

Friday June 18th, 2021, Friday 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 a beautiful day to end of the week it looks!

In our final two extracts from St. Paul speaking to the Corinthians Paul continues to oppose his detractors. For the Corinthians wisdom by worldly standards was very important - especially for one who claimed to be an apostle. In II Corinthians 11:18, 21-30 Paul demonstrates that he is a descendant of Abraham and a servant of Christ, who has worked hard, experienced prison, beatings, shipwrecks, brigands, and many other dangers. His apparent 'weakness' as perceived by the community in Corinth is really his strength before God. *'If I am to boast, then let me boast of my own feebleness.'*

Lord,

May my heart be ready and open to receive Your Word.

I pray that the ground of my heart is fertile and ripe to implement and multiply Your Word.

Lord, I pray that Your Word pierces my ears and satisfies my thirst and hunger for You.

Lord, let me not boast in you

and in Your goodness, Your greatness, Your mercy and Your kindness.

Through the intercession of St. Paul, and

Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

For our last two extracts from the Sermon on the Mount, we are given some practical advice concerning the pursuit of Christian holiness. In a very familiar passage, Matthew 6:19-23, we are famously told to not store up treasures on earth, but *'store up treasures for yourselves in heaven... For where your treasure is, so will your heart be also.'* Jesus adds a paragraph in which he asks us to have spiritual eyes, filled with light, in order that we can have a true spiritual vision, then, *'your whole body will be filled with light.'*

King Jesus, rich in Heavenly treasures,

You Who chose to embrace earthly poverty,

Now look at Your eternal glory!

Riches alone will not lead us to heaven,

Poverty being the road to eternal life.

Teach me to embrace a life of poverty,

To endure with the bare necessities.

*If an over-abundance arrives my way,
Send Your needy children to gather it.
Enrich my soul with Heavenly treasures,
Withdrawing its desires for earthly goods.
I trust in Your spiritual providence!
Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Let's ask for spiritual insight as we sing a really good version of 'Be Thou My Vision'

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6CMclLT_Hjg

As you know, on Tuesday I was back at my two schools celebrating mass for some of our youngest classes, and it was a joy to be back with them again. All our children are such a credit to the great and difficult work of our school staff over the past eighteen months, and we are truly blessed to have them as part of our communities. Here's a photo from each school, and here's a prayer for our wonderful places of learning.

Dear Father,

We thank you that you love us and care about every part of our lives.

We thank you that you are with us in every situation and wherever we are.

We thank you for our schools during these difficult times, we ask you will bring peace and calm to each classroom and office in school.

We ask for you to be with the teachers, as they prepare their lessons for children, and deliver them to them as your Son Jesus taught all peoples.

We ask that children will have peace as they go to school, and that they have fun being with their friends as they learn.

We ask for your healing power to be with the members of staff, children and their families who are ill or have suffered illness in the past eighteen months, that they may make a speedy recovery.

We ask that you will give wisdom to our headteachers and senior leaders as they make decisions for their schools.

We thank you for our Governors and the work they do to provide support for our Headteachers and schools, we pray you will give them wisdom as they seek to find creative ways of supporting the school during this time, and in the future, whatever You decide that may be.

And we thank you we can ask all these things of you.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Well, we've stayed in Europe for our G7 not-in-the-English-language walks on The Prom so for our final, gloriously sunny Friday, we are going to head off to Africa, although via Europe - Austria to be precise. Today's listen is going to be 'Impempe Yomlingo' a retelling of Mozart's 'The Magic Flute'

using the basic plot and tunes from the opera, but with lyrics in Xhosa, which is a Nguni Bantu language and one of the official languages of South Africa and Zimbabwe, as well as English, and a few other languages and dialects thrown in for good measure. Mozart's score is reorchestrated for marimbas, drums and township percussion, and the musical, set in contemporary South Africa, reinterprets the story from a South African perspective, telling of Prince Tamino's quest to rescue Pamina (both of them are Xhosa-speaking teenagers), daughter of the Queen of the Night, from the Priest of the Sun. It's certainly a jazzy, swingy listen, and should have me dancing down the prom, even if, despite having a working knowledge of 'The Magic Flute,' I haven't a clue what is going on! For the brave and adventurous: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w-rvIPK15nw> Certainly a nice day for a walk!

I hope you have a magical day, and a great start to the 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.