

Wednesday July 21st, 2021, Wednesday in the Sixteenth 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.

Glorious Morning (although always able to find a cloud to the silver lining, the hayfever is playing havoc with my eyes, so if you see me wearing shades, you'll understand why!).

The Israelites had short memories. Once in the wilderness in Exodus 16:1-5.9-15 they began to grumble against Moses again, a pattern which will be continually repeated throughout the journey. 'We had plenty of food in Egypt, why come out here to die in the wilderness?' The Lord did not desert them, but sent them the quail and the manna, even though they at first wary as to what the manna is, *'The sons of Israel said to one another, "What is that?" not knowing what it was. "That," said Moses to them, "is the bread the Lord gives you to eat,"'* The word manna actual means 'What is it?' in Hebrew. Manna is also known in the Bible as the 'bread of heaven,' 'corn of heaven,' 'angel's food,' and 'spiritual meat.' And if you wonder what it looked and tasted like the Bible gives us three descriptions: Exodus 16:14, *'When the dew evaporated, a flaky substance as fine as frost blanketed the ground,'* Exodus 16:31, *'The Israelites called the food manna. It was white like coriander seed, and it tasted like honey wafers,'* and Numbers 11:7, *'The manna looked like small coriander seeds, and it was pale yellow like gum resin.'*

Lord Jesus, thank you for all the food received from your merciful bounty yesterday, today and tomorrow.

Thank you, Lord, for the doors you have opened and the doors you have closed.

Thank you, Lord, for forgiving me my failures and thank you for my faith.

Amen.

Matthew 13:1-9 gives us the familiar parable (at least I hope it's familiar) of the Sower, who sows his seed on various types of land, all of which respond to the seed in different ways, with only the rich soil producing the crop, *'some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.'* The Gospel concludes, *'Listen, anyone who has ears.'* We pray that the word of God which has been sown in us will produce good fruit.

Lord, help me to become truly fertile soil for Your most holy Word.

May I receive all that You speak and may the seed of faith be planted deep within.

Help this faith to grow and to produce the blessings You wish to bestow.

Jesus, I trust in You.

Amen.

‘How Lovely On the Mountains Are the Feet Of Him.’ A wonderful hymn for today, or any day!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_IHBEIWZ9k4

And our Saint today is Laurence of Brindisi. Lawrence was born on July 22, 1559, and after the early death of his parents, he was educated by his uncle at the College of St. Mark in Venice. When he was just 16, he entered the Capuchin Franciscan Order in Venice and was ordained a priest at 23. With his facility for languages Lawrence was able to study the Bible in its original texts. At the request of Pope Clement VIII, he spent much time preaching to the Jews in Italy. So excellent was his knowledge of Hebrew, the rabbis felt sure he was a Jew who had become a Christian. He was elected major superior of the Capuchin Franciscan Order, and is said to have had the combination of brilliance, human compassion, and administrative skill needed to carry out his duties. In rapid succession he was promoted by his fellow Capuchins and was elected minister general of the Capuchins in 1602. Lawrence was appointed papal emissary and peacemaker, a job which took him to a number of foreign countries. Serious illness in Lisbon took his life in 1619.

*O God, who for the glory of your name
and for the salvation of souls
bestowed on the Priest Saint Lawrence of Brindisi
a spirit of counsel and fortitude,
grant, we pray, that in the same spirit,
we may know what must be done
and, through his intercession,
bring it to completion.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.
Amen.*

Sad to report that Monday night in the hall we had a mini break in. Nothing major was stolen, and no doors or windows had been left open. Please be vigilant around the property and let's all keep as safe as possible.

I hope everyone in school is enjoying the first day of the holidays, and that everyone is enjoying this sunny Wednesday. Take time to say thank you to God for his blessings – as I did when seeing these pictures of the Prom yesterday.

Dear Father God, I thank you for waking me up today, another day of life. You have given me another sunrise to enjoy. Thank you, Lord God, for the wonderful sounds of nature and the cool breeze brushing through the trees making the birds sing beautiful melodies. You are a great Father, Lord, always full of grace and mercy. I praise you, Father, for allowing me to live another beautiful day in Your Kingdom here on earth. Through your Son, Christ our Lord. Amen.

Enjoy!

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.