



St Anthony's Parish



St Bernard's Parish

67-75 EXFORD ROAD, MELTON SOUTH, 3338.
P.O BOX 2152 MELTON SOUTH 3338
TEL: 9747 9692 FAX: 9746 0422

61 LERDERBERG STREET, BACCHUS MARSH 3340
TEL:
OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS, KOROBET
309 MYRNIONG-KOROBET ROAD 3341

The 27th Sunday In Ordinary Time-Year A

4th October 2020

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Fabian Smith

ASSISTANT PRIESTS: Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint /Father Marcus Goulding

ST ANTHONY'S PARISH

Parish Secretary: Lesley Morffew Mon Tue Wed & Fri 9am-4pm

Admin Assistant: Judy Johnson Tue-Thu 10am-2pm

Parish Office Hours: phone/email contact only

Father Fabian 0403 435 471

Fr Lucas 0478 768 141 /Fr Marcus 0468 367 893

Email: meltonsouth@cam.org.au

Website: www.stanthonyofpadua.com.au

St Anthony's School Principal: Damien Schuster

Wilson Road, Melton South 3338

Phone: 8099 7800

Email: principal@sameltonsth.catholic.edu.au

Website: www.sameltonsth.catholic.edu.au

Catholic Regional College - Melton (Years 7-12)

Principal: Marlene Jorgensen **Phone:** 8099 6000

Website: www.crcmelton.com.au

ST BERNARD'S PARISH

Parish Secretary: Dolores Turcsan Wed-Fri 9am-1pm

Admin Assistant: Judy Johnson Tue-Thu 10am-2pm

Sacramental Coordinator/ Bookkeeper: Naim Chdid

Tue & Fri 10am-1pm

Parish Office Hours: phone/email contact only

Father Fabian 0403 435 471

Fr Lucas 0478 768 141/Fr Marcus 0468 367 893

Email: bacchusmarsh@cam.org.au

Website: www.stbernardsbacchusmarsh.com.au

St Bernard's School Principal: Emilio Scalzo

19a Gisborne Rd, Bacchus Marsh VIC 3340

Phone: (03) 5366 5800

Email: principal@sbbacchusmarsh.catholic.edu.au

Website: www.sbbacchusmarsh.catholic.edu.au

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL COUNCIL

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Sue Alexander | 0400 171 843 |
| Lillian Christian - Vice Chair | 0400 441 257 |
| Stephen Fernandes | 0439 743 533 |
| Amy Honrade | 03 9747 0078 |
| Natalie Howard - Chair | 0492 947 201 |
| Villy Julita | 0403 751 343 |
| Rose Ma'ae | 0431 386 473 |
| Sally Markulin | 0405 814 490 |
| Kim Nguyen | 0431 035 980 |

Ex-OFFICIO:

Fr Fabian Smith PP, Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint, Fr Marcus Goulding
and Damien Schuster Council Secretary: Judy Johnson

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL COUNCIL

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Shane Cook -School Advisory Board | 0419 999 052 |
| Peter Farren | 0418 594 501 |
| Maira Ross | 0400 675 056 |
| Aaron Russell | 0401 927 502 |
| James Waters - Chair | 0403 822 795 |

EX-OFFICIO:

Fr Fabian Smith PP, Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint, Fr Marcus Goulding
and Emilio Scalzo

CHILD SAFETY OFFICERS

Coordinator: Godwin Barton (0425 734 449)

Officers: Karina Dunne & Lorraine Tellis

PARISHIONER'S FIRST COLLECTION/SECOND COLLECTION

Parishioners who normally give cash each weekend for the collections, if they wish to donate, are now able to go to the link below and make their payments online.

The link to the St Anthony's Parish is: <https://bit.ly/CDFpayMeltonSouth>

The link to the St Bernard's Parish is: <https://bit.ly/CDFpayBacchusMarsh>

Please put your name and thanksgiving number if you know it as a reference.

Please note new PDFpay link. Thank you.



