

Saturday June 12th, 2021, Saturday in Week 10 of Ordinary Time Year I,

The Memorial of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

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, and welcome to halfway through our reading of II Corinthians. Once again, the Corinthians prove a stubborn audience for Paul, judging people – and Christ's messengers, by human standards. In II Corinthians 5:14-21 Paul reminds the people that Christ died for all and was raised to life for them, so *'From now onwards, therefore, we do not judge anyone by the standards of the flesh.'* Now there is a new creation, and Paul and his companions are ambassadors for that news, and that all of us, through reconciliation achieved by Christ, *'in him we might become the goodness of God.'*

In Matthew 5:33-37 Jesus once more takes the law further than it had been in the past, here with regard to taking oaths. This should not be necessary if, as a follower of God's ways, you always speak the truth. *'All you need say if "Yes" if you mean yes, "no" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'*

Lord,

I thank you because you are always true to your word.

You love those who speak the truth always.

I want to be truthful always,

and I want people to confide in me and also bring glory to your name Lord;

give me the power to speak the truth in all circumstances and to stand by it. Amen.

And following on from yesterday's Feast of the Sacred Heart, today we honour The Immaculate Heart of Mary. Honouring Mary's Immaculate Heart is really just another beautiful way of honouring Mary as the person who was chosen to be the Mother of God, recognizing her extraordinary holiness and the immense love she bestowed on Jesus as his mother, the person who was called to share in and co-operate in his redemptive sufferings.

O Most Blessed Mother,

heart of love, heart of mercy,

ever listening, caring, consoling, hear our prayer.

As your children, we implore your intercession with Jesus your Son.

Receive with understanding and compassion the petitions we place before you today,

especially those so deep in our heart.

We are comforted in knowing your heart is ever open to those who ask for your prayer.

We trust to your gentle care and intercession,

those whom we love and who are sick or lonely or hurting.

Help all of us, Holy Mother, to bear our burdens in this life

until we may share eternal life and peace with God forever.

Amen.

And I'm always happy to have an excuse to sing 'O Mother Blest Whom God Bestows.'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nb7PchC-p04>

So do you have any plans for the weekend? Hopefully we may receive some governmental news on Monday giving us a few more details about 'opening up' and I'll let you know as soon as I have official word on how that will effect our Church practice, always remembering that we are trying to serve the whole of our community, and keeping safe, and being safe to keep as safe, as possible, whatever our personal views. There have been some small changes, but as with many of the Churches in the diocese we await the 'bigger' changes hopefully later this month, in order that there is no 'backtracking' on rules and regulations. We also have to acknowledge that the size of St. Bernadette's, even with reduced social distancing, does not permit the numbers of larger Churches in the diocese. So let's pray for some Good News!

We are not people of fear:

we are people of courage.

We are not people who protect our own safety:

we are people who protect our neighbours' safety.

We are not people of greed:

we are people of generosity.

We are your people God,

giving and loving,

wherever we are,

whatever it costs

For as long as it takes

wherever you call us.

whenever you call us.

Amen.

And we are at the Weekend again, all ready for Mass this evening for the eve of the 11th Sunday in ordinary Time, Year 'B' (for those of you with Sunday Missals). As always, 5pm and 10am Mass tomorrow are streamed live and available on the YouTube, and the Church is open for Private Prayer

during Exposition between Noon and 1pm on Sunday, during which time I will be in the Sacristy if anyone wishes to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Tuesday and Thursday weekday noonday masses continue, with plenty of room. I look forward to seeing you there.

Well, I was dancing to Godspell on the Prom the other day! I can't imagine why none of you came to join me! Maybe next week? Socially distanced of course!

I hope you are having a great weekend.

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.