



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: 5367 2069
OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS, KOROBET
309 MYRNIONG-KOROBET ROAD 3341

4th Sunday In Ordinary Time-Year B

31st January 2021

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Fabian Smith
ASSISTANT PRIESTS: Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint /Father Marcus Goulding

ST ANTHONY'S PARISH

Parish Secretary: Lesley Morffew

Admin Assistant: Judy Johnson

Parish Office Hours:

Tuesday-Friday 9.00am-1.00pm

Email: meltonsouth@cam.org.au

Website: www.stanthonyof padua.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

ST BERNARD'S PARISH

Parish Secretary: Dolores Turcsan

Admin Assistant: Judy Johnson

Sacramental Coordinator/ Bookkeeper: Naim Chdid

Parish Office Hours:

Tuesday-Friday 9.00am-1.00pm

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

Catholic Regional College - Melton (Years 7-12)

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

Website: www.crcmelton.com.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
Rose Ma'ae	0431 386 473
Sally Markulin	0405 814 490

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
Moir Ross	0400 675 056
Aaron Russell - Chair	0401 927 502

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.

If you need a Priest in the case of an emergency please call 0403 435 471

MASS AND DEVOTIONS

ST ANTHONY'S 1/2-7/2 MELTON SOUTH

MASS TIMES:

Monday 1st Feb: 6.30pm
 Tuesday 2nd Feb: 9.15am & 6.30pm
 Wednesday 3rd Feb: 7.30am & 9.15am
 Thursday 4th Feb: 9.15am
 Friday 5th Feb: 7.30am & 9.15am
 1st Friday Devotions 7.30pm
 Midnight

Saturday 6th Feb:
 1st Saturday Devotions 8.30am

A Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration will be held each

Tuesday evening at 5.30pm

Saturday Vigil 6th Feb: 5.00pm

Sunday 7th Feb: 8.30am
 10.30am
 5.00pm

Confession available 30 minutes prior to each Mass

ST BERNARD'S 1/2-7/2 BACCHUSMARSH

MASS TIMES:

Monday 1st Feb: No Mass
 Tuesday 2nd Feb: 7.30am
 Wednesday 3rd Feb: 9.30am
 Thursday 4th Feb: 7.30am
 Friday 5th Feb: 9.30am
 Saturday 6th Feb: (EF Latin 1962) 9.00am

A Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration will be held each
 Tuesday evening at 7.30pm.

Saturday Vigil 6th Feb: 5.00pm

Sunday 7th Feb: 8.30am
 10.00am

Confession available 30 minutes prior to each Mass

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

KOROBET

MASS TIME

Saturday Vigil: 6.30pm

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

LEARN ABOUT THE LATIN MASS

10am – 11am Saturdays during February @ St Bernard's Parish Hall, Bacchus Marsh

Preceded by Latin Mass at 9am in St Bernard's Church

Over the last decade, there has been a great renewal in appreciation for the pre-Conciliar form of the Sacred Liturgy, often termed the 'Extraordinary Form' or 'Latin Mass'. To help you familiarise with this beautiful and ancient form of the Church's worship, Fr Marcus is offering four catechetical presentations during February.

Session 1 | 6th Feb 2020 – The Structure of the Mass

Session 2 | 13th Feb 2020 – The Postures and Responses

Session 3 | 20th Feb 2020 – History & Theology of the Mass

Session 4 | 27th Feb 2020 – Testimonies

PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

ST ANTHONY'S

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER 6th & 7th February

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

Saturday -6th February

5.00pm Gavin Pereira

Sunday-7th February

8.30am : Kim Nguyen

10.30am : Regina Tuala

5.00pm: Lorraine Tellis

PIETY STALL

We are seeking volunteers to help in our beautiful new Piety Stall after Mass on the weekends. We especially need volunteers to man the stall after the 10.30am and 5pm Sunday Masses.

