

Monday October 26<sup>th</sup>, Monday In The Thirtieth 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.

Gosh what a storm in the night! It seems to have cleared up now though, so hopefully that's the worst over for the day.

This week we have our last three extracts from St. Paul's beautiful Letter to the Ephesus. Paul sets the highest standards for his readers. In Ephesians 4:32-5:8 he tells them that they must be imitators of God. They must imitate the love and forgiveness of God. They must imitate the great obedience of Jesus who gave his life for their salvation. They must be so far from shameful conduct that they don't even mention it. *'You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light.'*

And in the Gospel Luke 13:10-17 we see the healing power of Jesus, as he heals the woman who an infirmity which has left her bent double, 'and at once she straightened up and glorified God.' But not everybody is happy with the miracle taking place on the Sabbath. The Synagogue Official chastises the people in the most jobs-worthy of fashion, 'There are six days when work is to be done, come and be healed on one of those days,' studiously ignoring the miraculous nature of what has just taken place. Even when a miracle takes place before your very eyes, you have to have the eyes of faith to respond to it with praise for God.

*Lord Jesus,*

*I ask you to open my eyes*

*as you did with the blind man,*

*so that I may really see.*

*Tune my ears*

*as you did with the man who was deaf and dumb,*

*so that I may really hear what you are saying to me.*

*Make me walk upright in righteousness and truth,*

*as you did with the woman bent double.*

*May the many experiences of my senses*

*remind me all that is around me.*

*May all that I experience*

*lead me closer to you.*

*Amen.*

This Spirit lives to set us free, so let us 'Walk In The Light Of The Lord' as we sing

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wvhKJu9Vn04>

And for a couple of Saints this morning we have two of the first English Bishops, Saint Chad and Saint Cedd – really cool names. These were two brothers who were monks at Lindisfarne in the North East and became Bishops in the seventh century. St. Cedd founded an Abbey at Lastingham in North Yorkshire and became Bishop of the East Saxons. St. Chad succeeded Cedd as Abbot of Lastingham and then became Archbishop of York. Unfortunately, he had a bit of a falling out with St. Theodore and was removed from his office, but continued being a Bishop in the Midlands, eventually ending up in Lichfield. His relics are in the Catholic Cathedral in Birmingham, which is named after him.

*O God,  
who called your servants, the Bishops Saints Chad and Cedd  
from among the English who first turned to Christ your Son  
and made them ministers of grace to their own people,  
grant, we pray, at their intercession,  
that we may imitate them  
in a peace and humble spirit and prayer life  
and so commend to others  
the faith we ourselves profess.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Couple of photos from my brother in Hong Kong today. He is on his half term holiday just like us, but they seem to be having much better weather! People sometimes think of Hong Kong as just a lot of High Rise Buildings and one big city, but the surrounding areas and the New Territories and surrounding Islands have some beautiful countryside and scenery, perfect for long rambles, which he very much enjoyed. He sent a collage of his walk at the weekend. He also added a picture of a vending machine he noticed – as well as selling Pringles and Iced Tea, it now sells masks. Truly a sign of the times. As is this prayer:

*Bless the mask wearers  
that we may see them as a sign of care and concern for others;  
that we may see your face beneath each mask.  
Bless us all  
that we may see that by covering our noses and mouths  
we have opened our eyes and our hearts to one another. Amen.*

Masked or unmasked, you all have a great day.

Sunday Morning's mass was recorded and is available on the YouTube at

[https://youtu.be/Fvt\\_cY0-87o](https://youtu.be/Fvt_cY0-87o)

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.