



# 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

**Pentecost Sunday -Year B**

**23rd May 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:**

Mon/Wed/Thu/Fri 9.00am-4.00pm

Tuesday 9.00am-1.00pm

**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	0460 672 571
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
Peter Kennedy	0407 778 119
Maira 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:** St Anthony's -Karina Dunne, Lorraine Tellis & Geetha Vincent  
St Bernard's -Dolores Turcsan

### 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 24/5-30/5 MELTON SOUTH

#### MASS TIMES:

<b>Monday 24th May:</b>	Our Lady, Help of Christians	<b>6.30pm</b>
<b>Tuesday 25th May:</b>		<b>9.30am</b>
Holy Hour		<b>5.30pm</b>
Week 11 Novena to St Anthony		<b>6.15pm</b>
Mass		<b>6.30pm</b>
<b>Wednesday 26th May:</b>	St Philip Neri	<b>7.30am &amp; 9.30am</b>
<b>Thursday 27th May:</b>		<b>9.30am</b>
<b>Friday 28th May:</b>		<b>7.30am &amp; 9.30am</b>
<b>Saturday Vigil 29th May:</b>		<b>5.00pm</b>
<b>Sunday 30th May:</b>		<b>8.30am</b>
		<b>10.30am</b>
		<b>5.00pm</b>

Confession available 30 minutes prior to each Mass

### ST BERNARD'S 24/5-30/5 BACCHUS MARSH

#### MASS TIMES:

<b>Monday 24th May:</b>	* Our Lady, Help of Christians	<b>No Mass</b>
<b>Tuesday 25th May:</b>	**	<b>7.30am</b>
<b>Wednesday 26th May:</b>	St Philip Neri	<b>9.30am</b>
<b>Thursday 27th May:</b>		<b>7.30am</b>
<b>Friday 28th May:</b>		<b>9.30am</b>
<b>Saturday 29th May: (EF Latin 1962)</b>		<b>9.00am</b>
<b>Saturday Vigil 29th May:</b>		<b>5.00pm</b>
<b>Sunday 30th May:</b>		<b>8.30am</b>
		<b>10.30am</b>

\* Rosary and Adoration every Monday evening 7.30pm.

\*\*A Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration will be held every Tuesday evening at 7.30pm

Confession available 30 minutes prior to each Mass

### OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

KOROBET

#### MASS TIME

Monday 24th May- Our Lady, Help of Christians Feast Day

Mass will be celebrated at 5.00pm

Saturday Vigil **6.30pm**

### REFLECTION FOR PENTECOST SUNDAY

From the emphasis of 'becoming soldiers of Christ' children were encouraged to see the Sacrament of Confirmation as a personal commitment to Baptism promises. The Charismatic movement brought devotion to the Holy Spirit and the realisation that the Spirit was visibly active in the lives of people of different faiths.

A bit sceptical, I attended a meeting, which I thought was talks about the Holy Spirit but was a prayer meeting. I felt very angry, refusing to ask someone to pray with me. *Well, God had other plans for me!* One of the men praying with people called me out saying: I haven't prayed with you yet! While I sat, he prayed and his helper held my feet, which became extremely warm. That night I felt like a bottle of bubbling champagne, a physical feeling that stayed for about three days, and I sang all the first night.

But the most important effect was that my prayer deepened, became more personal, and changed. Is this what the Apostles experienced? So to you I say: 'Do not be afraid.' Invite the Spirit to let joy, love and peace bring you closer to our good God by deepening your prayer experiences.

Mary Fermio rsj

**SEA TO SEA MARIAN PILGRIMAGE NEXT SATURDAY!** Join the Dominican Sisters of St Cecilia for a pilgrimage in honour of Our Lady, Saturday 29 May, 11 AM - 4PM in Melbourne CBD. A 5K pilgrimage that includes opportunities for prayer at some of the most beautiful Marian shrines in the city. Stops include St. Patrick's, St. Francis, St. Mary Mackillop's birthplace and St. Mary Star of the Sea. BYO lunch, no registration required. Wear comfortable shoes! For more information contact Sr Mary Sarah at [melbourne@op-tn.org](mailto:melbourne@op-tn.org) or go to [facebook.com/dominicansistersaustralia](https://facebook.com/dominicansistersaustralia)

## PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

### NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

#### ST ANTHONY'S

#### ST BERNARD'S

#### CHAPLAINCY APPEAL 2021

Last weekend, we conducted the annual Chaplaincy Appeal in our parishes. St Anthony's collected \$605.00 and St Bernard's collected \$229.00. Thank you for your generosity.

