



# 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

61 LERDERBERG STREET, BACCHUS MARSH 3340  
TEL: 5367 2069  
OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS, KOROBET  
309 MYRNIONG-KOROBET ROAD 3341

**3rd Sunday of Lent-Year B**

**7th March 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
Naim Chdid	0437 004 790
Lillian Christian - Vice Chair	0400 441 257
Stephen Fernandes	0439 743 533
Amy Honrade	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 8/3-14/3 MELTON SOUTH

#### MASS TIMES:

Monday 8th March:	6.30pm
Tuesday 9th March:	9.15am & 6.30pm
Wednesday 10th March:	7.30am & 9.15am
Thursday 11th March:	9.15am
Friday 12th March:	7.30am & 9.15am
Holy hour and Confession 6.00pm Stations of the Cross 7.00pm	
Saturday Vigil 13th March:	5.00pm
Sunday 14th March:	8.30am
	10.30am
	5.00pm

Confession available 30 minutes prior to each Mass

Holy Hour will be held each Tuesday evening at 5.30pm

### ST BERNARD'S 8/3-14/3 BACCHUSMARSH

#### MASS TIMES:

Monday 8th March:	No Mass
Tuesday 9th March:	7.30am
Wednesday 10th March:	9.30am
Thursday 11th March:	7.30am
Friday 12th March:	9.30am
Stations of the Cross	7.00pm
Saturday 13th March: ( EF Latin 1962)	9.00am
Saturday Vigil 13th March:	5.00pm
Sunday 14th March:	8.30am
	10.00am

Confession available 30 minutes prior to each Mass

Holy Hour will be held each Tuesday evening at 7.30pm.

**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

### OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

KOROBEIT

#### MASS TIME

Saturday Vigil: 6.30pm

#### LENTEN REFLECTION ON HANDS

Hands are the gift of our good God. With our hands we share, we gift others, we accept gifts from others, we change nappies, wash babies, prepare food, nurse the sick, offer help, hold up in prayer, hold the hand of the dying to comfort. Beggars and the homeless hold out their hands in hope in their hour of need. In Lent we express our need for forgiveness, our need of God by holding out our hands for the Bread of Life.

God looks at our hands and blesses them for they serve God's people. Especially in Lent we use our hands to give alms and to assist others. God offers us the gift of Jesus in the Eucharist. As needy people we open our hands in submission to receive this gift of God on the hands that have served others. As Jesus opened his hands on the cross to receive the nails, we open our hands to God to accept the gift offered to us, The Son, on hands that God looks at and loves. Maybe they are old hands, stained with the dirt of hard work, soft hands of young people, wrinkled hands, rough hands, but all are precious to God for what they have given to others in God's name.

So this Lent let us open our hands to receive the gift offered by God, the most precious gift God could give us, Jesus the Son.



## Third Sunday of Lent 7th March 2021



Oliva, 22, could not read, write or count, and her business was losing money. Then she attended Caritas Australia-supported literacy and numeracy classes, and set up a home classroom to teach her neighbours. Now her classes, business and family are thriving, and she aims to become a pastor and run for local leadership.

**Please donate to Project Compassion 2021 and support people like Oliva gain access to education to build a brighter future and live in communities that upholds everyone's dignity.**

You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion) or phoning 1800 024 413.



## PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

### NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

#### ST ANTHONY'S

#### ST BERNARD'S

#### THE STRENGTH OF VIRTUE – RETREAT DAY – SATURDAY 27<sup>th</sup> MARCH

What does it mean to be a virtuous woman? How do we acquire the virtues in a stable way, to live out our vocation as one made in the Image and Likeness of God? How does the practice of virtue rehabilitate us to our true selves and free us to act in accord with the teachings of Christ? Join Father Paul Rowse, O.P., Anna Krohn, and the Dominican Sisters for a day of reflection on what it means to be a woman of strength, a woman of virtue. 9:30am– 4.00pm, St Bernard Parish Hall. Lunch is provided. Babies are welcome.

