



16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 19th July 2020

Sunday Cycle A

Psalter Week 4



Parish Contact Details

Parish website:	www.stbernadettesparish.org
Parish e-mail address:	stbernadettes@downandconnor.org
Fr. Brendan Hickland PP:	Holy Rosary Presbytery, 503 Ormeau Road. Telephone 90642446
Fr. Michael Spence CC:	28 Willowbank Park. Telephone 90793023 Option 2
Parish Office:	Telephone 90793023 Option 1

Scripture Readings

First Reading	Wisdom 12: 13,16-19
Psalms	Psalms 86: 5-6,9-10,15-16
Second Reading	Romans 8: 26-27
Gospel	Matthew 13: 24-43

God has shown himself to be a God of justice and mercy.

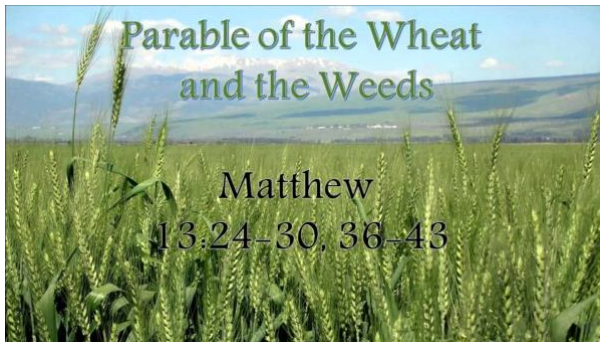
A prayer to God for mercy.

The Spirit intercedes for us with God.

Jesus offers parables about the Kingdom of Heaven and explains them to his disciples.



Reflection



Adapted from "Sacred Space", a service of the Irish Jesuits:

Sometimes we think that perfection is acquired by becoming aware of our faults and working to root these out. However, when we become more familiar with Jesus' attitude to the limited and sinful side of ourselves, we learn to accept our limited and sinful self just as Jesus did with Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-

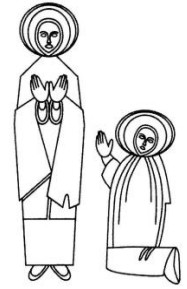
10). If we don't accept this side of ourselves, we tend to become fixated with it and fail to appreciate the fullness of life Jesus has already given us. Am I frustrated and baffled by the presence of evil in my midst, or in myself? Do I believe that Good will have the last word? Do I believe that God's grace is at work in the world and in me? Can I cultivate patience and tolerance toward myself, and toward others? I sit with Jesus and let Him teach me to let the weeds grow with the wheat in my life. I ask for help to appreciate all that is good and beautiful about my life.

(Living Space, www.sacredspace.ie)



Parish of Holy Rosary and Parish of St. Bernadette

Fr. Brendan Hickland
503 Ormeau Road Belfast BT7 3GR
Email: b.hickland@downandconnor.org



July 2020

Dear Parishioners of Holy Rosary and St. Bernadette's,

I hope you are keeping well in these extraordinary times. In this letter I would like to raise three important issues with you.

1. Consultation on the Possible Re-unification of the Parishes.

When I was appointed by Bishop Treanor to serve as Parish Priest to the parishes of Holy Rosary and St. Bernadette's, the Bishop also spoke of the possibility that the two Parishes might become one again. Indeed, a number of parishioners, when I arrived, thought that the Parishes had been reunited. Since coming to the Parish, I have gradually come to know that there is already much interlinking between the two parishes for Mass, Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals etc. However, at the time I stressed that this could only come about after a process of consultation. During our Pastoral Council meetings, in both parishes, we had hoped this consultation would have begun by now. The pandemic prevented that from happening. I understand completely and desire that this process must take place with prayer and a great deal of sensitivity and transparency. This is a process that is already taking place in many areas of our Diocese, as decisions are taken for the future provision of pastoral services within parishes and Pastoral Communities.

I am, therefore, inviting you over the next number of months to write to, or email me, and share your thoughts, both positive or negative, regarding the possible re-unification of the Parishes of Holy Rosary and St. Bernadette's. Your contributions will greatly assist in our reflections and conversations within our Pastoral Councils and Finance Committees.

2. Revised Mass Schedule

Currently our Masses at the weekend are at the following times: two 6pm Vigils, 9.00am, 10am, 10.30am. two at 12 noon and 1.15pm. It will become increasingly difficult to maintain this schedule in the near future. If one or more of the priests is absent from the two parishes because of illness, holidays or for some other reason, (e.g. with the declining number of priests we may have to cover Mass in another Parish within the Pastoral area), we will not be able to cover the current schedule. Therefore, we need to revise the number and times of Masses.

Ideally, Canon Bob, Fr. Michael and I would have wanted to consult parishioners on any proposals to change Mass times. It is with regret that, due to present circumstances, we have not been able to do so. However, there is a certain urgency about this issue now, as our Churches re-open for public worship. We have had the opportunity to consult the Parish Pastoral Councils and have received their support.

We have also discussed the matter with the priests in the six parishes of the South and East Belfast Pastoral Community, some of whom are revising Mass schedules too.