#### ARCHBISHOP PETER'S VISIT

Archbishop Peter will visit our Parish on **Sunday 25th July (10.30am Mass)** to bless our newly renovated Church.

#### INTERNATIONAL FOOD DAY- THIS SUNDAY

Please join us for some delicious food at our International Food Day. Stalls will include Indian, Samoan, Maltese, Aussie, Lebanese, Sri Lankan, Filipino, Malaysian and many more. Sund after 10.30am Mass.



All proceed will go towards the bay window on Wilson Rd that will house our St Anthony's statue. The cost of the window-chapel will be approximately \$8500.00.

#### CRAFT STALL

Thank you to everyone that supported our craft stall, we raised \$778.70, the money will go towards paying for the St Anthony statue.

#### MOTHER'S DAY RAFFLE

1st Prize- Dolly Barrow  
2nd Prize- Rose Ma'ae  
3rd Prize- Bronson T

We raised \$1535.00 the money will go towards paying for the St Anthony statue.

#### WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK CARD

Volunteers who need assistance in applying, renewing, updating their details or associating their card with St. Anthony's, please see Godwin or contact him on 0425 734 449.

#### MOVIE NIGHT

Movie night will be held this Sunday at 6.30pm, in the Meeting Room. Title: Fatima Duration: 108 minutes. BYO snacks.

#### OUR LADY, HELP OF CHRISTIANS -FEAST DAY 24th MAY

*The feast day of Mary Help of Christians has been celebrated in Australia since 1844 but the history to this day dates back to the start of the 1800s.*

*The infant Church in Australia had a special reason for turning to Mary. In those early and mostly priestless days, it was largely the Rosary that kept the faith alive.*

*Catholic Australia remained faithful to Mary, and was the first nation to choose her, under the title of Help of Christians, as Principal Patron.*



**Our Lady, Help of Christians  
Pray for us**

Source: St Columbans Mission Society

#### EUCCHARISTIC PROCESSION AND POT-LUCK LUNCH FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI

St Bernard's will celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ on Sunday 6th of June 10.30am Solemn Mass; 11.30am Eucharistic Procession & Benediction; 12.30pm 'Open House' Pot-Luck Lunch. Please bring a sweet or savoury dish to share at lunch. Alcohol and soft drinks will be available for a donation. Join us for a day of faith and fellowship.

#### TWO SACRISTANS REQUIRED

We are seeking expressions of interest for two volunteer sacristans at St Bernard's - one for the Saturday night Vigil Mass and another for the 10.30am Sunday morning Mass. The sacristan assists the priest before and after Mass with various tasks. The role involves a weekly time commitment of approx 2 hours - arriving 45 minutes before Mass and finishing approx 15 minutes after Mass. Training will be provided to those appointed to the roles. For more information please see Fr Marcus. Expressions of interest should be submitted to St Bernard's Parish Office by email. Expressions of interest will close at 5pm on Friday 28th May 2021.

#### FATHER GLASHEEN GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION

Father Brian (Glash) will celebrate 50 years of Priesthood on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2021. We give thanks and praise for his 50 years of devoted service to the priesthood especially for the 34 years he ministered to us here at St Bernard's and to the broader community. May he continue to receive many of God's blessings.

#### PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 6/5

New members welcomed Building Committee to meet and provide feedback Sound & AV System delayed expected completion June. Seeking way to better soundproof the confessional - no decisions yet **We are in need for someone to re-start and organise the Seniors Mass - see Fr Fabian**

Monthly morning tea replaced with Open House Lunch which has been a great success. If anyone wants to organise a cuppa after 8.30am Mass, please let us know and can be arranged.