If you are interested please contact Kim Barton 0425 770 618 or contact the Parish Office 9747 9692. Thank you.



BINGO

St Anthony's Bingo recommences this Tuesday 2nd February. Start time: 7.00pm Finish time 9.45pm. We have 3 sessions per evening with a cost of \$9.00 a set (45 games).

Come and have a great social evening with your fellow parishioners and friends. Coffee and tea are provided and there are canteen services available.

ST BERNARD'S

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER 6th & 7th February

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

Saturday 6th February

5.00pm: Kratchovil Family

Sunday 7th February

8.30am Michael Baddeley

10.00am Lindorff Family

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

Saturday 6th February

5.00pm Mary Beaton

Sunday 7th February

8.30am Ben Kratchovil

10.00am Tup Shea

PIETY STALL

We are seeking volunteers to man the Piety Stall after Mass. The time commitment is about 30 minutes every 4 weeks. If you are interested please contact Margot Short on 0419 507 438.

LENTEN REFLECTION

You are invited to share reflections on Sunday Gospels at St Joseph's Convent, 68 Lerderberg St on Thursday mornings 10.30 am beginning 18th February. Bookings essential as early as possible.

Phone Sr Mary 5367 2078 or email Mary.fermio@sosi.org.au

ST BERNARD'S PARISH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & BBQ DINNER

6.00pm, Saturday 13th February 2021

All St Bernard's parishioners are invited to attend our parish AGM and BBQ dinner following the Vigil Mass on Saturday, 13th February. This year's AGM is an important opportunity to plan our parish's growth in Christ following the lockdowns and challenges of 2020. Families and children particularly welcome.

NEW ALTAR-SERVER TRAINING EVENING

An training evening for young people (Grade 3 to Year 12)

interested in learning to serve Mass at St Bernard's will be held in the church from 6.30pm-8.30pm on Thursday, 11th February 2021. Current altar servers expected to attend. Registration of attendance by email to bacchusmarsh@cam.org.au appreciated.

NEW CHOIR FORMING FOR ST BERNARD'S 10AM SUNDAY MASS

Fr Marcus is inviting people to join a new choir to sing at St Bernard's 10am Sunday Mass. He will run rehearsals in the church from 7.30pm-8.30pm every Wednesday evening beginning February 3rd 2021. All welcome.

SERVICE / COMMUNITY

ST ANTHONY'S

WEEKEND VOLUNTEERS: 6th & 7th Feb

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: Kim Barton
8.30am: Judy Johnson
10.30am: Judy Van Hoos
5.00pm: To be Advised

CHURCH FLOWERS

February: Rosabella & Gloria



CLEANING ROSTER: Thursday

Lorelle Porter

Volunteers would be appreciated as well.

Please contact the Parish Office if you are able to help
9747 9692. Thank you.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Welfare Number: 1800 305 330

The Melton South Conference meet every 3rd Tuesday morning in the Holy Family Room 10.30am.

New members most welcome, training provided.

Non perishable items within the use by date can be left in the 'drop box' at the back of the Church. Thank you.

COMBINED CHURCHES CARING MELTON INC

We're here to support City of Melton residents get ahead through access to our foodbank and other community programs. It's never just about the food or the budget help, it's about recognising the beauty that is in the person and bringing it out so they can be their best.

Address: 100 Coburn Road Melton South 9747 6811

God, strengthen and sustain all those who volunteer in our Churches; that with patience and understanding they may love and care for your people; and grant that together they may follow with Jesus Christ offering to you their gifts and talents.

Amen



ST BERNARD'S

WEEKEND VOLUNTEERS : 6th & 7th Feb

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Sunday: Jan & Colm

CHURCH FLOWERS

To be Advised



PRESBYTERY & CHURCH GROUNDS-

Front Garden:

Back/Side Garden:

Parish Centre: Roster Pending

Carpark/Pines:

Back Paddock:

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY:

Welfare Number is 1800 305 330.

