

Reflection Thursday Week 20 – St Bernard 2020

Jesus speaking to the Father: *“I have made your name known to them and will continue to make it known, so that the love with which you loved me may be in them, and so that I may be in them.”* Isn't this what we all want? For Jesus to live within us and through us, and to be filled with the love of God? St Bernard also wanted this, and Jesus found in him a true home. Born near Dijon, in France, in 1090, of a noble family, he joined a new monastery at Cîteaux in 1112. The monastery had been founded to reject the laxity and riches of the Benedictine Order as existed in other great monasteries and return to a primitive poverty and austerity of life. He was joined, at Cîteaux, by four of his five brothers and two dozen friends. Within three years he was sent to found a new monastery at Clairvaux, in Champagne, where he remained as abbot for the rest of his life. At his death (1153), the Cistercian Order had grown from one house to 343, of which 68 were daughter houses of Clairvaux itself. Bernard was a man of great holiness and wisdom, and, although he was often in very poor health, he was active in many of the great public debates of the time. He strongly opposed the luxurious lives of some of the clergy, and fought against the persecution of the Jews. He was also a prolific and inspiring writer. . . The challenge for us is to realise that we do not have to be perfect before we hand over our lives to God. We only need a deep desire to invite Jesus to live within us and a trust that will allow him to do the rest. To help us, Jesus also said *“Remain in my love! For whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty.”*

If you need help with this, as we all do, then St Bernard is always ready to support you.

Surfing the internet, I came across **Conjunctivitis.com** – now there's a site for sore eyes.

And . . . A little boy in church for the first time watched as the ushers passed around the offering plates. When they came near his pew, the boy said loudly, ***“Don't pay for me, Daddy, I'm under five.”***