

Thursday July 8th, 2021, Thursday 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.

Another bright and breezy fresh early morning! And well done to the England team last night, and roll on Sunday evening – definitely an excuse for a pizza!

In Genesis 44:18-21. 23-29 we continue the story of Joseph and his brothers, with the brothers being sent back to Joseph in Egypt a second time to get more grain. They are very much afraid of him and tell the story of how upset Jacob had been at the loss of his son Joseph. This time Joseph breaks down and tells them who he is, overcome with happiness that his father is still alive. He touchingly forgives his brothers for their attempted fratricide, *'Do not grieve, do not reproach yourselves for having sold me here, since God sent me before you to preserve your lives.'*

And yesterday, having completed the calling of the Apostles, and with his retinue being named, we now, In Matthew 10:7-15, have Jesus' first instructions to the Apostles for their first Missionary journey, not being overburdened by material things, but accepting charity as they go along. *'As you go, proclaim that the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.'* We should take the instruction to proclaim the Kingdom of God as our mission too. For our prayer today, let's read over these Gospel quotes about the Kingdom:

'Seek ye therefore first the kingdom of God, and his justice, and all these things shall be added unto you.' (Matthew 6:33)

'And after that John was delivered up, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, And saying: The time is accomplished, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent, and believe the gospel.' (Mark 1:14-15)

'Whom when Jesus saw, he was much displeased, and said to them: Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God. Amen I say to you, whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, shall not enter into it.' (Mark 10:14-15)

'And Jesus looking round about, said to his disciples: How hardly shall they that have riches, enter into the kingdom of God! And the disciples were astonished at his words.' But Jesus again answering, said to them: *Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches, to enter into the kingdom of God? It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.'* (Mark 10:23-25)

'To whom he said: To other cities also I must preach the kingdom of God: for therefore am I sent.' (Luke 4:43)

'And he, lifting up his eyes on his disciples, said: Blessed are the poor, for theirs is the kingdom of God.' (Luke 6:20)

'And it came to pass afterwards, that he travelled through the cities and towns, preaching and evangelizing the kingdom of God; and the twelve with him.' (Luke 8:1)

'And being asked by the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come? he answered them, and said: The kingdom of God comes not with observation: Neither shall they say: Behold here, or behold there. For lo, the kingdom of God is within you.' (Luke 17:20-21)

And after meditating on those passages from the Gospels, let us pray:

Dear Lord,

give me the courage to be a true follower of Christ, using the examples He gave when proclaiming the Kingdom of God, in both my private and public life.

Help me to teach others about You wherever I go, whether it be through word or deed.

Amen.

And let us sing 'The Kingdom of Heaven', that great hymn of the Beatitudes.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IGNtmlbp3ZE>

And once again we go over to Paul for our Bispham Throwback pictures: *'These three photos show the centre of the old village. This 1904 printed postcard shows One Ash Cottage which was situated close to the Manchester Bank and near to the traffic island, once the site of the old post office. This lovely home was destroyed when an oil lamp was accidentally knocked over and the thatch went up in flames. On the extreme right of the photograph is Daisy Bank, opposite the rear of the church. The Old England was built in 1937 in a Tudor style, by the Burtonwood Brewery. At the time of this photograph it was owned by Tetleys. It was renamed The Albion in 2013 and is owned by Mitchells and Butlers. This 1943 photograph of the village shows Ivy Cottage to the right. Straight ahead is Red Bank Road and next to the original Bispham Endowed School are a row of terraced houses which are still standing today. It is hard to believe that there was once a farm opposite these properties.'* Great pictures, and great thanks to Paul!

I look forward to seeing some of you at NoonDay Mass, and whatever you get up to today, spend a moment spreading the Kingdom of God!

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.