The Vinnies Store is located at 8 Grant Street, Bacchus Marsh. The store is open 7 days a week. If you are able to volunteer and would like some more information, please contact the Store Manager on 8199 4205.

THE NEIGHBOURS PLACE

The Neighbours' Place is a Christian not-for-profit organisation whose aim is to serve people of the **Moorabool Shire**, west of Melbourne Australia, who are disadvantaged, at risk or temporarily unable to feed themselves or their family and who are in need of emergency food relief.

NILS is a **No Interest Loans Scheme** for assistance of up to \$1500 for things like white goods, furniture and minor car repairs to keep life going.

We are located at [77 Main Street, Bacchus Marsh](#)

Phone: 03 5367 6222

Email: neighbourspl@inet.net.au

Hours of Operation: Monday, Wednesday and Friday
9.30am-12.30pm. Closed on public holidays.

SOUL FOOD

Soul Food provides a free community meal each Wednesday (excluding school holidays), in the Uniting Church Hall, Gisborne Rd, Bacchus Marsh. Meals are served up at 12noon. All are welcome and this is a free event. No need to book, just come along.

PARISH CENTRE BOOKING

Tel: 5367 3427 Mon—Fri 9.00am to 6.00pm

Hall Managers: Marie & Terry Casey

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:

Mary Cochrane, Ellen Dodemaide, Krystyna Kwiatek, Eunice Mc Roberts, David Spiteri, Tulo Tuala & Andrew Waleryszlek

Please pray for the Sick:

Nickolia & Klara Butkovic, Maria Caruana, Mary Caruana, Sabina (Ina) Faux, Chinnamma Joseph, Judy Layton, Peter Manicaro, Reg Marslen, Damien Michael, Kevin Michael, Tony Michael, Veronica Michael, Caleb O'Brien, John Osborne, Peter Poole, Irene Rahilly, Catherine Roberts, Peter Roberts, Pat Roberts, Charlie Spiteri, Janko Stojanovic, 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)

FATIMA STATUE

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

- Group 1: **Theresa Anderson** **0420 820 118**
- Group 2: **Naim Chdid** **0437 004 790**
- Group 3: **Philip & Cristina Anyayahan** **0403 171 918**



DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

1st Sunday of the Month-3.00pm

ST BERNARD'S

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

We pray for the recently deceased: Mary Grech

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

Olive Andrews, Rodney Arnold, Thelma Crowley, Gary Dodd, Mercy Kumar, Denis Lennox, Jane Reilly, Dorothy (Jill) Smith, Betty Tregurtha, Peter Shea, Tom Thompson and Martin Vrbec.

Please pray for the Sick:

Noah Barlow, Chaiel Balcombe, Michael Barrett, Peter Bennett, Steven Braszel, 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, Leonie Kervin, 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, Stephen Van Eede, John Van Orsouw, Angela Vicum, Louis Vogels, Barry Walsh, Cath Wheelahan, Jayne Wilkins, Patricia Yazbek, & Betty Young.

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

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

Australia Day

For all the controversy around the date, there is much to celebrate about Australia. It is an ancient, vast and beautiful country with a history few can match.

The first to set down roots here were the Aboriginal people. In the words of Pope Saint John Paul II's message to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Alice Springs: As the human family spread over the face of the earth, your people settled and lived in this big country that stood apart from all the others... for thousands of years you have lived in this land and fashioned a culture that endures to this day. And during all this time, the Spirit of God has been with you.

In recent times, people from all over the world have joined them, people from different cultures and beliefs, from different traditions speaking different languages, people with skills and talents that have enriched Australia. So many have come here, in the First Fleet somewhat reluctantly and later those seeking a new start, those who have come with dreams of a better future and others seeking safe harbour. Over decades, Australia has become a dreamtime place where those in search of a new beginning have found a place to call home. And they brought with them the shared dream of creating a new life and in so doing have helped create a richer nation in every sense of the word. And that is still happening. In a very real sense, we are still 'becoming Australia.' We live in a country that is still finding its soul and its voice.