St Anthony's Parish

Melton South



St Bernard's Parish

Bacchus Marsh

2 October 2020

Dear parishioners of St Anthony's and St Bernard's,

On Wednesday 30 September 2020, Ballarat Magistrate's Court handed down a twelve-month custodial sentence to Father Alexander Athanas sac, former assistant priest at St Anthony's, Melton South and St Bernard's, Bacchus Marsh. Fr Athanas was sentenced after being convicted of sexual assault against a vulnerable adult. Father Athanas was stood down from active ministry when matters were raised and had his faculties to minister removed.

I, together with the leadership of the Archdiocese, am appalled by the nature of this crime and the betrayal of trust given by a priest working in this Archdiocese and our parishes. The betrayal of trust is compounded because of the good standing in which Fr Athanas was held by so many of us. Like you, I am deeply hurt by this betrayal. Together with the leadership of the Archdiocese, I wish to acknowledge the person who courageously brought this matter forward, and am grateful for the work of civil authorities in ensuring justice during this process. We hope that this outcome now begins a pathway towards healing for those involved.

I ask you to remember the victim of this crime and their family in your prayers as they continue their journey of healing. May we also keep each other close in prayer and concern as we too, learn to heal. Parishioners who have further questions about the matter or find it particularly distressing are welcome to get in contact with me.

The Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne reiterates its commitment to a culture that protects the vulnerable, and which listens and seeks to bring healing and justice to those who have been hurt. We reaffirm this commitment to the care and protection of all in the community, and will continue to work with survivors to give them every support for their healing, recovery and well-being.

Yours truly in Christ,

Fr Fabian Smith,
Parish Priest of St Anthony's, Melton South, and St Bernard's, Bacchus Marsh

MASS AND DEVOTIONS

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Anointing of the sick can be organised with the Priests directly, please call them.
Father Fabian 0403 435 471/Fr Lucas 0478 768 141 /Fr Marcus 0468 367 893

MASS TIMES—LIVE STREAMING FROM ST ANTHONY'S CHURCH

Monday-Saturday: 5.30pm Adoration/Rosary/Benediction
6.00pm Mass

Sunday: 10.30am Mass

MASSES AVAILABLE ON LIVE STREAMING— FACEBOOK AND YOUTUBE

St Anthony's Parish are live streaming Masses on YouTube.

The Masses are also being live streamed on Facebook. You can watch Masses by going to the website: stanthonypadua.com.au. Click the link for Live Masses.

The Masses are coming through the St Anthony's Facebook page—St Anthony of Padua Catholic Church Melton South (you will need to have a Facebook account to be able to view the Masses).

MASS AT ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL

The 11am Sunday Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral will be televised every week during the COVID-19 restrictions, on Channel 31 (often listed as Channel 44 on digital TVs). Also 'Mass for you at Home' is televised on channel 10 every Sunday at 6am. Please share this news with friends and family who might be limited to TV viewing. Please check your TV guides for changes.

PARISHIONER'S FIRST COLLECTION/SECOND COLLECTION OR PARISH APPEALS

Parishioners who normally give cash each weekend for the collections, if they wish to donate, are now able to go to the link below and make their payments online.

Parishioners are able to make quick and easy recurring thanksgiving payments or can choose a one-off offering from the comfort of their own home.

When making an offertory online, parishioners have the option to choose which collection they would like to partake in, as they usually would during Sunday Mass - first collection, second collection or a parish appeal.

The link to the St Anthony's Parish is: <https://bit.ly/CDFpayMeltonSouth>

The link to the St Bernard's Parish is: <https://bit.ly/CDFpayBacchusMarsh>

Please note new PDFpay link. Thank you.

Reminder daylight savings starts this weekend! Clocks are turned forward 1 hour.



ST ANTHONY'S FACEBOOK

Please visit our Facebook page.:

[St Anthony of Padua Catholic Church](#)

[Melton South](#) Live Masses streaming from St Anthony's daily.



CDFpay PAYMENTS-ST ANTHONY'S

Firstly, I would like to thank all of our parishioners who have embraced, paid Thanksgiving and donated through our CDFpay portal! I would like to clarify a couple of things though.

If you wish to contribute to the priests which is the 1st Collection you need to click on the **Presbytery icon.**

If you wish to contribute to Thanksgiving which is the 2nd Collection you need to click on the **Parish icon.** You also need to type in either your name or Your Thanksgiving number or both.

