



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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT –YEAR C

5th December 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 9am-1pm
Tue 9am-4pm Wed 9am-5.30pm Thu-Fri 9am-4pm
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:
Tue-Thu 9am-1pm
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	0457 042 695
Rose Ma'ae	0460 672 571

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

SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Coordinator: Godwin Barton (0425 734 449) **Officers:** St Anthony's -Karina Dunne, Lorraine Tellis & Geetha Vincent
St Bernard's -Margaret Love (0437 247 779)



St Anthony's
QR code

Location code E2B Y8D



St Bernard's
QR code

Location code C7N T6M

MASS AND DEVOTIONS

ST ANTHONY'S 6/12-12/12 MELTON SOUTH

MASS TIMES: WEEKDAYS (no booking required)

Monday 6/12	6.30pm
Tuesday 7/12	9.30am
5.30pm Holy Hour followed by Mass at	6.30pm
Wednesday 8/12	7.30am & 9.30am
Thursday 9/12	9.30am
Friday 10/12	7.30am & 9.30am

MASS TIMES: WEEKENDS

No booking required. Proof of double vaccination required

Saturday Vigil 11/12	5.00pm
Sunday 12/12	8.30am & 10.30am

Booking essential. Proof of vaccination NOT required
Sunday 12/12 5.00pm

[St Anthony of Padua Catholic Parish | Melton South](#)

Confession available 30 minutes prior to each Mass.
No Confession available on Monday

ST BERNARD'S 6/12-12/12 BACCHUS MARSH

MASS TIMES: WEEKDAYS (no booking required)

Tuesday 7/12	7.30am
7.30pm Holy Hour	
Wednesday 8/12	9.30am
Thursday 9/12	7.30am
Friday 10/12	9.30am
Providence Mass 10/12 (double vaccination status)	11.00am
Saturday 11/12	9.00am

MASS TIMES: WEEKENDS

No booking required. Proof of double vaccination required.

Sunday 12/12	8.30am
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Bookings essential. Proof of vaccination NOT required.

Saturday Vigil 11/12	5.00pm
Sunday 12/12	10.30am

[St Bernard's Catholic Parish | Bacchus Marsh](#)
(stbernardsbacchusmarsh.com.au)

Confession available 30 minutes prior to each Mass.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

KOROBEIT

MASS TIME

6.30pm

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

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.

REFLECTION ON 2ND SUNDAY ADVENT

How many of us make a list of all the things we have to do before Christmas – buying presents, sending cards, planning a menu if hosting Christmas lunch, etc. But are we as thorough getting ready for the real reason we celebrate Christ-mass – the coming of Jesus Christ.

In Biblical times, if a King was going to visit his people, workers went ahead to clear the path, remove stones, straighten bad bends, level steep hills. Nothing was too much for their King!

John the Baptist calls us to repentance, or *metanoia*, meaning “a change of heart”, a turning around not to be feeling guilty, but to prepare ourselves to clear the path, remove what keeps us from God. Advent is the time the Church calls us to a change of heart, a time for preparation – not for visitors or Christmas lunch – but for the coming of Jesus into our lives once again.

What do I need to do to prepare myself, my heart, for the coming of Jesus?
Taking 5 mins each day with my cuppa, can help us reflect and prepare and to be ready for whenever Jesus comes.

Sr Mary Fermio rsj



ADVENT DINNER AND FORMATION SERIES

&

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

What are you doing to prepare for Christmas? Perhaps you are buying gifts, planning meals, or cleaning the house. These things are important, but after the difficulties of the last couple of years we all need something more. Our parishes are hosting a four-week Advent formation series to help you prepare your heart and mind for the birth of the Lord Jesus.

St Anthony's Church Meeting Room

7.00pm – 8.30pm Mondays of Advent
6/12/21 – Session 2: Trust in God
13/12/21 – Session 3: Watch and Pray
20/12/21 – Session 4: The Gift

St Bernard's Parish Centre

7.00pm – 8.30pm Thursdays of Advent
9/12/21 – Session 2: Trust in God
16/12/21 – Session 3: Watch and Pray
23/12/21 – Session 4: The Gift

Each session will begin with dinner at 7.00pm. Please bring a dish to share with the other participants. Please bring a pen for the formation sessions.

ST ANTHONY'S PARISH

Advent Reflection Monday Evening's 7pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation– **Wed 22nd Dec**
First Rite 7pm-8pm Visiting Priests Available

Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve Friday 24th December

6pm Fully Vaccinated

8pm Fully Vaccinated

10pm Vaccination Status Unknown. (Must Book Online on Midday 20th)

Midnight Fully Vaccinated

Christmas Day Saturday 25th December

8am Vaccination Status Unknown.

(Must Book Online on Midday 20th)

9:30am Fully Vaccinated

Sunday 26th December

Feast of the Holy Family

8:30am Fully Vaccinated

10:30am Fully Vaccinated

5pm Vaccination Status Unknown. (Must Book Online on Thursday 23rd)

ST BERNARD'S PARISH

Advent Reflection Thursday Evening's 7pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation –**Tue 21st Dec**

First Rite 7pm-8pm Visiting Priests

Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve Friday 24th December

6pm Fully Vaccinated

10pm Fully Vaccinated

Midnight (Must Book Online on Midday 20th)

Christmas Day Saturday 25th December

8:30am Fully Vaccinated

10:30am (Must Book Online on Midday 20th)

Korobeit (Must Book. Please call Gabriel & Pat 53687273 by Monday 20th) - 8pm

Sunday 26th Feast of the Holy Family

8:30am Fully Vaccinated

10:30am Vaccination Status Unknown. (Must Book Online on Thursday 23rd)

Korobeit

8:30am Vaccination Status Unknown.

