

Wednesday July 28th, 2021, Wednesday in the Seventeenth 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.

Slight change in the weather perhaps? Looking on the positive side as always, let's say it's lovely and fresh, and yesterday's gardeners will no doubt be happy that the ground is getting a watering!

After praying for so long in the presence of God, in Exodus 34:29-35 the face of Moses was radiant and showed forth the glory of God. The people realised that God was really with them and so they began at last to listen to Moses as he passed on the instructions he got from God – instructions for the creation of the community of the People of God.

In Matthew 13:44-46 Jesus gives two more tiny parables which remind us how important our faith in the Kingdom of God should be – like treasure in a field or a pearl of great price which someone would do everything to attain. How lucky we are to have been given the great gift of faith! This is an ancient Celtic Prayer of Faith by Brigid of Gael from the fifth century:

I arise today Through a mighty strength:

God's power to guide me,

God's might to uphold me,

God's eyes to watch over me;

God's ear to hear me,

God's word to give me speech,

God's hand to guard me,

God's way to lie before me,

God's shield to shelter me,

God's host to secure me.

Amen.

'My God Accept My Heart This Day...' and every day.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IRQw_5efEUM

And as our school children are enjoying the first full week of the Summer Holidays after what has been the most extraordinary year, our headmistress Mrs. Satterthwaite writes to the parish:

I just wanted to express my huge appreciation for Father Peter and all of the wonderful parishioners, who have championed the St Bernadette's school community, throughout the past 18

months; we certainly felt like we were 'limping' to the end of term. Your kindness, thoughtful messages and unwavering support of Father Peter, as yet again he conjures up new ideas to raise money for our school community, ('Creating Cranes' 'symbol of happiness and eternal youth,' don't we all need a little of that), continues to inspire us all.

To end the school year being able to celebrate the Year 6 Mass and leavers' assembly in the church, renewed our faith and lifted the spirits of everyone. Watching the families all gather together, after such a long time, brought hope for the future. Families were able to offer up prayers, give thanks to God, reflect, and join in with the celebrations and achievements of this wonderful young group of students – we are eternally grateful.

On behalf of a very humbled St Bernadette's school community, I would like to wish you all a very restful and peaceful summer and hope when we return in September, in Father Peter's words, 'We are allowed to gather together once more, stronger, more faithful, more loving, more creative, and more grateful for the amazing community that is St. Bernadette's.'

Love and Blessings to you all,

Alexis Satterthwaite

Head Teacher

And continued thanks to Mrs. Satterthwaite and everyone who works in our school for everything they do for our children, our families, and our Parish Family.

As many families are no doubt hoping to travel, as well as meet up with family and friends whom they may not have seen for a long time, this is a rather jolly and very 'real' 'Prayer for Holidays with Families' by the writer Susanne Intriligator. It may ring some bells...!

Dear Spirit of God, Great Mystery that has blessed us with Life, help us to feel grateful.

We give thanks in this moment for lungs that breathe in and out, for hearts that beat, for bodies that work.

We give thanks for the holidays, however and with whomever we will spend them. We give thanks to be alive, to be able to mark the days in whatever way we choose.

We give thanks for family, for friends, for those who gather around us in body or in spirit, in flesh or in memory.

We give thanks for all those people who came before us, who—flawed and damaged as they were—loved us into being, shaped us into who we are now. We remember with gratitude.

We give thanks for mothers and fathers, grandmothers and grandfathers—they did their best.

We give thanks for wacky uncles and rebellious aunts, for rambunctious cousins and unexpected guests.

We give thanks for long car rides, dashes through airports, and endless rounds of Monopoly.

We give thanks for the awkward conversation, the strained pause, even the slammed door.

We give thanks for disagreements that forced us to grow and move and evolve.

We give thanks for all of it. All of it. For all these wild and hungry people—our family, our friends, our congregation—people just as flawed as we are, all dealing with more than we can see, all part of a larger whole, every last one doing their best.

We give thanks for the glory of being alive.

Amen.

And here is a very happy family indeed in the attached photo, that of this little chappie as he celebrated his baptism this Sunday here at St. Bernadette's! Have you ever seen anyone happier to be entering God's family! Congratulations to him and all his lovely family!

Whether travelling, holidaying, or whatever this morning, have a great and safe journey through this 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.