

Sunday May 10th, Fifth Sunday of Eastertide

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've just noticed that most of last week I was referring to the weekdays as the *fifth* week of Eastertide. It was of course the fourth week, and we embark the fifth week today on this, the fifth Sunday. I guess that's what happens when, as somebody said, 'Every day's a bank holiday'!

Firstly apologies to anyone who was looking for a video link for the recorded Mass yesterday. We *did* record the Mass, with a trimmed beard, and with hymns and sermon, but by the time it was uploaded to the YouTube something had happened to the quality, and the vision and sound were not in synch. It looked as if I was saying Mass in some dubious foreign language, and then had been badly dubbed over in English. Very odd. I think we are going to have another bash this morning, and see how that goes, but I'll keep it short and simple, and if successful, we can build things up from there. I'll keep you posted!

Today's Gospel reading, John 14:1-12, should be quite familiar to us, as we actually heard it earlier this week: *Jesus said, 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still and trust in me... I am the Way, the Truth, and the life.'*

There are many times in the Scripture where people are told 'Do not be afraid,' but the words 'do not let your hearts be troubled,' are slightly different. Jesus said these words to the apostles at the Last Supper, and he knew they were going to be troubled that very next day when the events of the passion and death of Jesus were to reach their fulfilment. Jesus knew the suffering and pain that awaited Him. He knew the agony of the cross, and the coldness of the tomb. And he knew that the apostle's hearts would be troubled. But He also knew that he would rise from the dead after three days, that His death He would overcome death. And by His resurrection from the dead, he would open heaven up to all who believed in him. And in order that the disciples should not be troubled neither about his death, nor their own, he told them exactly why he was undergoing his own death – to prepare a place for us, and see us through the passage of death to eternal life.

Whenever we are troubled, be it by the death of a loved one, or by the many other troubles and sorrows that litter this world and our lives, especially at this time, it is a time to draw near to the Lord and allow the Lord to care for us. We need to come to Him to find His rest; to hear the comfort of His voice speaking to our hearts. He is the way, the truth and the life. He is the life to which we aspire. His words are the truth which calls us to him. And he is the way which leads us to heaven.

*God of wind and water, stillness and storm,
your Spirit sweeps over the surface of the sea.
Give us faith to seek you in times of trouble.
Reach out your hand to us when we are sinking
so that we may believe and worship you;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.*

Today let us sing the beautiful hymn 'This Is My Body'. It paraphrases Jesus' words at the Last Supper, and really gets to the heart of today's Gospel reading

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QrxGJAzAzJ0>

On a sad note, please pray for the repose of the soul of Jenny Ryan, much loved mother of Liz Ismay who died in Ireland yesterday. *May she rest in the peace of Christ.* Obviously death during this time is made more difficult, but especially when someone is abroad, what with self-isolating, and all that so please keep Liz and her family firmly in your prayers at this time.

And without further ado, I'll now go into Church, armed with even more technology, to see if I can get this video malarkey sorted out. Probably we need some eight year old child to sort it out for us with three clicks of their iPhone. My mate Ed insists it's simplicity itself, but then he does have a degree in engineering...

In other news, when I made burgers for my lunch yesterday and took a photo, I didn't realise a certain Presbytery Cat thought that they were ginormous cat treats...

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.