If you need your Thanksgiving number, please ring Lesley at the Parish Office on **9747 9692.**

If you wish to contribute towards another collection, e.g. Resurrection Chapel, you need to click on the Parish icon and clearly state your intention for the money in the reference as we need to move your money to the appropriate bank account.

If you have any other questions, please call me on the number above.

Thank you in advance from Lesley Morffew, Parish Secretary.



St Anthony's
Parish

RCIA BEGINNING IN NOVEMBER— ST ANTHONY'S AND ST BERNARD'S PROGRAM

Are you or someone you know interested in becoming Catholic? Non-Catholics are prepared for reception into the Catholic Church through the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA). RCIA involves weekly catechetical sessions and culminates with reception of the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Communion) at Easter 2021. One RCIA cycle will be run for both St Anthony's and St Bernard's beginning the first week of November. Meetings will be conducted in person when possible or by Zoom if necessary.

Contact Fr Marcus on 0468 367 893 for more information.

ST ANTHONY'S RENOVATION



St Anthony's
Parish

After many months of preparation and works, our renovations are complete!
A huge congratulations to Fr Fabian and all who worked so hard on the project. Click on this link to watch a video tour and to get a taste of what awaits you when Masses resume!
<https://stanthonyofpadua.com.au/>



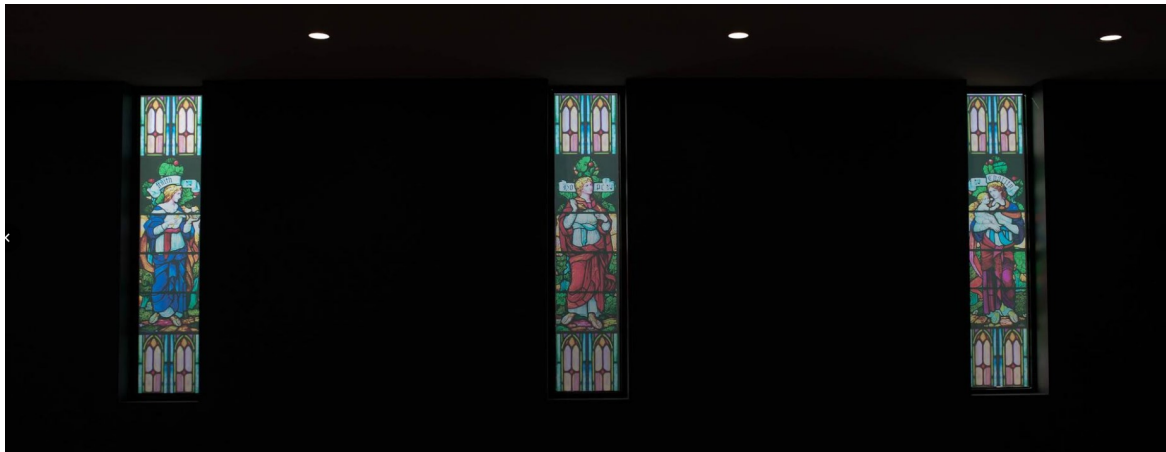
CHAPEL WINDOWS

These beautiful windows are in our new chapel. The windows cost \$8,000, if you are able to donate towards the cost, it would be greatly appreciated.

NAB Bank details.
Acc Name **ST ANTHONYS CHURCH**
BSB **083 347**
Account No **641915964**.

Please put in your Full Name for record keeping purposes.

Thank you.