#### ST. ANTHONY'S MARRIED COUPLES

The married couples group get together on the 1st Sunday of each month (except April) so couples who have been married for approx. 10 years or less can spend time in friendship, prayer, formation, and social activities. Time: after the 10:30am mass and parish BBQ lunch babysitters / Sunday school will be available for children - please see display posters in the Church. Contacts: Fergus Prien 0432 730 910  
Renee Prien 0403 080 632

#### 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 15, 22 Mar, 7pm in the Meeting Room ALL WELCOME Register at <https://tinyurl.com/meltonsouth>. Flyers available in Church foyer.

#### 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 provided and canteen services available.

#### PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office will be closed on Monday 8th March & Wednesday 10th March.

#### ST ANTHONY'S YOUTH DATES

Thu 4th March @ Parish Hall  
Mon 8th March Mon Recollection  
Thu 18th March @ Parish Hall  
Mon 22nd March @ Parish Hall  
Sat 27th March VISITA IGLESIA  
9-11th April MHCC Camp

#### EASTER FLOWERS

Parishioners can donate money for the Easter Flowers. A donation box has been placed on the Sanctuary. Thank you.

#### WORKING BEE

We need some volunteers for an Envelope Working Bee on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March after morning Mass. Thank you. Lesley

#### WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2021

Dear Fellow Parishioners, I'm so happy to share that we collected \$280 for the women and children of Vanuatu. Thank you once again for your generous support, Marian

#### SUNDAY MASS TIMES AT ST BERNARD'S

Parishioners please see the letter on Page 4 (next page).

#### ST BERNARD'S AGM & BBQ NEW DATE 6.00pm, Saturday

20<sup>th</sup> March 2021 All St Bernard's parishioners are invited to attend our rescheduled parish AGM and BBQ dinner following the Vigil Mass on Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> March in the Parish Hall. The AGM is an opportunity to learn more about the life of our parish and plan for the year ahead. Opportunities for respectful questions will be provided. Families and children particularly welcome. BYO drinks. The meeting is the excuse for the meal! **AGM Agenda:** (1) Prayer; (2) Attendance; (3) Minutes of AGM 2020; (4) Sacramental Statistics; (5) School governance update; (6) Finance update; (7) Property development opportunities; (8) 12-month forward plan; (9) General Business; (10) Expressions of Thanks; (11) Set date of AGM 2022; (12) Prayer.

#### SOUP AND STATIONS Fridays in Lent

Two parish families are very kindly providing a soup dinner before Stations of the Cross on Fridays during Lent. Soup will be served in the Parish Hall at 6pm with Stations to follow in the Church at 7pm. Come along and feed both body and soul!

#### HOLY HOUR WITH CONFESSIONS & NIGHT PRAYER

7.30pm Tuesdays A Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration is held at St Bernard's Church each Tuesday at 7.30pm. Confessions are available throughout and the Holy Hour concludes with Night Prayer (Compline) and Benediction. Build some time with our Eucharistic Lord into your week this Lent.

LENTEN WEEKLY FAITH FORMATION This Lent St Bernard'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. Wednesdays 10, 17 Mar, 7pm in the Parish Centre. ALL WELCOME! Register at <https://tinyurl.com/sapientiabacchusmarsh>. Flyers are available in the Church foyer.

#### CHOIR FOR ST BERNARD'S SUNDAY 10.00AM MASS

Rehearsals for the choir are as follows:  
7.00pm Wed 10th March /Wed 17th March (Church)  
9.20am Sunday 14th March (Church) *New members welcome.*

PARISH MINISTRIES Share your gifts with our St Bernard's Parish. We have lost Readers and Extraordinary Ministers for 10 am Sunday Mass. Would you like to serve your parish in this way? Training will be provided. Two people are also needed to help prepare Prayers of the Faithful. This involves writing 2 prayers for each Sunday for 1 month during the year. A book with examples is now available to assist you. Please contact Dolores at Parish Office 5367 2069 or by email or Sr Mary Fermio 5367 2078 or email [mary.fermio@sosi.org.au](mailto:mary.fermio@sosi.org.au)

PIETY STALL The Piety Stall has the following in stock - St Paul Daily Missal \$80, St Paul Sunday Missal \$30, Mass Book (including new rite, prayers & novenas) \$5, St Benedict Crucifix \$75, Baptism Candles \$20. The stall is open Sundays from 9.20am-10.00am.



