

Thursday July 15th, 2021, Thursday 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.

Well, we all had a lovely day at Beacon Fell yesterday, more of which in a minute, first the Scriptures:

Exodus 3:13-20 gives us the second half of the story of Moses and the Burning Bush. Having being given the Mission of setting the people of God free from the yolk of the Egyptians, Moses asks God his name, to be able to tell the Israelites. God replies, from the Burning Bush, *'I am who I Am... the Lord the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and God of Jacob has sent me to you.'*

We have a short but lovely Gospel, Matthew 11:28-30, in which Jesus reminds us that he is the source of consolation for all those who are burdened with life's problems, and invites us to lay those burdens upon him, *'Shoulder my yoke and learn from me for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.'* What an invitation! Let us never hesitate in coming forward to our Lord with all our needs and concerns.

Almighty God,

We bless you for our lives,

we give you praise for your abundant mercy and grace we receive.

Lord Jesus, we ask you to give us all around peace in our mind, body, soul, and spirit.

We want you to heal and remove everything that is causing stress, grief,

and sorrow in our lives.

When our pressing needs and worries can feel overwhelming

Please remind us of your constant love, healing, and grace.

Thank you that you have set us free and that you are bigger than anything we face in this life.

We lay our burdens before you, every single one,

for we know they're much safer in your hands than our own.

Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

It's a simple hymn, and one that I often sing and sign with the children, but it seems appropriate, 'Peace, Perfect, Peace Is The Gift Of Christ Our Lord.'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DWa8oWu1nQ>

And today we celebrate the Feast of St. Bonaventure, Bishop, Theologian and Doctor of the Church, who was born in 1221. When he was a child, he was cured of a serious illness and was healed through the intercession of Francis of Assisi. At the age of twenty-two St. Bonaventure entered the Franciscan Order. After making his vows, he went to Paris to study theology and philosophy. In Paris he became a close friend of the great St. Thomas Aquinas. At the age of thirty-five he was chosen General of his Order and restored a perfect calm where peace had been disturbed by internal dissensions. He did much for his Order and composed The Life of St. Francis. He also assisted at the translation of the relics of St. Anthony of Padua. Pope Clement IV chose him to be Archbishop of York, England, but Bonaventure bagged off, claiming to be inadequate to the office. He died while he was assisting at the Second Council of Lyons, on July 15, 1274. This is one of Bonaventure's own prayers:

*Pierce, O most sweet Lord Jesus,
my inmost soul with the most joyous and healthful wound of Thy love,
and with true, calm and most holy apostolic charity,
that my soul may ever languish and melt with entire love and longing for Thee,
may yearn for Thee and for thy courts, may long to be dissolved and to be with Thee.
Grant that my soul may hunger after Thee, the Bread of Angels, the refreshment of holy souls,
our daily and super substantial bread, having all sweetness, savour and every delightful taste.
May my heart ever hunger after and feed upon Thee, Whom the angels desire to look upon,
in Whom may my mind and my heart be ever fixed and firm and rooted immovably. Amen.*

*Grant, we pray, almighty God,
That, just as we celebrate the heavenly birthday
of the Bishop Saint Bonaventure,
we may benefit from his great learning
and constantly imitate the ardour of his charity.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.*

So yesterday was the great fun School Trip with Years 1 and 2 to Beacon Fell. I met up with the coach at Beacon fell itself (I couldn't travel with the children as then I would have been in their bubble and forced to isolate if the bubble went down). After a walk into the forest (with my group singing 'Into the Woods') we gathered stuff from the forest floor and made a hotel for bugs – with the children wanting quite a swish hotel as they insisted that the rooms had balconies, and that the hotel itself was equipped with a pool and a spa room! After a lunch on a lawn, we then drew pictures of what we could see, both close up and in the distance (and Blackpool Tower was visible clearly). And then back to school for an ice cream to end the day. Huge thanks to the teachers and volunteers, and

the children themselves who were a credit to the school throughout the whole day. A couple of pictures are attached – including our ‘Bug Hotel’.

Whatever you may be doing today, make some time for some fun.

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.