

Monday June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Monday in the Eleventh Week of Ordinary Time Year I

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.

Good morning indeed, and I hope everyone is waking up well and refreshed to the week. Another early start today, as not only I am taking a funeral at Carleton this morning at 8:30, after Mass I'm whizzing up to Lancaster for a meeting with the Bishop. I'll try and grab a selfie with him – and see if you can tell from my expression tomorrow whether the meeting had a positive or negative outcome!

But that's for tomorrow. All this week we are continuing our reading of St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians. In today's extract, II Corinthians 6:1-10, Paul reminds the people that this is the favourable time spoken of by Isaiah, and thus they must recognise and reflect and act upon all the graces that God has given them. They have to act on these graces and *'prove we are God's servants by our purity, knowledge, patience and kindness.'* Paul goes on to give a whole list of Christian actions, concluding that we should be seen to be *'people having nothing though we have everything.'*

And today and tomorrow we see Jesus continue explaining how the Old Law must be taken to a brand new, radical level. No longer is it to be 'eye for eye and tooth for tooth,' demonstrations of love and kindness, rather than revenge, are to be the mindset, and the actions, of the new people of God, *'Give to anyone who asks, and if anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away.'*

*Teach me, Lord Jesus, to be generous:*

*to serve You as You deserve;*

*to give, not counting the cost;*

*to fight, not heeding the wounds;*

*to toil, not asking for rest;*

*to labour, not seeking any reward,*

*save that of knowing that we do Your will.*

*Amen.*

And reminding ourselves that generosity is to be the watchword of the Christian, here are some more useful Biblical passages about generosity;

1 John 3:17 *'If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?'*

Hebrews 13:16 *'And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.'*

Luke 6:38 *'Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.'*

Luke 12:33 *'Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys.'*

Acts 20:35 *'In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: "It is more blessed to give than to receive."'*

Matthew 6:21 *'For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.'*

Matthew 10:42 *'And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward.'*

And as we will hear on Wednesday in our reading of II Corinthians 9:5-7 *'Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.'*

And I don't think we can argue with any of that! So, for a hymn today let's sing 'Make Me a channel of Your Peace', *'in giving to all that we receive...'*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q4BVqj\\_V4gM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q4BVqj_V4gM)

As the G7 Summit takes place, the Diocese of Truro, in which the meeting of World Leaders is happening, has asked us to pray Psalm 93:

*The Lord reigns, he is robed in majesty;  
the Lord robed in majesty and armed with strength;  
indeed, the world is established, firm and secure.  
Your throne was established long ago; you are from all eternity.  
The seas have lifted up, Lord, the seas have lifted up their voice;  
the seas have lifted up their pounding waves.  
Mightier than the thunder of the great waters,  
mightier than the breakers of the sea –  
the Lord on high is mighty.  
Your statutes, Lord, stand firm;  
holiness adorns your house for endless days.*

Well, it promises to be a lovely week, with plenty of opportunities for some nice walks on The Prom. But what will Fr. Peter be listening to (or dancing to, for that matter) this week, I hear you cry? Well,

I thought, in honour of the G7 summit taking place this week, all my walking music should be foreign shows, sorry, 'shows not in the English language' to use the correct 'Oscars' speak. I don't have a huge pool to choose from, but I've got enough for a couple of weeks or so, though some are translations of British or American shows. As it's such a lovely day there is a time for a long walk, so we'd better start off with the long, and sometimes gruelling, 'Les Misérables', all three hours of it. Les Mis started out as a kind of rock musical pageant, not telling the whole story as all French people *know* the plot, in Paris in 1980, before being translated and somewhat smoothed down into English and doubled in length in 1985 and turned into the big show that's gone all over the world. It was then *re-translated* back into French from the new English lyrics, and returned to Paris in 1991 (are you keeping up?), and that's the version I'll be listening to. Here's the finale, with the 'new' French lyrics, and an English translation. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U36PKNwIQJ4> So if you see a quivering wreck, mumbling unintelligible French on the Prom this afternoon, it'll probably be me. As they say, 'It ain't over till the dead lady sings!' And if this isn't an excuse to post a picture of me and Samantha Barks, who played Eponine in the film version of Les Mis, I don't know what is. (She was gorgeous, by the way).

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Abraham Ramos, whose funeral I will be celebrating at Carleton this morning at 8:30am. *May he rest in the peace and love of Christ.*

Let's see what the Government announce tonight. And I'll see you tomorrow – grumpy or jolly, depending on how it has gone with the Bishop (and what the Government announces)!

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.