



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

5th Sunday In Ordinary Time-Year B

7th February 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:
Monday/Wednesday/Friday 9.00am-4.00pm
Tuesday 9.00am-1.00pm Thursday 9.00am-5.30pm
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

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 8/2-14/2 MELTON SOUTH

MASS TIMES:

Monday 8th Feb:	6.30pm
Tuesday 9th Feb:	9.15am & 6.30pm
Wednesday 10th Feb:	St Scholastica (Mem) 7.30am & 9.15am
Thursday 11th Feb:	9.15am
Friday 12th Feb:	7.30am & 9.15am

A Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration will be held each

Tuesday evening at 5.30pm

Saturday Vigil 13th Feb: 5.00pm

Sunday 14th Feb: 8.30am
10.30am
5.00pm

Confession available 30 minutes prior to each Mass

ST BERNARD'S 8/2-14/2 BACCHUSMARSH

MASS TIMES:

Monday 8th Feb:	No Mass
Tuesday 9th Feb:	7.30am
Wednesday 10th Feb:	St Scholastica Memorial 9.30am
Thursday 11th Feb:	7.30am
Friday 12th Feb:	9.30am
Saturday 13th Feb:	(EF Latin 1962) 9.00am

A Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration will be held each

Tuesday evening at 7.30pm.

Saturday Vigil 13th Feb: 5.00pm

Sunday 14th Feb: 8.30am
10.00am

Confession available 30 minutes prior to each Mass

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

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

KOROBEIT

MASS TIME

Saturday Vigil: 6.30pm

OLD PALMS

Parishioners, if you have old palms you would like bring back to the Church, we will have a box /basket for you to leave them in in the Church Foyer.

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

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. Thanks .

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Our St Vincent de Paul Society have set-up a drop box to receive donations of non-perishable food (within the use by date). The donation box is located in the Church Foyer. Thank you for your generosity.

LENTEN WEEKLY FAITH FORMATION

This Lent St Anthony's is hosting a weekly faith formation series looking at St Joseph: Model of the Spiritual Life. The series will be run by *Sapientia*, a group of theologians from Melbourne. Each night will consist of a talk, a period of discussion, and hospitality. Come along to hear about and discuss the litany of St Joseph and his titles of Promotor of Social Justice, Model of Virtue, Protector of Christ, and Son of David. Mondays 22 Feb, 1, 15, 22 Mar, 7pm in the Meeting Room ALL WELCOME

Register at <https://tinyurl.com/meltonsouth>. Flyers available in Church foyer. Please put your name down on the Expression of Interest Clipboard. Thank you

BINGO

St Anthony's Bingo has recommenced. 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.



The Feast Day of St. Scholastica is celebrated on Feb. 10.

St. Scholastica was born in central Italy. She was the twin sister to St. Benedict who founded the [Benedictine Order](#). Their parents were affluent. After Benedict left for the monastery, Scholastica founded a monastery for nuns within five miles of St. Benedict's monastery.

Source: Website "The Mystery of Faith— Discovering Catholic Spirituality"

ST BERNARD'S

ST BERNARD'S PARISH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & BBQ DINNER 6.00pm, Saturday 13th Feb 2021 in the Hall

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. BYO drinks.

AGM Draft Agenda: (1) Prayer; (2) Attendance; (3) Minutes of AGM 2020; (4) Sacramental Statistics; (5) School governance update; (6) Finance report; (7) Property development opportunities; (8) 12-month forward plan; (9) General Business; (10) Expressions of Thanks; (11) Set date of AGM 2022; (12) Prayer. Opportunities for courteous and respectful questions will be provided

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Register at <https://tinyurl.com/sapientiabacchusmarsh>.

Flyers are available in the Church foyer.

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@sosj.org.au

SENIORS MASS

A special Seniors Mass will be held on Friday 19th February at 10.30am in the Parish Centre. All Parishioners are invited to come along to acknowledge and give thanks for the wonderful contribution Elizabeth Lummis has given to 'Our Parish Seniors' over the past 33 years. Please bring a plate for morning tea.

NEW ALTAR-SERVER TRAINING EVENING

6.30pm, Thursday 11th February 2020

A training evening for young people (Grade 3 to Year 12) interested in learning to serve Mass at St Bernard's will be conducted by Fr Marcus in the church from 6.30pm-8.30pm on Thursday, 11th February 2021. Current altar servers wishing to continue serving are expected to attend. Please register attendance by email to bacchusmarsh@cam.org.au.