If anyone would like to have proposed ideas to be carried out in our parish, we are in need of people to *volunteer* to have these proposed ideas carried out.

Full minutes to be published on noticeboard when available.

**KSC** A KSC District Meeting will be held this Thursday 27th at 8pm in the Parish Centre meeting room.

BM members to attend & bring a small plate for supper please.

#### THE KSC RACING GAME ABOUT TO START.

The Bacchus Marsh branch of the Knights of the Southern Cross is holding its annual fund raiser towards our St Bernard's Primary School Scholarships. Every week for 26 weeks, each participant will get a horse starting with a consecutive letter of the alphabet. Winners accumulate points. No skill involved. OK.... explaining it is difficult, but the method is simple, so just take a chance; pay \$26 for each entry and leave the rest to us!! This year's game will finish before Christmas, with 1st receiving \$200, 2nd \$100 and 3rd \$50. Only 26 entries will be sold, so get in early for a June start. Call or leave a message with Hugh 53682796, John 53672025 or Mark 0416251025

#### OUR LADY, HELP OF CHRISTIANS-KOROBEIT

Feast Day Mass will be celebrated 5.00pm on Monday 24th May.

## WORSHIP NEWS

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

### ST ANTHONY'S MINISTRIES

**NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 29th & 30th May**  
**Please present yourself to the Mass Coordinator 15 minutes before the scheduled Mass time or a replacement will be found. Thank you.**

#### **MINISTERS OF THE WORD**

**5.00pm Vigil:** Marian Muller  
**8.30am:** Mercy Seifatu  
**10.30am:** Romeo Sacris  
**5.00pm:** Rebecca Comini

#### **EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS**

**5.00pm Vigil:** Gavin Pereira & Lorraine Tellis  
**8.30am:** Ron Howard & Naim Chdid  
**10.30am:** Richard Tuala & Elaine Lacey  
**5.00pm** Not rostered

*If you are unavailable for these dates please contact Lesley at the Parish Office Thank you*

#### **MASS COORDINATORS**

**5.00pm Vigil:** Carmen & Godwin  
**8.30am:** Lina & Julie  
**10.30am:** Lillian & Godwin  
**5.00pm:** Leonia & Annonica

### ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Emma Unabia Verallo

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

Vincent Barton, John Debrincat, Sam Debrincat, Albert Micallef, Tarciso Scerri, Alma Smart, Aleni Tovia & Peduru Wisidagama

**Please pray for the Sick:** Nickolia & Klara Butkovic, Maria Caruana, Mary Caruana, Melanie Fue Bruce Hynes, Judy Layton, Peter Manicaro, Reg Marslen, Damien Michael, Kevin Tony Michael, Veronica Michael, Maiava Kuno Nickol, Caleb O'Brien, John Osborne, Sherine Pereira, Peter Poole, Irene Rahilly, Catherine Roberts, Peter Roberts, Pat Roberts, Charlie Spiteri, Janko Stojanovic, Uatoa Tuigamala, Dolores Turcsan, Clint Abela Wadge, Wai Walsh & 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: 29th & 30th May**

#### **MINISTERS OF THE WORD**

**5.00pm:** Trish Davine  
**8.30am:** Gerard Harrington  
**10.30am:** Volunteer needed

#### **EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS**

**5.00pm:** Vikki Benson  
**8.30am:** Colm Carragher  
**10.30am:** Jenny Kearney

#### **PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**

**May:** Maureen Zahra

### ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

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

John Carr, Kay Cowman, John Deveny, Isabel Fitzpatrick, Thomas Monaghan, Ray Stevens, Aldo Vescovi, & Elaine Wooller.

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

Patricia Allison, Daniel Andrews, 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, 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, Dolores Turcsan, 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

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

### ST ANTHONY'S

**WEEKEND VOLUNTEERS:** 29th & 30th May

#### PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil Julie Sequiera  
8.30am: Mercy Seufatu  
10.30am: Judy Van Hoos

#### CUPPA VOLUNTEERS 22nd & 23rd May

5.00pm Vigil: Tunya & Jason Sant  
8.30am: Sam & Pat Chiles  
10.30am: Dwi Rochfort & Kathleen McCurry

#### CHURCH FLOWERS

May: Ropeta

#### CHURCH CLEANING

Lorelle Porter and a Team of Volunteers.



#### ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Welfare Number: 1800 305 330

The Melton South Conference meet every 3rd Tuesday morning in the Meeting 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

### ST BERNARD'S

**WEEKEND VOLUNTEERS :** 29th & 30th May

#### PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Sunday: Margot Short

#### CHURCH FLOWERS

May: Katie Lindorff



#### 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](mailto: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

***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**



# 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 27th May 2021**

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:** St Anthony's: **Agnes & Merla** St Bernard's: **Dolores**



### 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: **Lorraine Tellis**

**0437 658 423**

Group 2: **Pat Fernandez**

**0416 191 766**

Group 3: **Aubrey & Doreen Smith**

**0433 003 322**



### 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**

The Spirit of the Lord has filled the whole world  
and that which contains all things  
understands what is said, alleluia.

### **FIRST READING** Acts 2:1-11

When Pentecost day came round, the apostles had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech.

Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, each one bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language. They were amazed and astonished. 'Surely' they said 'all these men speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya round Cyrene; as well as visitors from Rome - Jews and proselytes alike - Cretans and Arabs; we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.'

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 103**

**Commentator:** Lord, send out your Spirit  
and renew the face of the earth.

**All:** Lord, send out your Spirit  
and renew the face of the earth.

Bless the Lord, my soul!  
Lord God, how great you are,  
How many are your works, O Lord!  
The earth is full of your riches.

You take back your spirit, they die,  
returning to the dust from which they came.  
You send forth your spirit, they are created;  
and you renew the face of the earth.

May the glory of the Lord last for ever!  
May the Lord rejoice in his works!  
May my thoughts be pleasing to him.  
I find my joy in the Lord.

Lord, send out your Spirit  
and renew the face of the earth.

### **SECOND READING** Galatians 5:16-25

If you are guided by the Spirit you will be in no danger of yielding to self-indulgence, since self-indulgence is the opposite of the Spirit, the Spirit is totally against such a thing, and it is precisely because the two are so opposed that you do not always carry out your good intentions. If you are led by the Spirit, no law can touch you. When self-indulgence is at work the results are obvious: fornication, gross indecency and sexual irresponsibility; idolatry and sorcery; feuds and wrangling, jealousy, bad temper and quarrels; disagreements, factions, envy; drunkenness, orgies and similar things. I warn you now, as I warned you before: those who behave like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. What the Spirit brings is very different: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, trustfulness, gentleness and self-control. There can be no law against things like that, of course. You cannot belong to Christ Jesus unless you crucify all self-indulgent passions and desire.

Since the Spirit is our life, let us be directed by the Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Come, Holy Spirit; fill the hearts of your faithful  
and kindle in them the fire of your love.

Alleluia!

### **GOSPEL** John 15:26-27; 16:12-15

Jesus said to his disciples:

'When the Advocate comes,  
whom I shall send to you from the Father,  
the Spirit of truth who issues from the Father,  
he will be my witness.

And you too will be witnesses,  
because you have been with me from the outset.

'I still have many things to say to you  
but they would be too much for you now.

But when the Spirit of truth comes  
he will lead you to the complete truth,  
since he will not be speaking as from himself  
but will say only what he has learnt;  
and he will tell you of the things to come.

He will glorify me,  
since all he tells you  
will be taken from what is mine.

Everything the Father has is mine;  
that is why I said:

All he tells you  
will be taken from what is mine.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### **COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit  
and spoke of the marvels of God, alleluia.



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

#### **THE MOST HOLY TRINITY**

**First Reading:**

Deut 4:32-34,39-40;

**Second Reading:**

Rom 8:14-17;

**Gospel:**

Mt 28:16-20

# Year of Saint Joseph XI

## Saint Joseph was a just man (Part 2)

We can easily imagine the joy that filled St Joseph's heart after the angel had told him of the divine origin of Mary's child. He determined to celebrate the solemnisation of the marriage as soon as possible.

