

Saturday July 17th, 2021, Saturday 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 a beautiful weekend it promises to be!

And so in Exodus 12:37-42 the actual Exodus begins, with the Israelites marching out of Egypt after their so many hundreds of years in exile – four hundred and thirty-eight to be precise. Everything had to be done in a hurry, but they were being guided by their God. And once again, the Scriptures remind them that the Exodus must be kept as a celebration, *'The night, when the Lord kept vigil to bring them out of the land of Egypt, must be kept as a vigil on honour of the Lord of all their generations,'* which, of course, it still is.

The same Pharisees who had been arguing with Jesus about the Sabbath in Matthew 12:14-21 began to plot against him. The Gospel at this point reminds us that Jesus' ministry, in particular his miracles of healing, are fulfilling the prophecies of Isaiah; *'Here is my servant whom I have sent... in his name the nations will put their trust,'* as the Israelites did, for that matter, when they began their Exodus from Egypt.

*We beseech thee, Master, to be our helper and protector.
Save the afflicted among us; have mercy on the lowly;
raise up the fallen; appear to the needy; heal the ungodly;
restore the wanderers of thy people;
feed the hungry; ransom our prisoners;
raise up the sick; comfort the faint-hearted.
Lord God,
You have called your servants
to ventures of which we cannot see the ending,
by paths as yet untrodden,
through perils unknown.
Give us faith to go out with good courage,
not knowing where we go,
but only that your hand is leading us
and your love supporting us,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Amen.

And as the Israelites begin their long march out of Egypt how about we sing ‘Onward Christian Soldiers, Marching as to War.’ Rather a good version;

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

Yesterday afternoon Year 6 celebrated a beautiful ‘Leaver’s Mass’ in Church, along with invited parents and grandparents. It was not the usual end of term celebration, but the best they could possibly do with all our covid restrictions, and on Monday afternoon in Church we will have an Assembly looking back over their seven years. These were the Prayers of Intercession, which the children put together themselves. Let us pray them with and for our young people.

Let us pray: that we may be truly grateful for the gift of God in our lives and for our friendships. We look now to the future and pray for everyone here, and for our intentions.

God our Father, bless all the children of this school community. We give thanks for the joy they bring. May they continue to grow in understanding of your love for them.

God our Father, thank you for all the teachers who work to make our school a safe, happy and caring place; in which to learn. We give thanks in this Mass for their guidance and support.

God our Father, you give us our parents to love and care for us. Through them, we come to know how much you love and care for us. Bless them always and keep them close in your love.

God our Father, we ask you to bless, Father Peter, who has been a rock to our school during the year. We give thanks for the many ways in which he helped all of us to come to know you. Bless him and his priestly work in the parish.

God, our Father, we ask you to bless us, the Year Six children, as we leave our school. May we always value the gifts of friendship, care and compassion. May we always be sensitive to the needs of others.

For friendship between nations, for peace and justice in our own country, and that developed countries may not abuse the poverty of other nations.

We make this and all our prayers, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

And here in the pictures are what I was up to twenty-seven years ago today. As always, please keep me in your prayers.

As well as the usual weekend services and prayer times, please note that Adoration on Sunday will only be for half an hour from 12noon till 12:30am, as we have a baptism at 1pm. I look forward to seeing you over the weekend and the week – or you can always catch us online! Listen out for the Bishops’ instructions for services from 19th July – I’ll announce them over the weekend and put them on the Newsletter (next week) and This Message. And all donations to the 1000 Crane Fund are gratefully accepted!

I hope you are having a great weekend.

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.