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. Rehearsals have begun and are held each Wednesday evening in the church from 7.30pm-8.30pm.

THE JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS

The Josephite Companions, formerly the Josephite Associates, are having their annual Leaders meeting on the 27th February. It will be at the Heritage Centre in East Melbourne. It will begin at 9.30. Chris N. Van Order is attending and although numbers are limited, if anyone from the group would also like to attend then please contact Chris V. O. 0474 090 977. It will be a learning, friendship and prayerful day.

WORSHIP NEWS

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

ST ANTHONY'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 12th & 13th Feb MINISTERS OF THE WORD

5.00pm Vigil: Liza Fernandez
8.30am: Leonia Jessop
10.30am: Susan Malinov
5.00pm: Michael Higgins

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm Vigil:
8.30am:
10.30am: Roster Pending
5.00pm

If you are unavailable for these dates please contact the emergency minister on the roster. Thank you

MASS COORDINATORS

5.00pm Vigil: Annonika & Natalie
8.30am: Lina & Godwin
10.30am: Lillian & Godwin
5.00pm: Pat & Leonia

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Babette Arandez, Peter Azzopardi, Maria & Joseph Cauchi & George Portelli.

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)

PRAYER FOR THE SICK

Father we lift up all those who are facing illness. We ask that You bring healing, comfort and peace to their bodies. Calm their fears and let them experience the healing power of your love.
Amen



ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 12th & 13th Feb MINISTERS OF THE WORD

5.00pm: Trish Davine
8.30am: Gerard Harrington
10.00am: Volunteer needed

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Peter McPhan
8.30am: Carol Jones
10.00am: Diane Corro

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

We pray for the recently deceased:

Ronald John Knight

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

Sam Azzopardi, Alma Dowsett & Samara Vereker.

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, Catherine Time, 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)

SERVICE / COMMUNITY

ST ANTHONY'S

WEEKEND VOLUNTEERS: 12th & 13th Feb

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: Lorraine Tellis
8.30am: Pat Chiles
10.30am: Geeta Vincent
5.00pm: Volunteer needed

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' in the Church foyer.

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 : 12th & 13th Feb

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Sunday: Jan Farmelo

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 \$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@iinet.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

FAITH FORMATION

ST ANTHONY'S AND ST BERNARD'S

BAPTISM PREPARATION PROGRAM– ST ANTHONY'S AND ST BERNARD'S

The Baptism Preparation Meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of the month.

Time: **6.30pm-7.45pm.**

Next preparation meeting : **Thursday 25th February**

Location: **St Bernard's Parish Centre**

Baptisms are held on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month.

Both parents are required to attend these meetings. We kindly request adults only and a copy of the birth certificate.

Please be advised that Baptism applications must be submitted 2 months in advance.

Contact Fr Fabian, Fr Marcus, Fr Lucas or the Parish Office for queries.

BAPTISM TEAM: Roster Pending



ADULT PREPARATION

Adult preparation for the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist or Confirmation are through the R.C.I.A Program. Please see Fr Fabian, Fr Marcus or Fr Lucas .

FATIMA STATUE—ST ANTHONY'S

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

PRAYER TO ST MICHAEL

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the Devil; may God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl through the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.



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

LITURGY OF THE WORD

ENTRANCE PROCESSION

O come, let us worship God
and bow low before the God who made us,
for he is the Lord our God.

FIRST READING Job 7:1-4, 6-7

Job began to speak:
Is not man's life on earth nothing more than pressed service,
his time no better than hired drudgery?
Like the slave, sighing for the shade,
or the workman with no thought but his wages,
months of delusion I have assigned to me,
nothing for my own but nights of grief.
Lying in bed I wonder, 'When will it be day?'
Risen I think, 'How slowly evening comes!'
Restlessly I fret till twilight falls.
Swifter than a weaver's shuttle my days have passed,
and vanished, leaving no hope behind.
Remember that my life is but a breath,
and that my eyes will never again see joy.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 146

Commentator: Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.

All: Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.

Praise the Lord for he is good;
sing to our God for he is loving:
to him our praise is due.

The Lord builds up Jerusalem
and brings back Israel's exiles,
he heals the broken-hearted,
he binds up all their wounds.
he fixes the number of the stars;
he calls each one by its name.

Our Lord is great and almighty;
his wisdom can never be measured.
The Lord raises the lowly;
he humbles the wicked to the dust.

Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23

I do not boast of preaching the gospel, since it is a duty which has been laid on me; I should be punished if I did not preach it! If I had chosen this work myself, I might have been paid for it, but as I have not, it is a responsibility which has been put into my hands. Do you know what my reward is? It is this: in my preaching, to be able to offer the Good News free, and not insist on the rights which the gospel gives me. So though I am not a slave of any man I have made myself the slave of everyone so as to win as many as I could. For the weak I made myself weak. I made myself all things to all men in order to save some at any cost; and I still do this, for the sake of the gospel, to have a share in its blessing.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

He bore our sickness,
and endured our suffering.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mark 1:29-39

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they told him about her straightaway. He went to her, took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever left her and she began to wait on them.

That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick and those who were possessed by devils. The whole town came crowding round the door, and he cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out many devils, but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was.

In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there. Simon and his companions set out in search of him, and when they found him they said, 'Everybody is looking for you.' He answered, 'Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came.' And he went all through Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out devils.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Let them thank the Lord for his mercy,
his wonders for the children of men,
for he satisfies the thirsty soul,
and the hungry he fills with good things.

NEXT WEEK'S READING

6th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME-YEAR B

First Reading: Lev 13:1-2, 44-46;

Second Reading: 1 Cor 10:31-11:1;

Gospel: Mk 1:40-45



The Psalms VII

The prayerbook *par excellence*

From Pope Benedict XVI's Wednesday catechesis, June 22, 2011 (Part One of three parts)

Let us enter into the “prayerbook” *par excellence*, the Book of Psalms. In the upcoming catecheses we will read and meditate on a number of the most beautiful psalms which are also dearest to the Church's tradition of prayer. Today I would like to introduce them by speaking about the Book of Psalms as a whole.

The Psalter presents itself as a “formulary” of prayers, a collection of 150 psalms that the biblical tradition gives to the people of believers in order that they may become their — *our* — prayer, our way of addressing God and of relating to Him. In this book, the whole of human experience with its many facets finds expression, along with the entire range of emotions that accompany man's existence.

In the Psalms, joy and suffering, desire for God and the perception of one's own unworthiness, delight and the sense of abandonment, trust in God and painful solitude, fullness of life and fear of death are all interwoven and expressed. The believer's whole reality flows into these prayers, which first the people of Israel and then the Church took up as a privileged meditation on the relationship with the one God, and the fitting response to His self-revelation in history.

As prayer, the Psalms are manifestations of the soul and of faith, in which everyone can recognise himself and in which there is communicated that experience of special closeness to God, to which each man is called. And it is the whole complexity of human existence that converges in the complexity of the different literary forms of the various psalms: hymns, lamentations, individual and collective supplication, songs of thanksgiving, penitential psalms, and other genres that are found in these poetic compositions.

Despite this wide range of expression, two great areas can be identified that synthesise the prayer of the Psalter: petition, which is connected with lament; and praise — two interconnected and almost inseparable

dimensions. For petition is animated by the certainty that God will respond, and this opens up to praise and thanksgiving; and praise and thanksgiving flow from the experience of salvation received, which assumes the need for the help expressed by the petition.

In petition, the one who prays laments and describes his situation of distress, of danger, of desolation; or, as in the penitential psalms, he confesses guilt and sin, and asks to be forgiven. He lays bare his neediness before the Lord, in the confidence of being heard, and this implies an acknowledgement of God as good, as desirous of the good, and as the “lover of life” (cf. Wisdom 11:26) who is ready to help, save and forgive.

Thus, for example, the Psalmist in Psalm 31 prays: “In thee, O Lord, do I seek refuge; let me never be put to shame ... take me out of the net which is hidden for me, for thou art my refuge.”

Therefore, already in the lament something of praise may emerge, announcing itself in the hope of divine intervention, and becoming explicit once divine salvation has become a reality.

In an analogous way — in the psalms of thanksgiving and of praise — in remembering the gift received or in contemplating the greatness of God's mercy, one recognises one's own littleness as well as one's need for salvation, which is at the foundation of petition. In this way, one confesses to God one's own condition as a creature, inevitably marked as it is by death, and yet the bearer of a radical desire for life.

For this reason, in Psalm 86 the Psalmist exclaims: “I give thanks to thee, o Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify thy name forever. For great is thy steadfast love towards me; thou hast delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.”

In this way, in the prayer of the Psalms, petition and praise are interwoven and blend together into one unique song that celebrates the Lord's eternal grace that bends down to our frailty.

By Pope Benedict XVI, discerninghearts.com

To be continued