

Wednesday October 21st, Wednesday In The Twenty-Ninth Week In Ordinary Time Year II

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.

Midweek greetings and prayers!

Once again we have a beautiful passage from St. Paul's letter to the Ephesians 3:2-12 which shows St. Paul at his most humble. He is so full of awe that God would choose him. *'I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you. You are all parts of the one body of Christ. Even though you despised one another, Jews and Gentiles, Greeks and barbarians, you are all to be one, as revealed through the power given me by God. Through that power I am proclaiming and explaining the mysteries.'*

In Luke 12:39-48 again, we are reminded that we must be ready for the call of the Lord - he will come on a day you do not expect and at an hour you do not know.

*Lord, our God,
help us to prepare
for the coming of Christ your Son.
May he find us waiting, eager in joyful prayer.
Grant that we may be ready
to receive Christ when he comes in glory
and to share in the banquet of heaven,
where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

It might be considered an Advent hymn, but I think 'Maranatha', Maranatha being an Aramaic word that means 'the Lord is coming' or 'come, O Lord' should really be sung any time of the year:

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

Yesterday we were thinking about all our amazing teachers in school, but today let's think about our children. This is their last week in school before half term, and what a six weeks it has been. The children have adapted tremendously with all the new arrangements, from keeping in their class bubbles whether at work or at play, the staggered entrance and play times, and even eating in their class rooms rather than the hall. They have been a real credit to their parents, and we should be very

proud of how well they are coping in these uncertain times. The following prayer was written by a ten year old, reflecting on these coronavirus days.

*Dear God,
Help those who are sick and dying,
Help those who are afraid,
Help those who are grieving,
Help those who are mad,
Help those who are having a hard time being good friends and caregivers.
Help those who feel useless and inspire them to be great friends or sympathizers.
Help me to understand what you need me to do in this hard time.
Help me to be inspired to help like many others.
Help me to be that small difference that changes the world.
May many people in their hardships and fear try to be bold
and ask for your help and forgiveness.
And help us all to understand that in this hard time,
what we need most is the help of our Lord and Saviour,
Jesus Christ, who suffered and died for us.
Amen.*

A really beautiful children's prayer, hitting the nail on the head. Although it has to be said that children don't always get it right about everything...

A Sunday School teacher asked her class, 'Does anyone here know what we mean by sins of omission?' A small girl replied: 'Aren't those the sins we should have committed, but didn't?'

A father was reading Bible stories to his young son. He read, 'The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city, but his wife looked back and was turned to salt.' His son asked, 'What happened to the flea?'

On the first day of school, the Reception teacher said, 'If anyone has to go to the bathroom, please put up your hand.' A little voice from the back of the room asked, 'How will that help?'

Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, 'Why is the bride dressed in white?' 'Because white is the colour of happiness and today is the happiest day of her life,' her mother tried to explain, keeping it simple. The child thought about this for a moment, then said, 'So, why's the groom wearing black?'

A three-year-old boy went with his dad to see a litter of kittens. On returning home, he breathlessly informed his mother, 'There were two boy kittens and two girl kittens.' 'How did you know?' his mother asked. 'Daddy picked them up and looked underneath,' he replied. 'I think it's printed on the bottom.'

And just for your amusement I attach one of my earliest school photos, taken at St. Mary's School Cleator, probably around 1974/5. I look amazingly cute, although I'm not sure why my sister is dressed up as Tiger-Lily. And if my brother's shirt collar was any bigger he'd take off in a strong wind...

Have a great day. And make time for a smile.

Sunday Morning's mass was recorded and available on the YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VUzVtCt6M4A&feature=youtu.be>

Texts for each day can be found at <http://universalis.com/mass.htm>

Once again many thanks for all your return mails. Apologies if I don't reply immediately, sometimes they seem to get lost (or kind of bunched up). Any suggestions for ways to keep our faith and spirits up at this time are most welcome!

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.