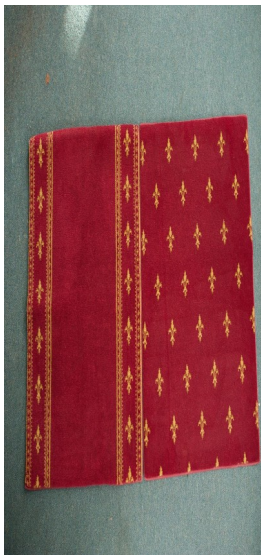
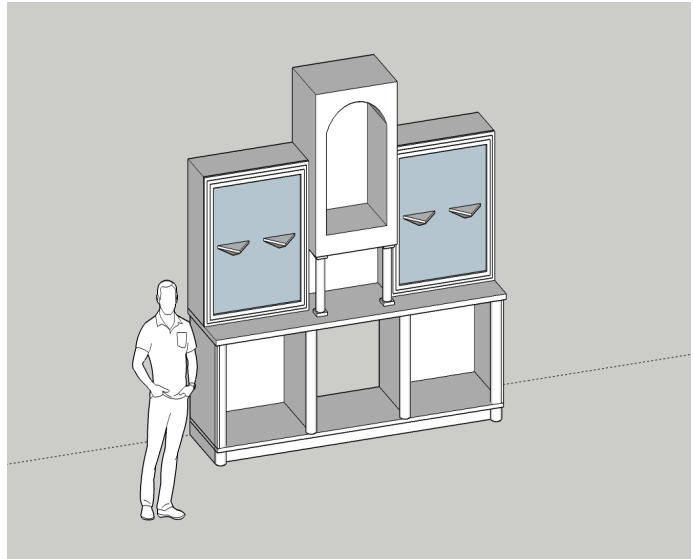


St Anthony's Parish

Dear Parishioners of St Anthony's,

Just an update on where we are at with the furnishings for the new chapel. The following items need you're your generous contribution; **High Altar**, Two White Angels, **St Anthony's Statue**, Carpet, **3 Pews** with upholstery for the seat and kneeler. **Only if you are in a financial position to help make this happen** and wish to contribute towards the furnishings, I am providing our **NAB** bank details. Ac Name **ST ANTHONYS CHURCH**, BSB **083 347** Account No **641915964**. Please put in your Full Name for record keeping. If you need to talk to me please contact me on 0403 435 471.

Many Blessings
Fr Fabian



ST ANTHONY'S PARISH OFFICE

Parishioners please be advised that the St Anthony's Parish Office will be closed during the current COVID-19 restrictions . The Parish Staff will be working from home. Please contact us for any assistance you need.

Lesley Morffew Parish Secretary **Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 9.00am-4.00pm**

Email Lesley: meltonsouth@cam.org.au or call **9747 9692**

Judy Johnson Admin Assistant **Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 10.00am-2.00pm**

Email Judy: judyparishnews@gmail.com or call **0414 007 009**

Est. 1874



St Bernard's Catholic Parish

BACCHUS MARSH

Dear parishioners of St Bernard's,

Masses remain suspended. At 11.59pm on Wednesday, 16th September 2020, regional Victoria moved to 'Step 3' in the State Government's reopening plan. Whilst this means that restaurants and other similar places of public gathering will be able to have 10 people indoors and 50 people outdoors, places of worship are limited to 10 people outdoors for gatherings, 20 people indoors for funerals, and 10 people indoors for weddings. The reason for the inequitable treatment of places of worship under the 'Step 3' plan is unclear. The Archbishop has attempted to have the situation rectified with little success. We encourage our parishioners to write to their member of Parliament requesting equitable treatment for churches under the Roadmap out of lockdown.

The open nature of St Bernard's property presents challenges in regard to controlling numbers at outdoor Masses so we have decided not to resume Masses at this point. We will do so as soon as possible.

Given these restrictions, Masses can only be celebrated for household groups. To request a time for Mass for you and your household please give Dolores a call on **53672069**. We will get back to you to confirm your request as soon as possible. Please check our website regularly for updated information. If you have any sacramental or spiritual need, please do not hesitate to contact the parish office. We look forward to reopening as soon as possible.

Pray at Home. We are working hard to help you keep close to the Lord throughout lock-down. Each week, a Liturgy of the Word is uploaded to our website to help you pray at home on Sundays. Fr Marcus is also recording a homily each week that you can access through that resource. For more information, visit www.stbernardsbacchusmarsh.com.au.

Fr Marcus on annual leave 5/10 – 10/10

Father Marcus will be on annual leave next week. If you have any sacramental or spiritual needs, please contact Fr Fabian or Fr Lucas.

Many blessings, Fr Fabian **0403 435 471** Fr Lucas **0478 768 141** Fr Marcus **0468 367 893**

SOUL FOOD

Soul Food provides a free community meal in a respectful and supportive environment for anyone who would like to join us. If you know of anyone who needs a helping hand, especially in these difficult times, please send them along and they will be made very welcome. Soul Food is held every Wednesday at 12 noon at the Uniting Church in Bacchus Marsh.

