## DEATH COULD NOT HOLD HIM. Rejoice in the resurrection of *Jesus Christ.*

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WISHING YOU A BLESSED AND JOY FILLED EASTER!



Week beginning 15<sup>th</sup> April Prayer Theme of the week: Easter Week 3: Recognising God

"He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I indeed." Luke 24:38-39





## Prayer Theme of the week: Easter Week 3: Recognising God



#### Day 1 Let us begin: 'In the name of the Father...'

Word: "He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I indeed." Luke 24:38-39

## Worship: Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, Stay with us, too, we pray, in every part of our journey, no matter how full of doubt or fear we may be today.

Through your Holy Spirit, we pray that you will open our eyes, too Help us see you as our risen Lord in all your beauty, and in all your loving power. Amen.

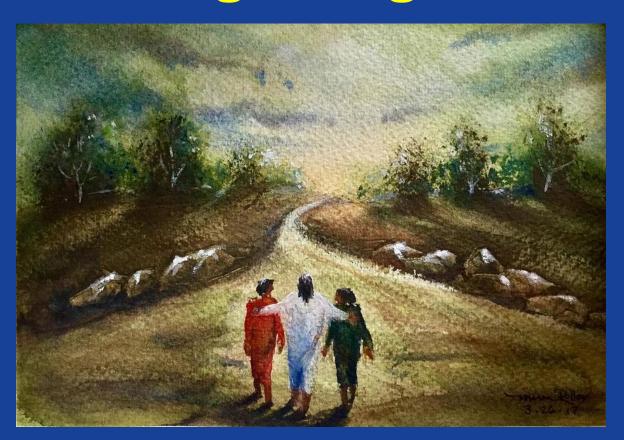
## Witness:

Take time to recognise the dignity of others in one thing you do today. St Ninian, Pray for us! 'In the name of the Father...'











#### Day 2 Let us begin: 'In the name of the Father...'



Word: "He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I indeed." Luke 24:38-39

## Worship: Prayer

God our Father,

the qualities I see lived out so well in some people are a reflection of your own goodness,

and I know that I have much to learn from other people who reflect your image and likeness in different ways. Inspire me to respect others fully as my equals, seeing and loving in them what you see and love in them. <u>We ask this through Christ our Lord.</u>

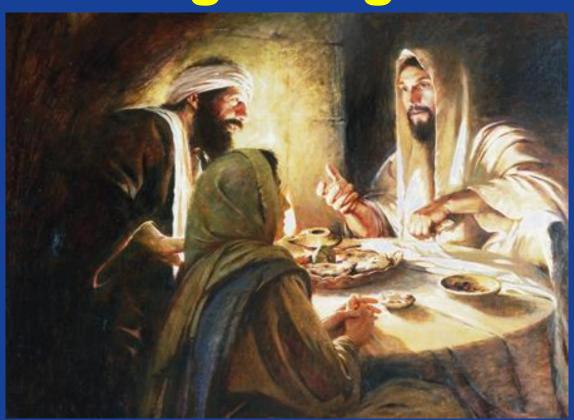
Amen

### Witness:

During this day, make time for prayer and invite God to be with you. St Ninian, Pray for us! 'In the name of the Father...'









#### Day 3 Let us begin: 'In the name of the Father...'

Word: "He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I indeed." Luke 24:38-39

#### Worship: Prayer

God of wonders,

you made this day for joy and gladness.

Let the risen Lord abide with us this day, opening the Scriptures to us and breaking bread in our midst.

Set our hearts aflame and open our eyes, that we may see in his sufferings

all that the prophets foretold

and recognize him at this table,

the Christ now entered into glory,

Who lives with you now and always

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. AMEN.

#### Witness:

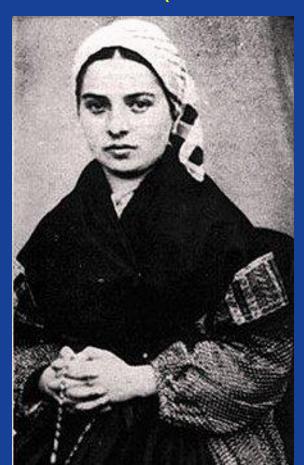
Look to find joy in sharing with others today. <u>St Ninian, Pray for us!</u> 'In the name of the Father...'





