

Tuesday July 13th, 2021, Tuesday in the Fifteenth 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 it does look a lovely morning to be waking up to! A couple of school Masses and our noonday Mass in Church today, so on with the Message!

Today in Exodus 2:1-5 we begin the story of Moses. The people of God were being oppressed and suppressed, but through a little ruse, after famously being found in the bullrushes, Moses was brought up in Pharaoh's house. When he grew up he turned out to be a man of great integrity, promoting justice both among the Egyptians and his own people. But he was afraid of the consequences of his actions and *'fled from Pharaoh and made for the land of Midian.'*

Today in Matthew 11:2-24 we see Jesus' sadness that the town in which he has preach, taught, and performed many miracles still refuse to repent. He is regretful of the consequences for these towns, who don't realise that in refusing to recognise Jesus, they are behaving even more badly than the towns and cities of the Old Testament who rejected the prophets. Let us say a prayer for repentance, and affirm our belief in Christ as Lord.

Dear Jesus Christ,

I believe that you are the Messiah the Saviour of the world.

You are the Son of God sent to save the world.

I believe that you died and rose to give me eternal life.

I believe in you with all my heart and I commit everything I have to you today.

I am sorry for all my sins, and I repent of them all.

I give you my life today.

Amen.

And for a hymn today, how about good old 'Alleluia, Sing to Jesus'?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=56a4w7XxvfY>

And today is the memorial of St. Henry, or King St. Henry II of Germany, a German king who led and defended Europe's Holy Roman Empire at the beginning of the first millennium. St. Henry was born in 972 to Duke Henry of Bavaria and Princess Gisela of Burgundy. He took on his father's position as Duke of Bavaria in 995 and the Church supported his accession to the throne as King of Germany in 1002. As king, Henry encouraged the German bishops to reform the practices of the

Church in accordance with canon law. In 1014, the German king journeyed to Rome where Pope Benedict VIII formally crowned him as head of the Holy Roman Empire. The emperor demonstrated his loyalty to the Pope by confirming Benedict VIII's authority over the city of Rome. Henry became a great patron of churches and monasteries, donating so much of his wealth to them that his relatives complained that he was behaving irresponsibly. The emperor's extraordinary generosity was made possible in part by his lack of an heir. He was married to a woman who was later canonized in her own right, St. Cunegonde of Luxembourg, but the two had no children. For the last several years of his life, Henry had to deal with serious illness, and died in July of 1024. The public mourned sincerely for the monarch who had managed to lead his earthly kingdom so responsibly without losing sight of the Kingdom of God. Pope Eugene III canonized him in 1146.

*Lord, you filled Saint Henry with your love
and raised him from the cares of an earthly kingdom
to eternal happiness in heaven.*

*In the midst of the changes of this world,
may his prayers keep us free from sin
and help us on our way towards you.*

*O God, who didst this day, July 13th, remove blessed Henry Thy confessor
from his earthly throne to an eternal kingdom:*

*we humbly beseech Thee, that as by the assistance of Thy grace,
he was proof against all the temptations of the world,
so we may follow his example in withstanding
all the flatteries of this world,
and serve Thee with clean hearts.*

Through Christ our Lord.

And I concluded this morning's children's prayer video about St. Henry with the little prayer;

God our heavenly Father, help us to be like St. Henry;

To know when we have more than enough and share it

To know when we have just enough, and be thankful

And to know the difference between what we want, and what we need.

*And we make this prayer - a prayer which we might need to think hard about - through Christ
our Lord. Amen.*

I had to break the news to footie fan Tobias, the Presbytery Cat, that England didn't win Sunday's final... he was *most* affronted...

Have a great day, and be grateful of your riches.

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.