

Monday July 5th, 2021, Monday in the Fourteenth 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 so begins another week. It was lovely to see so many people around at the Weekend, and let us continue to look forward to hopeful news for the future. And today we begin our 'new normality' 9am Mass on Monday's and Wednesdays. Let's see how it goes with our covid restrictions - and I'll keep you posted!

The story of the Chosen People continues and this week, in Genesis 28:10-22, we move to the story of Jacob, the son of Isaac and grandson of Abraham. Again he is promised in a vision that his descendants will be very numerous as well as being given their own land, and God blesses him on his journey – his physical journey and his spiritual journey.

And in Matthew 9:18-26 we have further examples of the healing power of Jesus, that of the Synagogue Official's daughter and the woman with the blood disorder (we heard St. Mark's version of these two stories a couple of Sundays ago). '*And the news spread all around the countryside.*' Once again we are asked to take from these two incidents that faith in Jesus is paramount, and the presence of Jesus himself can indeed bring about miracles. This morning, let us pray Psalm 24:

*The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it;
for he founded it on the seas
and established it on the waters.
Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord?
Who may stand in his holy place?
The one who has clean hands and a pure heart,
who does not trust in an idol
or swear by a false god.
They will receive blessing from the Lord
and vindication from God their Saviour.
Such is the generation of those who seek him,
who seek your face, God of Jacob.
Lift up your heads, you gates;
be lifted up, you ancient doors,*

that the King of glory may come in.

Who is this King of glory?

The Lord strong and mighty,

the Lord mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, you gates;

lift them up, you ancient doors,

that the King of glory may come in.

Who is he, this King of glory?

The Lord Almighty -

he is the King of glory.

So let us rejoice and 'Be Still For the Presence Of the Lord.'

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y5S_-zhHfDA

And today's Saint is Antony Zaccaria who was born into a novel family in Italy in 1502. His father Lazzaro died when Anthony was two, and his mother, Antonia Pescorali, widowed at age 18, devoted herself to her son. He studied medicine at Padua, Italy, receiving his doctorate at age 22. Working as a physician to the poor in Cremona, he felt called to the religious life. He bequeathed his inheritance to his mother, worked as a catechist, and was ordained at age 26; legend says that angels were seen around the altar at his first Mass. He became a noted preacher and an excellent administrator. He also helped introduce the Forty Hours' Devotion (which we pray that next year we will be able to observe). While on a peace mission, Anthony became ill and died at his mother's house; tradition says that in his last moments he had a vision of Saint Paul the Apostle. He was Canonized on 27 May 1897 by Pope Leo XIII.

Saint Anthony Zaccaria,

helper of the poor and the sick,

you who devoted your life to our spiritual welfare,

listen to my humble and hopeful prayer.

Continue your work as doctor and priest

by obtaining from God

healing from my physical and moral sickness,

so that free from all evil and sin,

I may love the Lord with joy,

fulfil with fidelity my duties,

work generously for the good of my brothers and sisters,

and for my sanctification.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

As the 1000 Crane challenge gets underway, I mentioned that Cranes in Christian Art represent God's care and vigilance for his children. On the other hand, in Christian iconography Cat characters symbolize both laziness and lust, as well as deception and betrayal - Judas Iscariot is seen near one in several famous depictions of the Last Supper. In some medieval images, cats are even present in the scene of Eve's fall from grace in the Garden of Eden. Tobias, the Presbytery Cat, was not impressed with that information...

Hope you have a great start to the week!

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.