# Weekly Reflection: Saint of the week: Bernadette Soubirous (feast day 16<sup>th</sup> April)





#### Let us begin: 'In the name of the Father... Bernadette Soubirous (16<sup>th</sup> April)



- Bernadette Soubirous was born in 1844, the first child of an extremely poor miller in the town of Lourdes in southern France. The family was living in the basement of a dilapidated building when on February 11, 1858, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to Bernadette in a cave above the banks of the Gave River near Lourdes.
- Bernadette, 14 years old, was often in poor health, she had suffered from asthma from an early age. This meant she missed a lot of school and even missed out on making her first Holy Communion.
- Bernadette had 18 apparitions of Mary in total, the final one occurring on the feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, July 16. Although Bernadette's initial reports provoked scepticism, her daily visions of "the Lady" brought great crowds of the curious. The Lady, Bernadette explained, had instructed her to have a chapel built on the spot of the visions. There, the people were to come to wash in and drink of the water of the spring that had welled up from the very spot where Bernadette had been instructed to dig.
- During her life, Bernadette suffered much. She was hounded by the public as well as by civic officials until, at last, she was protected in a convent of nuns and later she entered the Sisters of Notre Dame of Nevers.
- After a period of illness, she was able to make the journey from Lourdes and enter the novitiate. But within four months of her arrival she was given the last rites of the Church and allowed to profess her vows. She recovered enough to become infirmarian and then sacristan, but chronic health problems persisted. She died on April 16, 1879, at the age of 35.
- Bernadette continues to be an inspiration to Catholics and young people all over the world today she is believed to be the first Saint whose image was captured in photograph!

#### Worship: A prayer of St Bernadette

Dear Saint Bernadette,

Chosen by Almighty God as a channel of His Graces and Blessings,

and through your humble obedience to the requests of Our Blessed Mother, Mary,



you gained for us the Miraculous waters of Spiritual and physical healing.

Help us, O Dear Saint Bernadette to follow your example,

so that irrespective of our own pain and suffering

we may always be mindful of the needs of others,

especially those whose sufferings are greater than ours.

Amen

Witness: Bernadette showed great courage and resilience in her life – despite opposition and struggles, she spoke out to make known God's message which Mary had shared with her.

Our Lady of Lourdes, Pray for us!

St Bernadette, Pray for us!

St Ninian, Pray for us!

'In the name of the Father...

#### Day 5 Let us begin: 'In the name of the Father...'

#### Word: Our world is full of discontent, of anguish and of conflict. Let us pray for all those affected by terrorism, war and violence Worship: Prayer

Hear my voice, for it is the voice of the victims of all wars and violence among individuals and nations.

Hear my voice, for it is the voice of all children who suffer and will suffer when people put their faith in weapons and war.

Hear my voice when I beg You to install into the hearts of all human beings the wisdom of peace, the strength of justice, and the joy of fellowship.

Hear my voice, for I speak for the multitudes in every country and in every period of history who do not want war and are ready to walk the road of peace.

Hear my voice and grant insight and strength so that we may always respond to hatred with love, to injustice with total dedication to justice, to need with the sharing of self, to war with peace.

O God, hear my voice and grant unto the world Your everlasting peace. Amen.

#### Witness:

Look to find remember all those who are living in fear today.

#### St Ninian, Pray for us! 'In the name of the Father ... '





## **Prayer for Peace**

Hear my voice, for it is the voice of the victims of all wars and violence among individuals and nations.



Hear my voice, for it is the voice of all children who suffer and will suffer when people put their faith in weapons and war.

Hear my voice when I beg You to install into the hearts of all human beings the wisdom of peace, the strength of justice, and the joy of fellowship.

Hear my voice, for I speak for the multitudes in every country and in every period of history who do not want war and are ready to walk the road of peace.

Hear my voice and grant insight and strength so that we may always respond to hatred with love, to injustice with total dedication to justice, to need with the sharing of self, to war with peace.

O God, hear my voice and grant unto the world Your everlasting peace. Amen.

