

Thursday June 17th, 2021, Thursday 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.

And I hope your week is going well.

In II Corinthians 11:1-11 Paul makes it clear that he loves the community in Corinth, and wants the best for them, returning to his earlier theme of opposing his detractors who believed he was good with the written word, but weak in preaching - hence a poor apostle. The Corinthians are a very superficial people, and Paul suggests that they would accept any new doctrine presented with enthusiasm. He reminds them that while he was with them, he was not a burden to anyone, and speaks about all he has done for them, *'Would I do that if I did not love you? God knows I do!'*

Following on from yesterday's Gospel in which Jesus gave us some indications about how our prayer should be simple and not ostentatious or 'showy, so today, in Mark 6:7-15 we have Jesus telling us that: *'You should pray like this,'* as he teaches us what has become known as 'the Lord's Prayer', truly the pattern of all prayer, incorporating as it does, perfect praise, perfect supplication for what we need materially and spiritually, and, in asking for forgiveness, an acknowledgement of our humility before God and one another.

*Our Father
Who art in heaven
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
On earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
Amen.*

It's worth remembering that having taught us that prayer, Jesus adds a little explanatory note to remind us of the importance of forgiveness, as when we say the Lord's prayer the one line that is

tempered with the need of great action in our part is when we seek the forgiveness of God, as we only ask for as much as we are prepared to give to others. Jesus says, 'Yes, *if you forgive others their failings, your heavenly Father will forgive you yours, but if you do not forgive others, your Father will not forgive your failings either.*' So let's not forget the importance, nor the onus, it places upon us, of the words:

*'And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.'*

'God Forgave My Sin In Jesus' Name,' so let us indeed ensure that we 'freely, freely give' forgiveness also. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OHcyrLTayOM>

Last month we held a reception Mass here at St. Bernadette's, and with the family having close links to the Anglican Church, after Mass the deceased's daughter led us in a very modern Anglican Night Prayer, which concluded the evening off beautifully. In the Night Prayer Service a translation was used of the Lord's Prayer which actually came from New Zealand, making many uses of Maori references. As a 'translation' of the Lord's Prayer I'm not totally sure it works, and there is one line in particular I'm not happy with, but overall it is certainly is the most beautiful prayer in itself. Here it is:

*Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven.
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
Sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times and temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
Now and for ever. Amen.*

We're staying in Germany and Austria today for another G7 Rock Opera with the same guy who wrote the lyrics for yesterday's 'Mozart!', Michael Kunze, but this time with music by the great Jim

Steinman, who will be familiar to you as the guy who wrote all of Meatloaf's greatest hits and quite a few of Bonnie Tyler's as well (not her Eurovision entry, but that's another matter). Today's Rock Opera is 'Tanze der Vampire,' 'Dance of the Vampires' a massive, bombastic show that went down well, and still does go down well, in Europe, but was a big failure when they tried to turn it into English with Michael Crawford of all people flapping around in it for some reason (and he himself rewrote the book, the lyrics, and redesigned the costumes so that he didn't look so fat – I'm not making this up). Here's the big love duet, which you don't have to be too eagle-eared to recognise as 'Total Eclipse of The Heart.' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QJURjF51LFE> (Is 'eagle-eared' a real phrase?)

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Bronislaw (Bruno) Paszkiewicz whose funeral I will be celebrating as Carleton just after Mass this afternoon. *May he rest in the peace and love of Christ.*

And watch out for Vampires – even if it is only me, dressed as 'The Count' from 'Sesame Street'. Please, don't ask...

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.