

Wednesday July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Wednesday 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.

Quite a busy but interesting and hopefully fun day ahead – funeral service at 8:30, followed by Mass at 9, then I'm trekking over to Beacon Fell to join Years 1 and 2 on the outward bound day, which should be fun (socially distanced as we are still in bubbles, of course). And the weather looks great for the day! So I'd better crack on!

Exodus 3:1-6,9-12, gives us the story of the Burning Bush, in which Moses was out in the wilderness looking after his father-in-law's flocks when he had the vision that transformed his life. In the burning bush that did not burn Moses is called by the God of his fathers, the one, true God, to bring his people out of Egypt, *'I send you to Pharaoh to bring the son of Israel, my people, out of Egypt.'* After this then they were then to worship God on that mountain, the Mount of Horeb. Thus events for the beginning of the Exodus are being set in progress.

After the disappointment of Jesus at the people who refuse to listen to his words and accept him, today, Matthew 11:25-27 gives us a totally joyful prayer of Jesus, as he praises and glorifies his Father that some people are indeed listening to his message, and coming to know who he is, and who God the Father is: *'I bless you, father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children.'* And that is *us* Jesus is talking about! We thank God for choosing us and pray that we live up to his calling.

*Dear God,*

*Thank you for your amazing power and work in our lives,  
thank you for your goodness and for your blessings over us.*

*Thank you that you are able to bring hope through even the toughest of times,  
strengthening us for your purposes.*

*Thank you for your great love and care.*

*Thank you for your mercy and grace.*

*Thank you that you are always with us and will never leave us.*

*Thank you for your incredible sacrifice so that we might have freedom and life.*

*Forgive us for when we don't thank you enough,  
for who you are, for all that you do, for all that you've given.*

*Help us to set our eyes and our hearts on you afresh.*

*Renew our spirits, fill us with your peace and joy.*

*We love you and we need you, this day and every day.*

*We give you praise and thanks, for You alone are worthy!*

*Through your Son, Christ our Lord. Amen.*

And to add to that joyful prayer, let us sing Mary's great song of joy and thanksgiving, the Magnificat, 'Tell Out My Soul'. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vz-FkqobgXY>

And today we remember St. Camillus of Lellis, the son of an impoverished Italian nobleman, who in his youthhood, became a soldier of fortune and an inveterate gambler. In 1575 he was converted and became a servant and later an assistant at St. James's Hospital for incurables in Rome, where he had been a patient with an ulcerated leg and rupture that impeded him his whole life. Camillo was ordained in 1584, and in 1586 he obtained approval for the congregation of priests he had founded, devoted to hospital service. There originally were 12 members, without vows, working in the Hospital of the Holy Spirit in Naples, but in 1591 Pope Gregory XIV approved their becoming a religious order called Ministers of the Sick, wearing a red cross on the cassock. By the time of Camillo's death there were nearly 300 members. Camillo was general of the order until 1607. He insisted on the utmost care for both the soul and the body of his patients. Though his own health worsened, he exhausted himself for charity, dying on July 14<sup>th</sup>, 1614, Rome, being canonized in 1746. Along with St. John of God, Camillus became patron of the sick, and perhaps we should especial prayers to him at this time.

*O glorious Saint Camillus,*

*special patron of the sick,*

*thou who for forty years, with truly heroic charity,*

*didst devote thyself to the relief of their temporal and spiritual necessities,*

*be pleased to assist them now even more generously,*

*since thou art blessed in heaven*

*and they have been committed by Holy Church to thy powerful protection.*

*Obtain for them from Almighty God the healing of all their maladies,*

*or, at least, the spirit of Christian patience and resignation*

*that they may sanctify them and comfort them in the hours of need;*

*at the same time obtain for us the precious grace of living and dying*

*after thine example in the practice of divine love.*

*Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Ian Boardman, whose funeral I will be celebrating at Carleton first thing this morning. *May he rest in the peace of Christ. Amen.*

And whilst I'm doing my best to make headway on the 1000 Crane challenge (all sponsorship gratefully received), as you can see, I do have some help... At least I *think* it's help!

Tomorrow I'll give you a report on the school trip to Beacon Fell! Have a great day!

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.