# Catholic Parish of Bacchus Marsh

St Bernard's, Bacchus Marsh

Our Lady Help of Christians, Korobeit

Presbytery & Parish Office: 61 Lerderberg Street, Bacchus Marsh VIC 3340

T: (03) 5367 2069

E: [bacchusmarsh@cam.org.au](mailto:bacchusmarsh@cam.org.au)

W: [www.stbernardsbacchusmarsh.com.au](http://www.stbernardsbacchusmarsh.com.au)

6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> March 2021

## Letter Regarding Sunday Mass Times at St Bernard's

Dear parishioners of St Bernard's,

As our parish has returned to a regular routine, the three of us priests have been discussing the pastoral challenges created by the short 30-minute window between the two Sunday morning Masses. We have discussed our concerns with the Parish Pastoral Council who support us bringing these concerns to the parish at large.

### The Issue

Our concerns regarding the short timeframe between the two Sunday morning Masses are as follows:

1. We are not able to devote enough time to talking with parishioners following the 8.30am Mass. The opportunity for priests and parishioners to talk after Mass is of great pastoral value.
2. We are not able to be consistently available for confessions before the 10.00am Sunday Mass. Making confession available to parishioners when it is most convenient to them – namely, on Sunday – is a key pastoral priority for us.
3. We are not able to adequately prepare for the 10.00am Sunday Mass. Before Mass we often need to prepare the sacred vessels and consult readers, extraordinary ministers, musicians, collectors, families presenting children for baptism, and school families attending sacrament enrolment Masses.

### Possible Solutions

We would ideally like to adjust the Sunday morning Mass times to create a 60-minute window between the two Masses. A 60-minute window would resolve the concerns listed above and would enable us to be more available to you. This outcome is, in principle, supported by the Parish Pastoral Council. Three possible ways of achieving this outcome seem feasible:

- |            |                  |
|------------|------------------|
| Solution 1 | 8.00am & 10.00am |
| Solution 2 | 8.15am & 10.15am |
| Solution 3 | 8.30am & 10.30am |

### Opportunities for Feedback

We understand that Mass times are reference points for our day and our week and changing them can be a disruptive experience. This is why we want your feedback. We will be taking the following steps to seek your input regarding adjusting the Mass times:

- This letter will run in the bulletin until 20/21 March inclusive;
- Over the next two weeks, we invite you to share your perspective in person with our priests;
- There will be an opportunity to discuss the issue during General Business at the AGM;
- On Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March we will ask parishioners at the 8.30am & 10.00am Masses to complete a brief feedback form.

We will discuss the results of this process with the Parish Pastoral Council and come to a decision about how to proceed. It is our hope that you will appreciate our concerns, which have your pastoral and spiritual interests at heart, and support an adjustment to the Mass times.

Sincerely,

Father Fabian Smith PP, Fr Marcus Goulding & Fr Lucas Myint

## WORSHIP NEWS

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

### ST ANTHONY'S MINISTRIES

#### NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 13th & 14th March MINISTERS OF THE WORD

**5.00pm Vigil:** Marian Muller  
**8.30am:** John Brewis  
**10.30am:** Romeo Sacris  
**5.00pm:** Pat Fernandes

#### EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

**5.00pm Vigil:** Ann Tennakoon & Gavin Pereira  
**8.30am:** Lillian Christian & TBA  
**10.30am:** George Bonello & Doris Bonello  
**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 & Carmen  
**8.30am:** Lina & Julie  
**10.30am:** Lillian & Godwin  
**5.00pm:** Leonia & Godwin

### ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Alice Kelly & Maria Zahra

#### **Please pray for the Sick:**

Martha Baice, Nickolia & Klara Butkovic, Maria Caruana, Mary Caruana, 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: 13th & 14th March MINISTERS OF THE WORD

**5.00pm:** Maureen Zahra  
**8.30am:** Marj Tung  
**10.00am:** Sr Mary Fermio

#### EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

**5.00pm:** Stuart Robertson  
**8.30am:** Peter Lafranchi  
**10.00am:** James Waters

### ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

#### **We pray for the recently deceased:**

Ken Blomley & Gottfried Miesen.

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

Lara Paige Cameron, Christopher Cruickshank, Mary Glasheen, Ronald Lebner, Margaret Linard, Christopher Mallia, Nell Shelly & Greg Whelan.

#### **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, Theresa Dockter, Allison Evans, Helen Evans, Justin Fernandez, Pasquale Gagliarbi, Mario Galea, Baby Jack Gibson, 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)

# 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 March**

Location: **St Anthony's Church– Meeting Room**

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.**

Please contact the Parish Office if you have any 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: **Shane & Dolly Barrow**      **0439 386 130**

Group 2: **Frank & Cia Carreon**      **0431 206 357**

Group 3: **Kratochvil Family**      **0439 837 252**

### 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**

My eyes are always on the Lord,  
for he rescues my feet from the snare.  
Turn to me and have mercy on me,  
for I am alone and poor.

### **FIRST READING** *Exodus 20:1-17 (Year B) (JB)*

The Lord spoke all these words. He said, 'I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the house of slavery.  
'You shall have no gods except me.  
'You shall not make yourself a carved image or any likeness of anything in heaven or earth beneath or in the waters under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them. For I, the Lord your God am a jealous God and I punish the father's fault in the sons, the grandsons, and the great-grandsons of those who hate me; but I show kindness to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.  
'You shall not utter the name of the Lord your God to misuse it, for the Lord will not leave unpunished the man who utters his name to misuse it.  
'Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath for the Lord your God. You shall do no work on that day, neither you nor your animals nor the stranger who lives with you. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth and the sea and all that these hold, but on the seventh day he rested; that is why the Lord has blessed the sabbath day and made it sacred.  
'Honour your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God has given to you.  
'You shall not kill.  
'You shall not commit adultery.  
'You shall not steal.  
'You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.  
'You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his servant, man or woman, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is his.'  
The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 188**

**Commentator:** Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

**All:** Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

The law of the Lord is perfect,  
it revives the soul.  
The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,  
it gives wisdom to the simple.

The precepts of the Lord are right,  
they gladden the heart.  
The command of the Lord is clear,  
it gives light to the eyes.  
The fear of the Lord is holy,  
abiding for ever.  
The decrees of the Lord are truth  
and all of them just.

They are more to be desired than gold,  
than the purest of gold  
and sweeter are they than honey,  
than honey from the comb.

Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

### **SECOND READING** *1 Corinthians 1:22-25 (Year B) (JB)*

While the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.  
The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!  
God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son,  
that all who believe in him might have eternal life.  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

### **GOSPEL** *John 2:13-25*

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market.' Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?' Jesus answered, 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said.  
During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man; he could tell what a man had in him.  
The Gospel of the Lord.  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

### **COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord,  
the water I shall give will become in him  
a spring welling up to eternal life.



### **NEXT WEEK'S READING**

#### **FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT-YEAR B**

**First Reading:** 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23  
**Second Reading:** Eph 2:4-10;  
**Gospel:** Jn 3:14-21

# The Psalms XI

## Psalm 23

From Pope Benedict XVI's Wednesday catechesis, October 5, 2011 (Part Two of two parts)

The comforting image of the shepherd leading and reassuring his flock ends the first part of the Psalm, and gives way to a different scene. We are still in the desert, where the shepherd lives with his flock, but we are now set before his tent, which opens to offer us hospitality. "You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows."

