

Thursday April 2nd, Thursday 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.

As Lent continues we are almost at Palm Sunday, so today, slightly ahead of time I will be blessing our palm leaves in order that I can send some out, and also leave them in the porch so they can be picked up whilst you are on your healthy walks. Please take them to deliver to people who cannot get out at all at this time:

*Increase the faith of those who place their hope in you, O God,
and graciously hear the prayers of those who call on you,
that we, who bear our palm branches,
to hail Christ in his triumph,
may bear fruit for you by good works accomplished in him.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.*

So let's make today's hymn a joyful Hosanna, 'Give Me Joy In My Heart'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F-RiN8VRGDI>

I now have DVD's of the mass we celebrated in Church a fortnight ago, on the Feast of St. Joseph. If you would like a copy sent out to you, please just email me, and I have left a few copies in the porch by the offertory envelopes. Huge thanks again to Bernard for producing them for us. Thank you also to everyone who has been leaving bags of food in the porch, and everyone who has left offerings and donations in the letter box at the presbytery, it is all hugely appreciated. St Cuthbert's food bank has closed down until the churches reopen again, however Fleetwood food bank has merged with Mustard Seed food bank and Westview Community Association, and the Women's refuge remains open, so we have do have places, and families in our school, that need our contributions. Many thanks in anticipation.

I have been asked to draw to your attention the local 'Corona Kindness' initiative. In the midst of what is possibly the worst emergency we will ever face humbling things are happening right across the country. Blackpool Council are setting up a community corona kindness helpline for those who need help and those who can offer help. The kind of services that people are asking for help with are:

food shopping, dog walking, medical supplies and social isolation . If you need help call: 08081963080. And if you need to access any of those things or you feel you can help in anyway email helpoffered@blackpool.gov.uk

Don't forget to 'Clap for Carers' again tonight at 8pm to give a big shout out to all our medics and carers who are doing so much for us all at this time under the most difficult of circumstances, and pray:

God Our Father, be with those whose special care is the health of mind and body.

Fill their hearts with awe for the life which is your gift

and sustain them daily in your service,

that their hands may bring to others

the comfort of your healing touch.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Apparently the image of the rainbow is becoming a symbol of hope in these trying times. I attach a picture I took from the presbytery window of a rainbow over Bispham, and lets continue hoping and praying.

Once again many thanks for all your return mails. 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.