The new schedule for weekend Masses is set out below and will take effect from the weekend of **the 11th/12th July.**

New Weekend Mass Schedule

St. Bernadette's Church:	Vigil 6.00pm and Sunday 11.00am
Good Shepherd Church:	Sunday 9.00am 10.30am and 12.30pm

We are aware that some parishioners will be upset because the Mass they usually attended, does not appear on the new schedule, but we ask for your understanding and support. This schedule will be kept under review.

3. The Re-opening of Churches for public worship.

It is our intention to re-open Good Shepherd Church and St. Bernadette's Church for the public celebration of Mass from **Monday 6th July 2020**, but to do so in a way that is safe for all of us, in accordance with the civil law and the Diocesan guidelines. For the months of July and August, the weekday Masses will be as follows

Weekday Mass Schedule for July and August

St. Bernadette's Church	Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday at 9.30am
Good Shepherd Church	Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 10am

With social distancing requirements, the capacity of the Churches will be greatly reduced. The number of parishioners able to be present for the celebration of Mass will depend upon the mix of individuals and family groups. In the Church of the Good Shepherd we will have 40 available pews and in the Church of St. Bernadette we will have 86 available pews for parishioners who intend to come.

It is particularly important to remember a number of things:

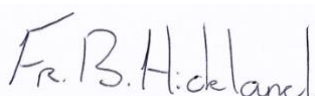
- a) Those who are clinically at risk of Covid19, or who have been advised to shield, or those who display symptoms, SHOULD NOT attend.**
- b) Please remember that the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays/Holy Days has been dispensed with during the COVID 19 pandemic crisis.**
- c) We will continue to offer online celebrations of Mass from St. Bernadette's Church. A webcam has also been recently installed in the Good Shepherd Church which may be accessed at www.holyrosaryparish.net**

As you are aware each Church must be cleaned and sanitised after each celebration of public Mass. We are very grateful to the teams of volunteers who are currently cleaning the Churches to ensure that they can stay open for private prayer, but we cannot overburden them, especially as many may be away on holiday or back to work. So, we are urgently appealing for more volunteers to clean and/or act as stewards.

I am aware that there is a lot of information in this letter. We are in a rapidly changing situation and we appreciate your patience. On behalf of Canon Bob, Fr. Michael and myself, I thank you for your commitment, example, support, and prayers, especially through these difficult months.

I wish you all health, peace, and every blessing for a good summer.

Yours sincerely,



NEW WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE (FROM 11TH/12TH JULY)

St. Bernadette's Church: Saturday Vigil 6.00pm and Sunday 11.00am.

Good Shepherd Church: Sunday 9.00am, 10.30am and 12.30pm.

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES FOR JULY & AUGUST

Monday	St. Bernadette's	9.30am
Tuesday	St. Bernadette's	9.30am
Wednesday	St. Bernadette's	9.30am
Thursday	Good Shepherd	10am
Friday	Good Shepherd	10am
Saturday	Good Shepherd	10am

Masses are open to the public again from Monday 6th July. All Masses in Good Shepherd and St. Bernadette's are broadcast live on the internet.

Visit www.holyrosaryparishbelfast.net and Click on "Holy Rosary Webcam".

Visit www.stbernadettesparish.org and Click on "Watch Live".

CHURCH OPENING TIMES FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

Good Shepherd and St. Bernadette's churches are still open for private prayer but please note the new days and times (mornings only).

Monday	St. Bernadette's	9am - 12 noon
Tuesday	St. Bernadette's	9am - 12 noon
Wednesday	St. Bernadette's	9am - 12 noon
Thursday	Good Shepherd	9.30 am - 12 noon
Friday	Good Shepherd	9.30 am - 12 noon
Saturday	Good Shepherd	9.30 am - 12 noon

Our Faithful Departed

Please pray for those who have died recently and those who anniversaries occur around this time.

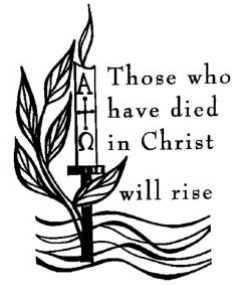
Recently Deceased

Helene McGlade, Baby Oliver Black, Michael McQuillan, Deirdre McHugh, Helen McGivern, Therese Smyth, Anne Graham, Noah Donohoe.

Anniversaries

Maureen Howard, John Higgins, Brendan Smyth, Conall McPhillips, Charlie Collins.

May they rest in peace.



Bethany Bereavement Support Group

Our Parish Bethany Bereavement Support Group offers listening and support to those who have been bereaved. Telephone No. 07733773758.



Parish Collections

Many thanks to all those who have been able to contribute to the parish finances through standing order, PayPal or the parish envelopes.

We recognise that this is a time of financial worry for many, and for that reason giving to the parish should be secondary to your own particular needs.

Parish Draw

500 Club

The winners for Week 44 are: Elizabeth Nicoletti and Vincent Curran. Congratulations to the lucky winners. Each receives £50.