The Lord is now presented as the One who welcomes the person praying with signs of generous hospitality, full of attention. The divine host lays the food on the "table", a term which in Hebrew means, in its primitive sense, the animal skin that was spread out on the ground and on which the food for the common meal was set out. It is a gesture of sharing, not only of food but also of life in an offering of communion and friendship that create bonds and express solidarity.

Then there is the munificent gift of scented oil poured on the head, which with its fragrance brings relief from the scorching desert sun, refreshes and calms the skin and gladdens the spirit.

Lastly, the cup overflowing with its exquisite wine, shared with superabundant generosity, adds a note of festivity. Food, oil and wine are gifts that bring life and give joy, because they go beyond what is strictly necessary and express the free giving and abundance of love. Psalm 104 proclaims: "You cause the grass to grow for the cattle, and plants for man to cultivate, that he may bring forth food from the earth, and wine to gladden the heart of man, oil to make his face shine, and bread to strengthen man's heart."

The Psalmist becomes the object of much attention, for which reason he sees himself as a wayfarer who finds shelter in a hospitable tent, whereas his enemies can only watch, unable to intervene, since the one whom they considered their prey has been led to safety and has become a sacred guest who cannot be touched.

And the Psalmist is us, if we truly are believers in communion with Christ. When God opens his tent to us to receive us, nothing can harm us. Then, when the traveller sets out afresh, the divine protection is extended and accompanies him on his journey: "Surely, goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever."

The goodness and faithfulness of God continue to escort the Psalmist, who comes out of the tent

By Pope Benedict XVI, [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va)

and resumes his journey. But it is a journey that acquires new meaning and becomes a pilgrimage to the Temple of the Lord, the holy place in which the praying person wants to "dwell" for ever and to which he also wants to "return". The Hebrew verb used here has the meaning of "to return" but with a small vowel change can be understood as "to dwell".

Both meanings may be retained: to return and dwell in the Temple as every Israelite desires, and to dwell near God, close to him and to goodness. This is what every believer yearns and longs for: truly to be able to live where God is, close to him. Following the Shepherd leads to God's house, this is the destination of every journey, the longed for oasis in the desert, the tent of shelter in escaping from enemies, a place of peace where God's kindness and faithful love may be felt, day after day, in the serene joy of time without end.

The images of this Psalm have accompanied the whole of the history and religious experience of the Chosen People and Christians. The figure of the shepherd, in particular, calls to mind the original Exodus, the long journey through the desert, as a flock under the guidance of the divine Shepherd. And in the Promised Land, the king had the task of tending the Lord's flock, like David, the shepherd chosen by God and a figure of the Messiah.

Then, after the Babylonian Exile, as it were in a new Exodus, Israel was brought back to its homeland like a lost sheep found and led by God to luxuriant pastures and resting places. However, it is in the Lord Jesus that all the evocative power of our Psalm reaches completeness, finds the fullness of its meaning: Jesus is the "Good Shepherd" who goes in search of lost sheep, who knows his sheep and lays down his life for them. He is the way, the path that leads us to life, the light that illuminates the dark valley and overcomes all our fears.

He is the generous host who welcomes us and rescues us from our enemies, preparing for us the table of his body and his blood and the definitive table of the messianic banquet in Heaven. He is the Royal Shepherd, king in docility and in forgiveness, enthroned on the glorious wood of the cross.

Psalm 23 invites us to renew our trust in God, abandoning ourselves totally in his hands. Let us ask with faith that the Lord also grant us that we always walk on his paths as a docile and obedient flock, and that he welcome us to his house, to his table, and lead us to "still waters" so that, in accepting the gift of his Spirit, we may quench our thirst at his sources, springs of the living water "welling up to eternal life" (John 4:14).