As he reflected on the words of the angel there seemed to be more and more reason for happiness and joy, since the angel's words meant that Mary would be forever his, and it also meant that, in a way that was difficult to put into words, the Child was not completely a stranger to him but that it was somehow his Son.

In this account of Matthew we would say, in current English, that there had arisen a first-class misunderstanding between Joseph and Mary, between husband and wife. And it is admirable what manliness Joseph exhibits in striving to overcome the misunderstanding according to the light of reason and of faith. Torn between his sentiments of love for Mary and the law of God as he knew it through the light of conscience, he was prepared to follow the only light on God's will that he had. He, like Abraham before him, was prepared to sacrifice what was dearest to him in all the world; but at the appropriate time, God intervened (as always) to help the weakness of His servant.

It is interesting to note that the earliest known paintings or pieces of sculpture in the catacombs show Joseph as a young man, probably no more than 25 years old. But from the fourth century, Mary's husband is pictured as a man of advanced years. This raises the interesting question of why Joseph suddenly became an octogenarian in Christian art. There can be no doubt but that the change was deliberately introduced.

In the fourth century, the perpetual virginity of Mary was under attack, and by way of implication it was asserted that Joseph was the natural father of Christ. This claim was a serious distortion of divine revelation and was promptly refuted by the bishops of those times. History tells us that heresies die slowly and there follows a period of time in which there is a danger that the false doctrine will reappear. Hence the artists of the times were convinced that it was not advisable to depict Joseph as a young man for fear that the faithful would imagine him to be the natural father of Christ. Portraying him as a very old man, they thought, was the best way of upholding belief in the perpetual virginity of Mary and Joseph. This trend continued well into the 20th century.

In recent decades there has been a change in thinking among religious artists. The modern artist prefers to represent Joseph as a strong and vigorous young man. This healthy trend accords with modern scriptural scholarship.

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The belief that Mary was about 15 years old when she became the Mother of Christ is very widely held by scripture scholars. Now, who could seriously imagine God inspiring Mary to marry a man who was nearly 80 years old? How could he have been a real companion to her? Would he not have been more like a great-grandfather? Furthermore, the Gospel assures us that the contemporaries of the holy family believed that Joseph was the natural father of Jesus. Is it likely that people would have come to such a conclusion had Joseph already been a very old man?

In addition, how could such an old man have worked as a carpenter to support his wife and child? Could he have taken the long journeys related in the Gospel? How could he have protected his family on such trips? It is not necessary to portray Joseph as a decrepit old man in order to affirm his virginity, for virginity comes from virtue and the grace of God and not from debilitating old age.

Is it possible to be more specific about his age at the time of his marriage? Yes, scholars of oriental history assure us that most Jewish men married when they were 16 years old; they rarely deferred marriage beyond 24. Thus in all likelihood Joseph was married when he was in his late teens.

As Abraham was prepared to sacrifice Isaac, who was most dear to him because of the *signified* (clearly indicated) will of God, so Joseph was similarly concerned with responding to the will of God as he understood that will during the time of his doubt. This was not a theoretical question but a real spiritual trial that Joseph, the "just man", underwent.

Recalling that Joseph was probably only a teenager at the time sheds a great deal of light on the scriptural mention of his justice. Not only was he trying to do what was just or fair, but this effort was prompted by his inner goodness, by his generous fidelity to the will of God. Only a man open to the holiness of God would have struggled with the problem as did Joseph. Only such a man could have been tempted to make the mistake he did, namely, of selling himself short because he was convinced that it was the very thing God was demanding of him. An ordinary teenager — or for that matter, an ordinary man — would have been tempted to sell God short rather than himself.

The love that Abraham nourished towards God was proven by his willingness to sacrifice Isaac; and God rewarded him by making him the "father of many". Abraham's descendent, Joseph, was rewarded even more amply for the selflessness and purity of his love. The Angel told him that he was to take Mary to be his wife and that he would be at least somehow the father of the Redeemer and, thereby, the spiritual father, in a much more profound sense than Abraham, of the people of God here on earth.