

Tuesday October 27th, Tuesday 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.

As ever on a Tuesday, I look forward to seeing all the friendly faces at our NoonDay Mass.

Today, in Ephesians 5:21-33 we have the great treatise of St Paul on marriage. It is regarded as the perfect union of body, mind, and spirit between a man and a woman. In doing this, St Paul was putting forward an ideal which shone with radiant purity in an immoral world. Divorce was rampant, women had very few rights. The love that a husband should have is to be a sacrificial love, a purifying love, a caring love, and the whole relationship should be in the Lord.

In the Gospel we have two tiny parables, both telling of how the kingdom of God begins in a very small way, but grows to have a great influence. Luke 13:18-21 gives us the Parable of the Mustard Seed, which is the smallest seed of all, yet grows into the biggest tree, and the Parable of the Yeast, which the women kneads into her dough to make it grow bigger and bigger. Let us allow the Kingdom to be all around us – and we might make that happen by performing even the smallest act of kindness to another. And let us pray for faith the size of that tiny mustard seed:

*Father, I thank You that according to your Word,
when we pray, we only need Faith the size of a Mustard Seed.
And if we have the Faith of a Mustard Seed, we could say to this mountain,
'Move from here to there' and it will move - nothing is impossible for You.
Lord I do have Faith, please help my Unbelief.
Help my unbelief not to override my faith,
I admit it's hard sometimes to believe when there is so much going on around us.
But God, I know that you are Omnipotent, all powerful,
and you are Omnipresent, always present everywhere,
and in the name of Jesus, I will exercise the amount of faith that I do have.
With your help mountains will be moved.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

And perhaps before we move them we could 'Sing To The Mountains, Sing To The Sea'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hik12dLRMCc>

I'm taking the opportunity to do a bit of studying while we are in semi-lockdown - I'm currently ploughing through 'Neuro Linguistic Programming for Dummies' - and believe me, people, it is *not* a lot of fun - but today's Saint may be a bit of a help to me as he is Patron of Universities, Professors, and those who seek to learn, the Italian Saint Contardo Ferrini. He was born in Milan in 1859, the son of a teacher. He first studied law, achieving a doctorate. He then won a scholarship and went on to study in Berlin, before becoming a lecturer on Roman law. Among his many accomplishments, Contardo became fluent in twelve languages, among them the ancient Biblical languages in which he was able to read the Scriptures. His speeches and papers show a great understanding of the relationship between faith and science

Saint Contardo was learned about the faith he lived and loved. He said: *'Our life, must reach out toward the Infinite, and from that source we must draw whatever we can expect of merit and dignity,'* and he most certainly lived that out. He attended daily Mass and became a lay Franciscan, faithfully observing the Third Order rule of life. He also served through membership in the Society of St Vincent de Paul. He died, unexpectedly, at the age of 43 from Typhus on 17 October 1902. After his death, his fellow professors wrote letters that praised his holiness and the people of where he lived insisted that he be declared a saint. Pope Pius XII beatified Saint Contardo in 1947.

Father,

Through the intercession of Saint Contardo,

we thank you for your Son, eternally with You,

through whom you created the world,

and who upholds the universe by the Word of His power.

May we acknowledge in all our study and life

that it is our Lord Jesus who upholds our world,

and protects us as we study.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

And there's me in the attached pic trying to get my head around what is in my head, if you know what I mean.

Talking of yeast in the parable, I actually keep yeast in my fridge. It's not mine, it belongs to a mate, who every time he goes away entrusts me with keeping it alive. Apparently the yeast is called 'Vito' (my friend names things, his car is called Amanda the Panda, and his SatNav is called Martina SatNavatilova). Anyway... to keep the yeast alive I had to add equal quantities of flour and water and stir. Alas the first time he entrusted it to me I didn't do it properly, and I killed the yeast, apparently by using lukewarm water. Fortunately he keeps a spare batch of 'mother' yeast. The second time I was asked to do it, he had me do it live on FaceTime so he had video proof I'd done it properly, but

after I'd signed off I forgot to put it back in the fridge and killed it. The third time, he just asked Eileen to do it. Which made a lot more sense!

Do something for the Kingdom today, so that the world becomes a better place.

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