

Monday March 30th, Monday in the Fifth Week in Lent Year A.

Good Morning from St. Bernadette's.

I hope everyone is keeping safe and well, and following all the advice from the government and the medics about what we should be doing in this time of crisis.

And I hope everyone is praying together for our all our intentions in this time of need.

I hope you all had the best weekend you could. I see some offertory envelopes and newsletters were taken whilst people were on their healthy exercise walk. My walk was somewhat curtailed yesterday, as when I got to the top of Redbank Road it started hail stoning (this was about 3:30pm).

Today's liturgy of the Word is all about not judging, and giving and receiving forgiveness. The Gospel is that of the woman caught in the act of adultery. When Jesus confronts the crowd who want to stone her to death, they all walk away, one by one, confronted by their own guilt and sinfulness, until Jesus and the woman are alone and he gently calls her to 'Go, and do not sin again.' So let today's hymn be 'God forgave my sin, in Jesus' name'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mo3MGpcBC5M>

I also attach to this mail the Church's instructions for making a Perfect Act of Contrition.

Today I will be celebrating my first Funeral at Carleton Crematorium under the new restrictions, meaning myself, and very immediate family can attend, with no more than eighteen people in total allowed. Please pray for the repose of the soul of James Rourke, and his family and friends, especially his wife Nora, to whom he had been married for fifty-six years. At the service I have been asked to read the following poem:

One precious to our hearts has gone,

The voice we loved is stilled.

The place made vacant in our home

Can never more be filled.

Our Father in his wisdom called

The one his love had given.

And so on earth the body lies

His soul is safe in heaven

Eternal rest give unto him O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace.

Amen.

Our local MP Paul Maynard has compiled a list of local shops which are making food deliveries, along with some other services that the local Council are offering, so I attach that to this message. Cheers, Paul.

There were several mails praising Eileen's knitted Raising of Lazarus! One parishioner asked if the figure of Jesus had been based on me. I don't think so, but many years ago when I was first ordained a parishioner in St. Joseph's, Preston, did knit me. It was pre-beard, and I'm wearing a clerical shirt, so you might not recognise me, but I attach a photo.

Don't forget that the porch is now open to pick up leaflets and prayers, or for dropping off any food bags. And the new boxes of envelopes are also there. Please observe all social distancing instructions, so that we can spread God's word, and still stay safe.

Once again many thanks for all your return mails. Even Tobias received an email yesterday, which was most appreciated. 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, though the building is; 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.