testament law and not destroy it or undermine it, but bring it to its fulfilment in a way for everyone to live out - and also to teach, *'the man who keeps and teaches them will be considered great in the Kingdom of God.'* But prior to all of this Jesus makes it clear to everyone: *'Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish, but to complete them.'* Psalm 19 makes a very suitable prayer here:

*The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;*

*The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple;*

*The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;*

*The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes;*

*The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever;*

*The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.  
More to be desired are they than gold,  
Yea, than much fine gold;  
Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.  
Moreover by them Your servant is taught,  
And in keeping them there is great reward.  
Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart  
Be acceptable in Your sight,  
O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.  
Amen.*

‘Be Thou My Vision’ will help us to follow the way of the Lord, in this rather beautiful version and accompanying video. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Optrm7IF16s>

And today we remember St. Columba, an abbot and missionary traditionally credited with the main role in the conversion of Scotland to Christianity. He was ordained priest about 551AD: his 12 disciples erected a church and a monastery on the island of Iona (c. 563) as their springboard for the conversion of Scotland. The last years of Columba’s life appear to have been spent mainly in Iona, where he was already revered as a saint. He and his associates and successors spread the gospel more than any other contemporary group of religious pioneers in Britain. This is Columba’s own, beautiful, prayer:

*Be a bright flame before me, O God  
a guiding star above me.  
Be a smooth path below me,  
a kindly shepherd behind me  
today, tonight, and for ever.  
Alone with none but you, my God  
I journey on my way;  
what need I fear when you are near,  
O Lord of night and day?  
More secure am I within your hand  
than if a multitude did round me stand.  
Amen.*

More Wednesday throwback photos from Paul – not in the too far distant past, and yet showing some of the many even recent changes to our little village: *‘All three of these pictures were taken at roughly the same time the church hall was under construction. The old building next to the petrol station and at the entrance to what is now Denebank was formerly known as Daisy Bank. In the distant past the*

*ground floor was a store known as Skidmore's. Just down from the presbytery is what was the local newsagents and the property is dated as 1820. A little closer to the village centre was Pelham's shoe shop, which at the time of this photo had changed to Liberty World Travel. The waste ground is now occupied by the flats known as Village Court.' As a 'newcomer' it's hard to imagine what the Village used to be like, so cheers, Paul!*

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Lorenzo Tumminaro, whose funeral I will celebrate in Church and at Carleton later this morning. *May his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace, Amen.*

And continue to enjoy this beautiful week. Did't see you on the Prom yesterday...!

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.