

Friday July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Friday 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.

Another early start, as I have another early funeral, and this afternoon we celebrate our Year 6 Leaver's Mass in Church. So on with the beautiful Morning and the Day!

We move on with the story of the Exodus, 11:10-12:14, glossing over the ten plagues and all the strange happenings that eventually persuaded Pharaoh to let the Israelites go. Their last act in the land was to eat the first Passover meal - the meal that all good Jews partake of each year to commemorate what the Lord had done for them. Moses gives them the details of this ritual meal, and the order to commemorate the day, *'This day is to be a day of remembrance for you, and you must celebrate as a feast in the Lord's honour. For all generations you are to declare it a day of festival, for ever.'*

In Matthew 12:13-21 we have an example of how the Pharisees put the details of the law before the person, making the laws of the sabbath so strict that instead of it being a day of rest to honour God, it was a day filled with restrictions. Jesus confounds their objections to the Apostles picking corn, *'For the Son of Man is master of the Sabbath.'* Let us pray for peace and faith-filled Sabbath days for ourselves:

*God our heavenly Father,*

*Each Sabbath Sunday we celebrate Your magnificent splendour for by Your hand You placed time in motion from the first day of creation until this day Your creative wonders have filled the universe*

*Each Sunday may all peoples celebrate Your mighty power, for by Your hand you raised Christ from the grave. From Resurrection Sunday forward Your love has given life to all mankind. Father we thank you for each Sunday.*

*We give this special day over to You. May we rest your presence and bathe in Your goodness and celebrate Your eternal life each Sunday and always*

*Amen.*

And today we turn to Our Blessed Mother Mary and remember our Lady of Mount Carmel.

*Most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel,*

*fruitful vine, splendour of Heaven,*

*Blessed Mother of the Son of God,*

*Immaculate Virgin,  
help me and show me herein You are my Mother.  
O Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
Queen of Heaven and Earth,  
I humbly beseech You from the bottom of my heart  
to help me in all my needs  
There are none that can withstand Your power.  
Through your Son, Christ our Lord. Amen.*

So for our hymn, let's sing, 'Immaculate Mary', with some slightly different words but the same great tune: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IaquwkiPwJU>

And now we go over to Paul for our Bispham Throwback pictures of the week:

*Photograph one is taken from a 1909 postcard and is of Bethel Chapel. The sender wrote 'We attended service at the chapel, 29 present all told. Very nice and restful service'. John Porter in his History of the Fylde (1876) records: 'There is a small Nonconformist place of worship in the village, surrounded by a wall, being partially covered with ivy and overshadowed by trees'. The chapel was built in 1834 and it stood on the site of the current main roundabout. The Congregationalists moved out about 1912 when their new church was built in Cavendish Road and the old chapel was demolished around 1914. On the right of the photo is Red Bank Road and Bamber's Farm can be seen opposite the chapel. Above the door of the chapel is a stone plaque and this can now be found in the front wall of the United Reformed Church.*

*The second photo is taken from a 1934 printed postcard looking down the village. It was clearly a very different place 87 years ago. Ivy cottage is centre left just beyond the cart. It had competition as there was a tearoom which can be seen centre right.*

*The third photo is taken from a printed postcard and shows Bispham Library and its gardens. I would say the photo was taken in the late 40's or early 50's, going off the type of bus...a Leyland TD5, I think!...that is in use. Note the lack of buildings in the near distance and in particular to the left of the photo. Warbreck Water Tower, built in 1932, can be seen in the distance on the right of the photo.*

Once again, huge thanks to Paul. It's also kind of nice to actual be able to recognise the Library in pre-scary-roundabout days!

This afternoon, as I said, we have our Year Six leavers Mass. Let us say a prayer for our students who are moving on in their journey of life and faith:

*As you go dear friends, you walk upon a bed of love, on which our prayers are falling softly every day.*

*As you go, remember that our hearts will hold you close. You're treasured, and we will cheer you on your way.*

*As you go dear friends, you travel with Christ at your side. His light will show a path and be your guide. As you go, be hopeful that you're following your dreams. We celebrate this new season of your life.*

*Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Ian Browne, whose funeral I am celebrating this morning at Carleton. *May he rest in peace. Amen.*

Enjoy the end of the week – and take care if you have to approach that mad traffic roundabout!

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.