

The Weekly Message from St. Bernadette's: Week Beginning Sunday October 10th 2021

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.

I hope you all had a great week – it was quite busy here on the Church site, but everything seems to be going well (despite some boiler problems, thankfully now fixed – especially as we keep the windows open to help with the flow of air). So! On with the Scriptures and Prayers!

If today's Gospel were not an actual incident in the life of Christ, I always think it would be a beautiful, but sad parable. Mark 10:17-30 tells us a rich young man, who, despite having followed all the commandments since his boyhood, finds himself unable to make that final leap and faith and follow Christ, as he clings to his earthly riches. Jesus reflects, 'How hard it is for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of Heaven!' When Peter asks what this means for the Apostles, Jesus tells him that those who leave earthly things for the sake of the Gospel, will be repaid with, 'in the world to come, eternal life.' By the way, have you ever wondered what happened to the Rich Young Man? Did his earthly riches bring him happiness? Did he at a later stage realise that true happiness would only come through following Christ, and return to him? Perhaps we should say a prayer for him, and anyone in the same mindset – and that may indeed be ourselves.

*God our heavenly Father,
may the material things of this world
never preventing us from journeying to you,
and taking our place in your Kingdom,
which is not a passing thing of this world,
but which is eternal.
And may all people come to a knowledge
that happiness and salvation lie solely in you.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

In our weekday readings we begin three weeks of St. Paul's letter to the Romans - one of his greatest and most powerful writings, which he wrote to introduce himself to the Romans prior to his first visit there. After introducing himself, Paul begins a discussion about salvation, which is offered to both Jews and Gentiles, and how faith can come to both groups in different ways. Much of our Gospel reading this week is taken up with Jesus' words condemning the hypocrisy of the Pharisees, in the many different ways it is manifested. At the end of the week Jesus gives us a solemn promise: if we

declare ourselves openly for him, he will declare for us in the presence of our Father in Heaven. The Holy Spirit will give us everything we need to stand up for our faith.

And there are a few interesting Saints on the liturgical calendar this week. We kick off with two English Saints, Saint Wilfred, another of our great Bishop Saints of Lindisfarne, who after becoming Archbishop of York, a feud with the King led to his exile to the Isle of Wight. His body lies in Canterbury Cathedral. And on Wednesday we remember Saint Edward The Confessor, who became King of England in 1042, and was renowned for his prayer, charity, and option towards the poor, throughout his Kingship. Loved by everyone, laid and religious, he encouraged religious practice, and himself was a daily mass-goer. He is buried in Westminster Abbey, which stands as the monument his built.

*God our heavenly Father,
whilst Edward confessor was King upon this earth,
you give him divine kingly qualities,
so like him, may we serve you in this earthly life,
that we may inherit your eternal reward in the next.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

And we will just pop over to the continent to remember Saint Theresa of Avila on Friday, a sixteenth century Spanish Carmelite, who thanks to her extraordinary ascetically and theological writings, was declared a doctor of the Church in 1970, and on Saturday the French Mystic Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque who, in the middle of the seventeenth century received several mystical visions, particularly with regards to the Sacred Heart of Jesus:

*God our heavenly Father,
help our hearts burn within us
out of love for the Sacred Heart of your Son,
of whom Saint Margaret helped us to come
and to new and deep-felt devotion.
Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.*

And on that note, let's make 'SweetHeart of Jesus' our hymn this week.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GNsTtBMm4YM>

And from over the Continent to Over-Wyre, as Paul writes this week: *'For fear of repetition I am moving away from Bispham and Norbreck in the coming weeks and taking a look at snippets of history of the Fylde. I am starting Over Wyre at Knott End and I am sure that this weeks photo will not prove particularly interesting to many other than the 'anoraks' amongst us. However, this 1911 photo leads us into a brief history of the Garstang and Knott End Railway. Some of our younger parishioners will I am sure not even be aware that this branch line railway ever existed. As far as the*

photo is concerned what is striking are the wide expanses of countryside without a building to be seen. The station was situated where the cafe close to the ferry landing point is today. The line was 1 1/2 miles long and joined the main line a little north of the Garstang and Catterall station, now closed. There were also stations at Preesall, Pilling (technically Stakepool), Nateby and Garstang Town. The journey from Knott End to Garstang and Catterall was scheduled to be 38 minutes. The railway opened in 1870 and was beset with problems from the start. It did in fact close from 1872 until 1875. Due to a lack of funds the Pilling to Knott End stretch did not actually open until 1908. A short branch of 1 1/2 miles was laid to the United Alkali Co works near Preesall in 1912. This large salt works had it's own internal rail network and also a jetty on the River Wyre. The next ten years proved to be mostly lucrative for the railway, but thanks to the arrival of motor transport, by the late 20's the writing was on the wall and the line closed to all passengers in 1930. The mineral branch line to Preesall salt works closed in 1934 and was removed. Goods trains continued, but the line between Knott End and Pilling closed in 1950. The line was then cut back to Garstang Town in 1963 and in 1965 was closed to all traffic. Little remains of the railway today; a station masters house, crossing cottages, bridge remains, cuttings and plaques. For most the biggest reminder is the 'Pilling Pig' at the entrance to the caravan site in Pilling. I am sure this railway must have provided wonderful views of the Fylde countryside and if still operational would no doubt be a major attraction today.' 'Oh, Doctor Beeching!' as the song goes. Thanks Paul! My mate, Fr. Paul Embery has just become Parish Priest of St. William's in Pilling (as well as Knott End and Great Eccleston, all three Churches) and I drove out to see his new place the other week. It did strike me that he really is in the middle of nowhere, although I'm sure it's very beautiful!