Despite differences and disagreements, tensions and at times conflict, we are a remarkably peaceful country. Unlike some other countries, even when elections are hard fought, at times marred by bitterness, we accept the result and move on. Sectarianism has raised its ugly face over our history but it has never really found a lasting foothold. In contrast, our ethnic differences have become a source of pride. It is true that Australia is one of the most successful multi-cultural nations in the world.

It is a joy to travel across this vast place. Over the horizon lies different landscapes which all have their unique beauty. There seems to be a little bit of the world tucked away somewhere in Australia. It is a land of contrasts. It can be a tough country to move through sometimes and the people who live there have a survival resilience and humour. In other places, wealth has enabled people to luxuriate (literally) in some of the most beautiful landscapes to be seen anywhere. When the north suffers through floods, the south can be in drought. Cyclones can crash across the northern coastlines while southerners go to the beach. The north takes its revenge when the south suffers through the winter months and the tropics offer the perfect antidote!

But we have made mistakes. This is a fragile place. Travelling across this vast country we witness how we have over exploited the land and its resources. Gaping holes mark abandoned mines. Vast tracts of land have been eroded. Water is still as precious as ever but the river flows have become erratic through overuse and mismanagement. Longer and longer droughts are having a very long lasting and devastating impact. Climate change is taking a heavy toll on perhaps our most spectacular and precious landmark – the Great Barrier Reef as well as farm lands that once gave up seemingly unending harvests. Our bush has been depleted and along with that our precious and unique wildlife. The increasing population that is an inevitable part of our future is creating tensions that cannot be ignored.

Australia Day gives us cause to celebrate and rightly so. This is a wonderful country. Australians are a generous, fun loving, sports mad people. We can travel from one end of this country to the other and feel both safe and welcome. Criticism of this day provokes strong reactions and that is understandable – such criticism or questioning is regarded as an attack on what we love and its role in making us a people. That can create a lot of anxiety in many Australians. But this day ought to give us pause for reflection too. Has our underlying myth of a 'fair go' become just that - a myth? The first people of our land, the Aboriginal people deserve better. They and their wisdom are not really included. The refugee deserves better. In this land of contrasts where wealth and poverty live side by side how long can we continue to ignore the homeless and the hungry, how long can we continue to listen to those who vilify them, how long will we listen to those who say 'go back to where you came from without' – how long before we stand up and say "Enough!" Australia Day is a reminder that if we are to live in harmony with each other and our land, we need to work at it. The First Settlers could teach us a thing or two about that! Australia is above all a place of hope.

We have lived through a dreadful time – the pandemic split Australia. We could not cross borders, sometimes those created even in our own state. Some parts of Australia endured long periods of lockdown and that was hard. "The Economy" became the catch cry rather than the welfare of the people who make it a reality. Australia is an idea as much as a place. What do you think it looks like? What do you want it to be?

Happy Australia Day!

Regards
Jim Quillinan

Email: jquillinan@dcsl.net.au

LITURGY OF THE WORD

ENTRANCE PROCESSION

Save us, O Lord our God!
And gather us from the nations,
to give thanks to your holy name,
and make it our glory to praise you.

FIRST READING Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Moses said to the people: 'Your God will raise up for you a prophet like myself, from among yourselves, from your own brothers; to him you must listen. This is what you yourselves asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the Assembly. "Do not let me hear again" you said "the voice of the Lord my God, nor look any longer on this great fire, or I shall die"; and the Lord said to me, "All they have spoken is well said. I will raise up a prophet like yourself for them from their own brothers; I will put my words into his mouth and he shall tell them all I command him. The man who does not listen to my words that he speaks in my name, shall be held answerable to me for it. But the prophet who presumes to say in my name a thing I have not commanded him to say, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die."' The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 94

Commentator: If today, you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts.

