Monday March 23rd, Monday of Week Three in Lent.

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.

Today’s Gospel was the story of the healing of the Galilean Court Official’s son. Jesus tells the Official to go home, as his son is now well. When the Official’s servants come to tell him his son has recovered, he asks when it happened. The servants replied ‘The fever left him at the seventh hour,’ the time Jesus told him to go home. Let us all pray for the seventh hour, putting our faith in Jesus, and following instructions on how to keep safe.

Once again, many thanks for the returning emails. It’s lovely to hear from you, and also hear more suggestions about how we can ‘get together’ even while we are ‘apart’. One suggestion has been that, as well as the times of mass, we get together spiritually at another time to pray. This is a great idea, so I suggest saying the rosary at 7pm on a Tuesday evening, when we would normally have Devotions, and pray the Stations of the Cross on Fridays at 3pm. I’ll send devotions and prayers each Tuesday and Friday. Thank you for the lovely idea.

The soup kitchen went very well last night. Our group of helpers, myself, Francis, Peter, Lucia, Lucy, Catherine and Deirdre met in the parish hall, and put sandwiches that we’d made, alongside the sandwiches made by Ian, Barbara and Domenica (if other people made sandwiches too thank you!), in bags, along with drinks, teabags, milk, chocolate, and a loo roll (or ‘gold dust as they now seem to be known). Six of us went down to Lytham Road, where forty-eight bags were given to the needy, along with other sandwiches for latecomers. As you can see from the attached photo we were well gloved and masked. Thanks to everyone who attended. Please pray for the homeless and needy at this time.

This morning I popped into school, where fifteen children have arrived to be looked after by our teachers. One of the school’s tasks during the crisis is to distribute and in some cases deliver school meals to some children. If you could help somehow with this, please ring our headmistress Mrs. Satterthwaite on 353641. Cheers.

I received a lovely email from Jack, Rosie and Ben, three of our youngest parishioners. They were disappointed not to be able to attended Children’s Liturgy yesterday, so instead they sent out a lovely message to their street – check out the attached photo. Well done!

For today’s hymn I suggest ‘Christ Be Beside Me’. I think our Blessed Lord is allowed to come nearer than the six feet apart recommendation!

Don’t forget that the Church is open for private prayer throughout the day (except when I’m saying mass). Please pick up a newsletter and any other prayers I leave there and pass them on to any parishioners you know who might not have email.

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.