We are planning this year's Christmas function, and Soul Food is looking for people to sponsor the children of some of our families for Xmas. You will be given a child's name & age, and asked to buy them a few presents for Xmas. These will be collected on the last week of November, and distributed through Soul Food at our Xmas function.

If you would like to be a Christmas Sponsor for a local child who needs a helping hand, please call Jenny on 0408104155.



ST BERNARD'S PARISH OFFICE

Parishioners please be advised that the St Bernard's Parish Office will be closed during the COVID-19 restrictions. The Parish Staff will be working from home. Please contact us for any assistance you need.

Dolores Turcsan Parish Secretary **Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 9.00am-1.00pm**

Email Dolores: bacchusmarsh@cam.org.au or call **0432 055 992**.

Naim Chdid Sacramental Coordinator/ Bookkeeper **Tuesday & Friday 10.00am-1.00pm**

Email Naim: bacchusmarsh@cam.org.au

Judy Johnson Admin Assistant **Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 10.00am-2.00pm**

Email Judy: judyparishnews@gmail.com or call **0414 007 009**

Seeking Expressions of Interest
St Bernard's Property Development Advisory Committee

The COVID-related shutdown of parish activities has highlighted the importance of diversifying our parish's income streams. Previous generations of priests and parishioners have bequeathed to us a number of assets that remain under-utilised. Prudent redevelopment of some of these under-utilised assets could provide the parish with a reliable supplementary source of income.

At our Annual General Meeting held on Thursday, the decision was made to form a Property Development Advisory Committee. This Committee will have the task of canvassing options for the redevelopment of the parish's various properties with the aim of securing the parish's financial future. The first stage of the Property Development Advisory Committee's work will be to prepare a preliminary report that outlines different ways of generating income from the aforementioned properties. This report will be submitted to Father Fabian, the Parish Pastoral Council, and the Parish Finance Committee for review, before being shared with parishioners for their feedback. Following that feedback and the approval of the Finance Committee, the Property Development Advisory Committee may then be tasked to engage professional assistance in refining one or more of these options for further review and realisation. Membership of the Property Development Advisory Committee could, therefore, involve a two to three year commitment, with meetings held as required.

Parishioners are invited to express their interest in membership of the Development Advisory Committee. The Committee will consist of Father Marcus (chair) and between 4-6 parishioners, at least one of whom must also be a member of the Parish Finance Committee. We would particularly welcome expressions of interest from parishioners with experience in one or more of the following areas: project management, law, construction, finance, local government, planning. Expressions of interest should be submitted in writing by post or email to the Parish Office by close of business Friday, 9th October 2020. Expressions of interest should also identify how long you have been a parishioner, any other ways you have been involved in the parish, and any other relevant experience you have.

Many blessings on behalf of the Priest Team

Fr Fabian

ALL VOLUNTEERS IN OUR PARISH MUST HAVE A CURRENT WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK

ST ANTHONY'S

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

We pray for those whose death anniversaries occur at this time:

Francisco Alatrasta, Avelino Asube Jr, Rick Galanti, Madeline Giordmaina, Father Peter James, William Kelly, Marcelino Pardinan, Michael Portelli, Mladen Soldo & Keith Harry Williams

Please pray for the Sick:

Nickolia & Klara Butkovic, Maria Caruana, Mary Caruana, Chinnamma Joseph, Judy Layton, Peter Manicaro, Reg Marslen, Damien Michael, Kevin Michael, Tony Michael, Veronica Michael, Wanda Novak, Caleb O'Brien, John Osborne, Peter Poole, Irene Rahilly, Catherine Roberts, Peter Roberts, Pat Roberts, Charlie Spiteri, Dolores Turcsan, Clint Abela Wadge, & John Xuereb and all those who have requested our prayers.

(PLEASE LET US KNOW WHEN YOUR LOVED ONE IS NO LONGER REQUIRED ON THIS LIST)

ST BERNARD'S

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

FAITH ON FIRE PRAYER GROUP

Every fortnight on Thursday at 7.00pm. We pray the Rosary, Stations of the cross, Divine Mercy chaplet and do a Bible reading and discussion.