Last week at the 10am Mass it was so good to have all our children leading us in the Readings and Bidding Prayers, as well as helping us learn all about the Holy Rosary in this month of October. Our schools and families have done such a fine job over the past couple of years, and there are indeed still many hurdles to overcome, but we are all getting there, and our monthly children's mass is another sign that the community of St. Bernadette's not being beaten! Huge thanks to the children, and those who prepared the readings and bidding prayers for the service. And as it is the Month of the Holy Rosary, and we haven't had a quiz for a while, here is a quite easy Rosary Quiz. Grab a Coffee, a Pen, and off we go!

1. The most common form of the Roman Catholic rosary was popularized by which saint?
a. St. John b. St. Francis c. St. Benedict d. St. Dominic
2. Which pope lionized the rosary in twelve encyclicals and five apostolic letters, earning him the nickname 'The Rosary Pope'?
a. Pope Gregory XIII b. Pope Leo XIII c. Pope John XIII d. Pope Innocent XIII
3. The Blessed Virgin Mary called herself 'the Lady of the Rosary' when she appeared to three shepherd children from a small Portuguese village. What is the name of the village?

a. Barcelos b. Lisbon c. Fátima d. Penafiel

4. The 'Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary' was originally the 'Feast of Our Lady of Victory'. What type of victory was celebrated?

a. end of World War I b. football game c. naval battle over the Ottoman Empire d. the metaphysical victory over death

5. When praying the Rosary, one is supposed to meditate on Mysteries: specific events in the life and death of Jesus Christ. In 2002, Pope John Paul II added which set of Mysteries?

a. Joyful Mysteries b. Luminous Mysteries c. Sorrowful Mysteries d. Glorious Mysteries

6. The small beads on a rosary are organized into sets of ten, called decades. What prayer is usually said on the small beads?

a. Our Father (the Lord's Prayer) b. Apostle's Creed c. Act of Contrition d. Hail Mary

7. A large bead separates each set of ten small beads on a rosary. What prayer is usually said on the large beads?

a. Apostle's Creed b. Hail Mary c. Our Father (the Lord's Prayer) d. Act of Contrition

8. The final prayer of the Rosary is Hail Holy Queen. What is the Latin name for this prayer/hymn?

a. Gloria Patri b. Actus Contritionis c. Pater Noster d. Salve Regina

9. Which of the following is one of the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary?

a. The Crowning with Thorns b. The Coronation of the Virgin c. The Nativity d. The Wedding at Cana

10. Praying the Rosary is often used as part of a novena. What is a novena?

a. welcoming of new members b. choir practice c. funeral rite d. nine days of prayer

Answers are at the end of the Message, but I'm hoping that we all got full marks, and if we didn't I hope that we all learned something. Every day's a school day! Oh, and here's the hymn '*Queen of the Holy Rosary.*' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x3-vyG5Vidg>

While Michelangelo was painting the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, one day he looked down from the scaffolding to see a solitary old woman kneeling in a pew, praying. Since the woman could not see him, Michelangelo decided to have a little fun, and he called out, 'I am Jesus Christ, hear me!' The woman did not look up, and continued praying. So, Michelangelo said, even louder, 'I am Jesus Christ, Son of God, obey me!' Still the woman did not budge. So, Michelangelo shouted at the top of his lungs, 'I am Jesus Christ, hear my word!' The old woman finally turned to look up, and held up her rosary, saying, 'Could you be quiet please, dear? I'm talking to your mother!' And on that note, I'll get my coat... Actually, I was looking through my Rome photos to see if I had one of the Sistine Chapel, but finding none I remembered you were not allowed to take photos there, partly out of reverence, and most partly because the images were copyright to the Japanese company which had

paid for the restoration. Anyway, here's one I took of St. Peter's – and the clouds are definitely gathering...

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Joseph Maloney and Sheila Margaret Crossland, whose funerals I will be celebrating on Friday at Carleton. *May God's loving arms surround them with his mercy. Amen.*

All the mass times are as usual this week – don't forget that 9am on Monday and Wednesday are public masses, so it would be lovely to have some people there – and I'm available for Reconciliation during the Holy Hour on Sunday from 12noon to 1pm. Whatever you are doing this week, have a good one, and maybe make some time to say a decade or two of the great prayer that is the Rosary.

And remember, St. Bernadette's is open, as slowly and gently 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.

Easy Quiz Answers: 1.d 2.b 3.c 4.c 5.b 6.d 7.c 8.d 9.a 10.d