

Saturday October 31<sup>st</sup>, Saturday 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.

Welcome to the weekend. 'Downton Abbey' fans are more than welcome to respond 'What exactly is a 'weekend'?' in their best Maggie Smith impression.

Saint Paul joyfully continues his Letter to the Philippians 1:18-26. Christ is proclaimed and that makes happy, and true happiness lies in Christ living in you. Christ is the beginning of life, the continuing of life, the end of life, the inspiration of life, the task of life. Paul says he is caught in this dilemma - he wants to depart and be with Christ, but must remain and stay with them. His desire is not to live for my own sake, but for the sake of those whom he can continue to help, the Philippians themselves. So for our hymn today let's sing 'O Bread Of Heaven' which contains the line 'I live, no, 'tis not I that live: God gives me life, God Lives in me.'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A2aopF3rS44>

In the Gospel, Luke 14:1,7-11, Jesus notices that everyone is taking the best seats in a house where he is having a meal, so he tells a short parable, suggesting that if actually choose a lower place, we may actually be called to a higher one, and exalted, '*For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the man who humbles himself will be exalted.*'

*O Lamb of God,  
who, both by your example and precept,  
instructed us to be meek and humble,  
give me grace throughout my whole life,  
in every thought, and word, and work,  
to imitate your meekness and humility.  
Grant, O Lord, that I may go through all the scenes of life,  
not seeking my own glory, but looking wholly unto you, and acting wholly for you.  
Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.*

A little note from Chris Morris, son of Colin and Jenny, who many people will know from Saturday evening Mass. Chris writes, '*Wyre Lottery, supporting local causes. We need your help to support the Blackpool Boccia Club. I am a founder member of the club for people who have physical or additional needs. If you buy Wyre Lottery tickets and nominate Blackpool Boccia Club on the site, we*

*will receive monthly funds to support our club. Thank you for your support and good luck!* To start supporting just visit [www.WyreLottery.co.uk](http://www.WyreLottery.co.uk) and search for 'Blackpool Boccia' or check out the attached poster with its QR squiggly code for further details. Sounds like a fun fundraiser, truly benefitting the community.

Unfamiliar with Boccia? Boccia is a precision ball sport, similar to bocce, and related to bowls and pétanque. The name 'boccia' is derived from the Latin word for 'boss' - bottia. The sport is contested at local, national and international levels, by athletes with physical disabilities. And here's a prayer which would be very suitable to say before a game of Boccia:

*Dear Lord,*

*You have blessed us with many gifts and talents.*

*We thank you especially for the ability to participate in sports today.*

*Help us to play in a Christ-like manner.*

*Help us to play in a way that fosters good will and teamwork.*

*Help us to play to the best of our abilities.*

*Win or lose, we hope to have fun, make friends and celebrate life.*

*Amen.*

This afternoon don't forget that throughout the UK there is National Rosary Rally, where the rosary will be prayed all over the country from morning until evening, and we are all being encouraged to participate online. Ladyewell Shrine and Fernyhalgh will represent Lancaster Diocese and will lead the national prayer from 5pm to 6pm on 31st of October. Here's the link to follow:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-8ZE7-zRDvJrupuribPbig>

And continue to have the best weekend you can in the very strange circumstances we find ourselves.

Tomorrow morning's mass will be recorded and available on the YouTube by lunchtime. I attach the Bidding prayers and the Not-a-lot-of-Newsletter. 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.