Next meeting **To be advised**

We pray for those recently deceased:

Lesley James Noonan

We pray for those whose death anniversaries occur at this time:

Domenica Amato, Mary & Zvonko Benac, Mark Densley, Brian Dobson, Carmen Farrugia, William Lang, Frank McMahon, Patricia Pidoto, Ida Suban & Ted Wilkinson.

Please pray for the Sick:

Noah Barlow, Chaiel Balcombe, Michael Barrett, Peter Bennett, Steven Braszel, Kevin Bridges, Tina Bower, John Canty, Fred Capuano, Gary Ching, Josephine Cilia, Robyn Cola, Ted Cooling, Marianne Cuskelly, Lindsay & Kathleen Dally, Judy Delahey, Jack DeLuca, Allison Evans, Helen Evans, Justin Fernandez, Pasquale Gagliarbi, Mario Galea, Cynthia Goodyear, Gwen Green, Joe Gristi, Adam Hillier, Elle Hillman, Kiahni Holamotutama, Alicia Holborn, Chaiel Jackson, Matthew Jansen, David Kasprzak, Michael Larkin, Marie Maloney, Patricia Marechal, Brian Marshall, Debbie Marshall, Jordanis Mary Pauline McDonald, Ian McKechnie, Marcus Meno, Paul Mullin, Arthur Pape, Michael Paterson, Georgia Peacock, Mitchell Prendergast, Peter Roberts, Ken Shaw, Terry Sims, Marian Smith, Elizabeth Stehmann, Susan Trist, Dolores Turcsan, Stephen Van Eede, John Van Orsouw, Angela Vicum, Louis Vogels, Barry Walsh, Mary Walsh, Cath Wheelahan, Jayne Wilkins, Patricia Yazbek, & Betty Young.

(PLEASE LET US KNOW WHEN YOUR LOVED ONE IS NO LONGER REQUIRED ON THIS LIST)

FATIMA STATUE

These families are praying together for the mission of the Parish:

- Group 1: **Lorraine Tellis** **0437 658 423**
- Group 2: **Anna Taunnu** **0406 503 363**
- Group 3: **Aubrey & Doreen Smith** **0433 003 322**



NEO-CONSTANTINOPOLITAN CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages.

God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

[bow during the next line]

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

Amen

Along the track

The Challenge of Spring

See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land. The fig tree forms its early fruit; the blossoming vines spread their fragrance. Song of Songs 2:11-13

As spring begins, the days are getting longer, the sun just that little warmer and signs of new life are emerging. Spring has come again and the earth and creation are being renewed around us. We give thanks for this gift of new life, for the reminder of the cycle and the wisdom of creation.

Spring is a vivid reminder of the power of the Spirit moving across the abyss at the dawn of Creation. Out of that darkness, life emerged. All things seen and unseen came into being. The colours and myriad shapes of spring, the trees, plants, flowers blooming in ways that defy description, remind us of the extraordinary generosity of God. For many birds and animals, new life begins and the cycle of life continues. It is a time of rejoicing, of new beginnings.

Spring is a time to trust, to learn from the land. Every seed has its own time of germinating and growing, just as we do. Every tree and bush will flower in its own time. We must wait patiently and hopefully. That cycle reminds us of the inner journey that each person must take, to be open to the gift of God's grace within, to be open to the seeds of faith which lie within, to allow them to grow and flourish.

As it is outside, so it is inside. The Spirit created the seen, and the unseen. It is a time for wonder, a time 'to cultivate our dreams'. It is a season of joy, a time for renewal. It is a time to strengthen or even awaken faith and trust in God's enduring presence and purpose. The Spirit, who lives within our hearts, fills us with the fire of faith, and inspires us (if we are open to it), to be God's hands, feet, mouth, and heart.

It is a time of revival for hearts and minds.

Spring is a time for cleaning out and making way for fresh possibilities and new commitments. It's a time to revive our appreciation of what is good and positive, a time to look for new growth, to

look for what is beautiful in our own lives and to expand our horizons. It is a time to reflect that "Behold, I make all things new" (Revelation 21:5) and ask the Spirit to make us worthy of this earth and inspire us in how we care for it, in what we sow and in what we reap, in what we plant and in what we prune.