Society of St. Vincent de Paul

St. Bernadette's SVP conference

Dear Parishioners,

despite the Covid 19 crisis the work of St. Bernadette's SVP conference has not stopped. We continue to provide vital assistance to those in need. Our main source of income has always been your generous donations via the red box collections after Mass. Unfortunately the cessation of public Mass has understandably seen a significant reduction in donations. If you are able to, could you please consider making a donation via the donation box in St. Bernadette's church or via the parochial house at 28 Willowbank Park (marking your envelope St. Bernadette's SVP)? Your generosity, as always is very much appreciated and never so important as in this health and economic crisis.

Baptisms & Weddings

On Monday 6th July 2020 the NI Executive Office issued the following statement in relation to the celebration of Baptisms and Weddings.

"Ministers have agreed that places of worship will be enabled to resume baptisms from Friday, July 10."

So baptisms will resume in the parish from Monday 13th July. **Only one child can be baptised at any one ceremony.** Contact the parish office for further information or to book a baptism.



The NI Executive also agreed that indoor marriage ceremonies in places of worship can resume from Friday, July 10th. The number of persons attending the wedding may be up to the capacity determined for the Church for the celebration of Mass, as per the risk assessment and following all requirements in relation to hygiene and social distancing.

First Holy Communion & First Confession

As you are aware, churches have been closed for public worship since March 18th 2020. The N.I. Executive gave permission for churches to re-open for public worship from June 29th 2020. As you will understand, this prevented proper planning with our primary schools for the celebration of the sacraments of First



Holy Communion and First Confession. It is our hope to celebrate these sacraments for the children, who missed them earlier this year, as soon as possible in the Autumn, but in a way that is safe for all of us. We will be in a better position to inform parents of dates in September.



In the meantime, boys and girls keep preparing well and saying your prayers each day and everybody in the parish will be praying for you too.

First Friday Visits & Sick Calls

In relation to home visitation, first Friday visits and 'sick calls' are **still suspended**. The Diocese is seeking professional advice as to best practice in relation to home visitation, so that these may be resumed safely, protecting everyone's health and wellbeing.





On Wednesday 15th July 2020 our sacristan in St. Bernadette's Church, Michael McGarrigle, retired after many years of faithful and generous service to the parish.

We express our deep gratitude to Michael for all his service over those years and we wish him every blessing in his well-deserved retirement.

We hope to mark Michael's retirement at a Mass at some stage in the autumn, when life will hopefully return to some normality.



Thank you to all those who have volunteered to clean the chapel after Mass each day.

Thank you also to all those who have been acting as stewards in the church.

Your help is greatly appreciated and ensures that the church is able to be open for public and private prayer.

New volunteers are always needed and welcome. E mail the parish office if you wish to volunteer.

Summer Prayers (see jesuitresource.org)

A Beach Prayer

Joyful God, we thank you for this time together. We thank for the sun in the sky, the cool sea water, and the sand. We thank you for yummy snacks, buckets, pales and beach umbrellas. We thank you for our family, our friends and the life guards who keep us safe. We ask that you bless us on this beautiful day and we praise you for this beautiful Creation that you have entrusted to us.
- Author Unknown

A Summer Prayer

Long warm days...
The pace of life slows...
A time for picnics and rest in the shade...
Lord, help me to rest awhile
in the cooling shade of your presence.
Slow down my restless heart and
fill me with
gentle compassion for all your people.
- Author Unknown

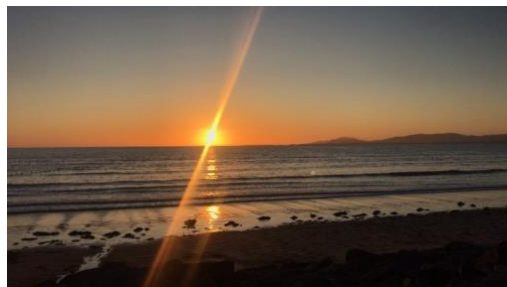
Summer Blessing for Families

May we make our homes places of relaxation,
joy, love, peace and safety.
May we be generous and considerate,
not thinking only about ourselves,
but helping others enjoy the blessings of the summertime.
Lord God, Creator of all things,
guide our steps and strengthen our hearts
during these months of summer and vacation days.
Grant us refreshment of mind and body.
May we constantly strive to make a meaningful difference
in the lives of our loved ones and in the world around us
as we enjoy the warm days of summertime. - *The Catholic Review*



Giving Thanks for Summer

Father, Creator of all, thank You for summer!
Thank you for the warmth of the sun
and the increased daylight.
Thank You for the beauty I see all around me
and for the opportunity to be outside and enjoy Your creation.
Thank You for the increased time I have to be with my friends and family,
and for the more casual pace of the summer season.
Draw me closer to You this summer.
Teach me how I can pray
no matter where I am or what I am doing.
Warm my soul with the awareness of Your presence
and light my path with Your Word and Counsel.
As I enjoy Your creation, create in me
a pure heart and a hunger and a thirst for You. (*Author Unknown*)



Summer Travel Prayer

Loving and merciful God, you have commissioned your angels to guide and protect us. Command them to be with us from our leaving until our return; keep us safe from all injury, accident or malice and sin. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

(Author Unknown)