

Saturday July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Saturday 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.

So how is the weekend going?

Today we conclude the story of Joseph. His father Jacob was buried back in his own country, and in Genesis 49:29-33.50:15-25, Joseph promises his brothers he would look after them, so they all settle in Egypt and the numbers of the clan grew over the years. Just before he died, Joseph reminded his descendants that God would bring his people back to the country that he had promised to Abraham, and asks that his body be returned to Israel, *'And Joseph made Israel's son swear an oath, "When God remembers you with kindness be sure to take his bone from here"'*. And Joseph dies at the age of a hundred and ten. And I guess we should finish the story with *'Any Dream Will Do.'*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VfNMhu9wdl0> (You didn't think I would let this opportunity go?)

In Matthew 10:24-33 Jesus gives more instructions to his apostles before they set out on the Missionary journey. The disciple should grow to be like his teacher; what I say in the dark, tell in the light; fear those who can kill both the body and soul; anyone who declares himself for me I will declare before my Father. Despite the difficulties they are going to endure, Jesus comfortingly reminds the disciples that, *'There is no need to be afraid; you are worth more than hundreds of sparrows.'*

*Dear Lord,*

*Thank You for fearfully and wonderfully creating each of us.*

*Thank You for giving us worth in Your eyes.*

*You know every hair on our heads.*

*You said we are worth more than hundreds of sparrows.*

*Help us live as the one You uniquely intended us to be.*

*Help us abide instead of strive, living peacefully and joyfully*

*as heirs to Your Kingdom and co-heirs with Christ. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

So as we go about our Mission, *'Be Not Afraid... You shall cross the baren desert.'*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SvmACSSntbo> And here is the rather lovely song *'More Than Many Sparrows,'* from our own local composer (he used to teach at Cardinal Allen) Andy Severyn.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MFwGvnj5vrw>

It's been an interesting week over in Australia. My sister writes: *'This week in Australia is NAIDOC week, where we celebrate all the indigenous cultures. It started in 1920 when the National Aborigine and Islander Day Observation Committee developed a protest against Australia Day. It has obviously changed over the years and now is a week of celebration and reconciliation. School and church services have indigenous themes, and the prison where I work has the indigenous prisoners (of whom there are sadly disproportionate number) exhibiting paintings and wearing traditional dress and body paint. Tomorrow they are doing a smoking ceremony, a Corroboree (tribal gathering) and traditional dances on the sport field. I will be there but obviously can't take pics.'* This is this year's quite moving and beautiful NAIDOC Week prayer, which is on the theme of Healing Country.

*Father our Creator You created all things, seen and unseen,*

*Listen to my silent prayer as I stand here before you.*

*As my weary eyes look back over distant horizons,*

*Back to those days where my people walked. The footprints of my grandfathers are imprinted on the earth and their images become real to me.*

*I see my Grandfathers standing tall and strong, warriors of long ago. I hear them singing, I see them dancing, and my spirit moves within me.*

*They told me of the emus fighting; picking the scent of our hunters.*

*The images fade away as I feel the hurt of my people.*

*I can hear the cries of my Grandmothers as they cry for their children.*

*Grandfather, You can see me as I stand here and feel this hurt.*

*Father Creator, is this the purpose of my being here? Or is it your plan to reshape my people to be once again the proud race it once was?*

*Let me walk with you and my Grandfathers towards the dawning of a proud and new nation.*

*I thank you for my Sacred Being. Amen.*

And cheers to my sister for the information and that beautiful prayer.

I am cracking on with my 1000 Crane challenge, and all donations are gratefully received, to help those less fortunate in the Autumn and Winter terms. Examples of my work are free to take from the back of Church! As usual we have our Streamed Sunday Masses at 5pm tonight, and 10am tomorrow morning, and 12noon on Tuesday and Thursday, with Weekday masses at 9am on Monday and Wednesday, with our hour of prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament at 12noon tomorrow.

I hope you are enjoying the weekend – and have your pizzas ready for tomorrow evening! I have!

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.