It is the Season of Hope. As we plant seeds, and water, and wait for signs of new life, the season of spring asks us to reflect on how we see the world we live in. Are we pessimistic, with eyes and minds fixed firmly on restoring the glories of the past or are we people of hope, people with faith and confidence that God is present in our world, despite its troubles and strife. In the words of Pope Francis: "*We see the sprouts of a new world rather than the yellowing leaves on branches. We do not delude ourselves in nostalgias, regrets and laments: we know that God wants us to be heirs of a promise and tireless cultivators of dreams.*"

Is my soul in spring or in autumn? he asks. "*Of spring, that waits for the flower, that waits for the fruit, that waits for the sun that is Jesus, or of autumn, which is always with a face looking down, embittered and, as I've said sometimes, with the face of vinegar peppers.*"

To be tireless cultivators of dreams takes courage, imagination and confidence in a loving God, to be followers of those apostles who responded to Jesus' call to come with him and step out into the deep.

A final thought from Pope Francis: "*We received this world as an inheritance from past generations, but also as a loan from future generations, to whom we will have to return it!*"

What will we do about that? What kind of a world do we want to hand on to them?

Regards
Jim Quillinan

Email: jquillinan@dcsi.net.au

LITURGY OF THE WORD

ENTRANCE PROCESSION

Within your will, O Lord, all things are established,
and there is none that can resist your will.

For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth,
and all that is held within the circle of heaven;
you are the Lord of all.

FIRST READING Isaiah 5:1-7

Let me sing to my friend
the song of his love for his vineyard.
My friend has a vineyard
on a fertile hillside.

He dug the soil, cleared it of stones,
and planted choice vines in it.

In the middle he built a tower,
he dug a press there too.

He expected it to yield grapes,
but sour grapes were all that it gave.

And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and men of Judah,
I ask you to judge
between my vineyard and me.

What could I have done for my vineyard
that I have not done?

I expected it to yield grapes.

Why did it yield sour grapes instead?

Very well, I will tell you
what I am going to do to my vineyard:

I will take away its hedge for it to be grazed on,
and knock down its wall for it to be trampled on.

I will lay it waste, unpruned, undug;
overgrown by the briar and the thorn.

I will command the clouds
to rain no rain on it.

Yes, the vineyard of the Lord of hosts
is the House of Israel,
and the men of Judah
that chosen plant.

He expected justice, but found bloodshed,
integrity, but only a cry of distress.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 79

R. The vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel.

You brought a vine out of Egypt;
to plant it you drove out the nations.
It stretched out its branches to the sea,
to the Great River it stretched out its shoots. **R.**

Then why have you broken down its walls?
It is plucked by all who pass by.
It is ravaged by the boar of the forest,
devoured by the beasts of the field. **R.**

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. **R.**

And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name.
God of hosts, bring us back;
let your face shine on us and we shall be saved. **R.**

SECOND READING Philippians 4:6-9

There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, fill your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honour, and everything that can be thought virtuous or worthy of praise. Keep doing all the things that you learnt from me and have been taught by me and have heard or seen that I do. Then the God of peace will be with you.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I call you friends, says the Lord,
because I have made known to you
everything I have learnt from my Father.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 21:33-43

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people: 'Listen to another parable. There was a man, a landowner, who planted a vineyard; he fenced it round, dug a winepress in it and built a tower; then he leased it to tenants and went abroad. When vintage time drew near he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his servants, thrashed one, killed another and stoned a third. Next he sent some more servants, this time a larger number, and they dealt with them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them. "They will respect my son," he said. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, "This is the heir. Come on, let us kill him and take over his inheritance." So they seized him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' They answered, 'He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will deliver the produce to him when the season arrives.' Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures:

It was the stone rejected by the builders
that became the keystone.

This was the Lord's doing
and it is wonderful to see?

'I tell you, then, that the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord is good to those who hope in him,
to the soul that seeks him.

NEXT WEEK'S READING

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Isaiah 25:6-10;

Second Reading: Philip 4:12-14. 9-20;

Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14



The life of Catholic worship and piety XXXVII

The Church's gift of time (3)

The Liturgical Seasons (continued)

Christmas

The liturgical season of Christmas begins at the Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve and continues until the feast of the Baptism of the Lord (January 9) at least, although some continue until the feast of the Presentation (February 2 — giving you more leeway on getting the tree down!). This is in stark contrast to the world, which abruptly cuts its “holiday” cacophony off on December 25, leaving folks somewhat bereft even of their ersatz celebration.