All: If today, you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts.

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord.

Come in, let us kneel and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand.

O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.'

If today, you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts.

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 7:32-35

I would like to see you free from all worry. An unmarried man can devote himself to the Lord's affairs, all he need worry about is pleasing the Lord; but a married man has to bother about the world's affairs and devote himself to pleasing his wife: he is torn two ways. In the same way an unmarried woman, like a young girl, can devote herself to the Lord's affairs; all she need worry about is being holy in body and spirit. The married woman, on the other hand, has to worry about the world's affairs and devote herself to pleasing her husband. I say this only to help you, not to put a halter round your necks, but simply to make sure that everything is as it should be, and that you give your undivided attention to the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

A people in darkness have seen a great light:
a radiant dawn shines on those lost in death.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mark 1:21-28

Jesus and his followers went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the Sabbath came Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority.

In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit, and it shouted, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.' But Jesus said sharply, 'Be quiet! Come out of him!' And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. 'Here is a teaching that is new' they said 'and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him.' And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Let your face shine on your servant.

Save me in your merciful love.

O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.

NEXT WEEK'S READING

5th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME-YEAR B

First Reading: Job 7:1-4,6-7;

Second Reading: 1 Cor 9:16-19,22-23;

Gospel: Mk 1:29-39



The Psalms VI

Deep questions, only hints at answers

Part Two

•**Psalm 69:** *“For it is for your sake that I have borne reproach For zeal for your house has consumed me, and the insults of those who insult you have fallen on me I looked for pity, but there was none; and for comforters, but I found none. They gave me gall for food, and for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.”* (7-9, 20-21)

•**Psalm 91:** *“For he will give his angels charge of you to guard you in all your ways. On their hands they will bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone Because he clings to me in love, I will deliver him; I will protect him, because he knows my name.”* (9-16; this Psalm is a good example of how what can be applied to anyone who clings to God can be applied pre-eminently to Christ Himself.)

Psalm 118: *“This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it. I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. This is the LORD’s doing; it is marvellous in our eyes. This is the day which the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.”* (20-24)

Suffering and Salvation

It is evident that many of the Messianic psalms — those that speak more or less directly of Christ or that look forward to a time of definitive triumph and joy — are closely united to the two other themes I mentioned. Often, there is an intense personal or national suffering which preoccupies the psalmist, and this leads him to ponder his own end, the end of the Jewish people, and even at times the end of all mankind.

But there is a remarkable ambivalence in the Psalms about these matters. When the psalmist teaches in Psalm 1 that “the LORD knows the way of the righteous but the way of the wicked perishes” (6), there is surely a hint that the difference between the righteous and the wicked is a matter of living in the LORD. But sometimes the goal seems only to be earthly triumph over enemies, so that the

By Dr Jeff Mirus, catholicculture.org/



Psalm 91: Angels ministering to Christ.

psalmist or the present generation can live a long and secure life before passing away.

When considered in the context of persistent suffering, Psalm 39 even goes so far as to plead with God to leave the psalmist alone: “Look away from me, that I may know gladness, before I depart and be no more” (13), and several Psalms — such as Psalm 30 — make an argument out of this question: “What profit is there in my death ...? Will the dust praise you?” (9).

At other times, salvation seems to be regarded as the survival and prosperity of God’s people as a *people*, without regard to the distinct persons who have died, or even as simply the ongoing possession of the land. The idea of “posterity” is one way the Psalms reconcile the fleeting life of the individual with the endurance of God (see, for example, Psalm 102).

And yet there are many hints of an eternity caught up with God. Otherwise, this verse from Psalm 116 would be sheer nonsense: “Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints” (15).

When the Psalms were composed, the definitive salvation by our God through Christ was still far off. To Christians, however, the combination of Christ, suffering, and our final end sounds very like a plan.