But Christians keep the feast for the octave (eight days) and beyond. At Mass, carols are sung, which is wonderful, since the repertoire is vast and certainly bears up to many days of exploration. If children are to know this treasury, it must be sung! Family visits and gatherings can continue all through the real Christmas season, with singing encouraged.

At the prayer table, the Nativity has its Baby Jesus, and the Wise Men commence their journey towards the Holy Family. The Wise Men figures may be placed elsewhere in the room and, each day from Christmas to Epiphany, moved closer to the Nativity scene. Children delight in moving them forward. An icon of the Holy Family can be brought out and a candle lit before it.

Epiphany

Epiphany, or Little Christmas, as Europeans call it, is a time of contemplating dedication to the star, which we can think of as the guide on the journey. Traditionally celebrated on January 6, this day is now moved to the second Sunday after Christmas. It can be thought of as a season that extends Christmas to feast of the Presentation. It is a time that people seem predisposed to make resolutions and recommit to their priorities.

At the prayer table, the Wise Men reach the Nativity, bearing their gifts. Children can begin the challenge of thinking about vocation — the specific way they follow the call of Jesus. Gently, the prayers and readings in the Liturgy direct our minds toward the necessity of going down deep in our faith.

The Liturgical seasons expand our horizon of faith. Anyone who becomes frustrated by his limitations in the face of the vastness of the truths of the Faith should remember that salvation is a true story, a narrative that unfolded in history and continues to unfold in his life. The liturgical year does not just enhance our participation in the big moments of that narrative — it layers all the elements in a yearlong chronicle that we can take part in as the situation allows.

Some years, for instance, when a baby is on the way, or a new job is taking up all our available energy, the big moments are all we can handle. In other years, our own personal “Ordinary Time”, when, for instance, we are in the thick of trying to educate our growing children, as a family we delve into every detail of that story.

When we think of time as a gift and a way to increase devotion to God, some traditions make more sense. Suddenly they do not seem mindlessly complicated. Each of us will have a very personal list of devotions we would like to keep alive in our consciousness, but if choosing seems overwhelming, we can relax in the thought that tradition has already provided a gentle way to cycle through different aspects of religion. Time has done this for us.

Time continues to unfold in its spiral way, and we can revisit all the necessary thoughts and spiritual aids in order. If we miss something this day or week or year, we will be given an opportunity in the next. Rather than worrying that we have forgotten something, or, worse, realising that we, in our limited nature, have simply failed to consider part of our Faith, all the aspects are presented to us in this gift of time.

Feast Days

Ointment and perfumes rejoice the heart: and the good counsels of a friend are sweet to the soul

Just as the seasons bring us into the “year of grace”, so the celebration of the saints’ lives is indispensable for our humanity. We need to commemorate those who have gone before — whose virtue and strength give us the example we need. Everyone needs a friend.

Without friends, we can't live — not as real human beings in relation to each other.

The saints are our friends par excellence. They go before us and encourage us. Their friendship is marked by this quality, the very epitome of the meaning of the word friend: they bring us closer to Jesus Christ.

Who would not celebrate the feast day of a friend? Celebrating feast days satisfies a deep need of ours — to rejoice and be glad in companionship. The Church offers feasts and memorials of the saints in her liturgical calendar. It is up to the family and the community to decide which of these to commemorate and how. We are probably all familiar with celebrations of St Anthony or St Joseph in parishes with a large Italian presence, but did you know that your family can do the same at home? Whichever saints days and feasts appeal to you can be marked by a cake, a special supper, or a treat that you do not usually have.

At the prayer table, put an icon or prayer card of the saint for the day if you have one, perhaps with a little flower in a vase. If you are very lucky, maybe you have a relic of the saint to venerate! (Acts 19:11-12: “And God did extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, so that handkerchiefs or aprons were carried away from his body to the sick, and diseases left them and the evil spirits came out of them.”)

This, then, is an overview of the sorts of time God has given us in His Church and in creation.