10:30am Vaccination Status Unknown.

PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

SHARE PLATES

St Anthony's Parish proudly presents Share Plates: a three-week Outreach Program designed particularly to assist younger people with the transition through high school, tertiary education, employment and adulthood. This program commences on 1 December and is delivered in 90min sessions weekly. We will focus on key themes each week such as wellbeing and self-care, networking and public speaking & employment support. The program costs \$10 per week. For further information, contact Brad on 0491 009 889 or email: stanthonysparishoutreach@outlook.com

DINNER DANCE AND SOCIAL

Date: 11th December 2021 **Time:** 7.30pm **Venue:** St Anthony's Padua Hall **Music:** DJ

Organiser: Give Until It Hurts **Contacts:** 0417 406 996/0411 325 623/ 0477 881 936 **Cost:** \$20.00 adults/ \$15.00 Children under 12 0-5YRS Free No Seat **COVID safe rules apply—double vaccination status required.**

ST ANTHONY'S

DONATED CLOTHING AVAILABLE

St Anthony's Parish has received generous donations of clothing and will be availing this clothing for parishioners for free. The clothing will be available after Masses on the 18 & 19 of December. As these materials have been donated, please note the following conditions apply: 1. Items are to support families needing support often as a result of circumstances beyond their control and are therefore strictly not for resale or fundraising purposes 2. Items are to be used as they are designed and not to be repurposed 3. Items cannot be sent overseas or stored. Our thanks to the volunteers at St Anthony's Parish and to the organisations involved in donating the goods. We hope that you will find them valuable for members of your family. Thank you for respecting the donation guidelines. If you require assistance more urgently, please contact the parish via email: [email: stanthonysparishoutreach@outlook.com](mailto:stanthonysparishoutreach@outlook.com)

PARISH PHOTOS

Dear Parishioners we would like to archive and put photos on our website of our Parish, if you have any photos that you would like to share with us of Parish events please send them to judyparishnews@gmail.com or contact Lillian 0400 441 257 Please add names, dates and occasions if possible. Many thanks.

COLUMBAN CALENDARS

The Columban Calendars are now available from the Piety Stall for \$10.00 each.

CHRISTMAS TREE-GIVING TREE

Christmas is the season that spreads Love, Peace and Joy around and brings out the best in everyone.

Our Parish 'Giving Tree' represents this sign of Giving and provides us with an opportunity to enable another who is struggling to feel loved, appreciated and remembered.

Please select a tag placed under the Christmas Tree, purchase a suitable gift/gift card for the child and place your gift under the Christmas Tree by **next** Sunday 12th December. Thank you for your generosity.



ST BERNARD'S

PROVIDENCE AND FRIENDS MASS

Parishioners are invited to the monthly Providence and Friends Mass on Friday 10th December at 11am.

Please bring a plate for morning tea/lunch.

If transport is required, please let the Parish Office know or call Margot Short 0419 507438.

Reminder: All attendees must be double vaccinated.

PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

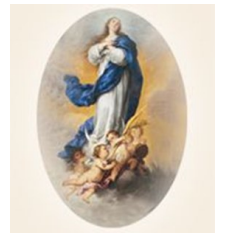
O most Holy Virgin, immaculate in body and spirit, look kindly on me as I implore your powerful intercession.

*O most Holy Mother, receive my prayers as I present them to God.
(state your intentions here)*

O Mary, Mother of Jesus and our Mother, you intercede for us with your Son.

*O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.
Amen.*

Source: Catholic online



FORMED

We now have a parish FORMED subscription

FORMED is a Catholic streaming service. We have purchased a parish subscription that you can access for free at home. Please limit yourselves to one account per household. To register under our subscription, follow these steps:

1. Visit <https://signup.formed.org/>
2. Input St Anthony's & St Bernard's Catholic Parishes in the "Find your Parish" box.
3. Input your name and email address.
4. Visit formed.org on your preferred device to begin watching.

If you enjoy using FORMED, consider making a donation to our parish to help us keep providing this service.

WORSHIP NEWS

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

ST ANTHONY'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 11th & 12th December
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:

8.30am:

10.30am: To be advised

5.00pm:

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm Vigil:

8.30am: To be advised

10.30am:

5.00pm

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

MASS COORDINATORS

5.00pm Vigil: Leonia & Godwin

8.30am: Natalie & Ron

10.30am: Lillian & Godwin

5.00pm: Annonika & Godwin

ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 11th & 12th December

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

5.00pm:

8.30am: To be advised

10.30am:

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm:

8.30am: To be advised

10.30am:

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

December: Jan Carragher

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

We pray for the recently deceased:

Sr Margaret Barry (Romuald) rsj

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

Brian Barry, Ann Bourke, Bill Cassar, Betty Condon, Laurie
Cumper, John Dodd, John Glide, Kevin Leonard, Gnaire
Lockman, Helen Rayner, and Gavan Shea.

Please pray for the Sick:

Patricia Allison, Noah Barlow, Chaiel Balcombe,
Michael Barrett, Peter Bennett, Steven Braszel, Tina Bower,
John Canty, Fred Capuano, Gary Ching, Chris,
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)

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Mark Clarke, Greta Mascarenhas, Lafaele (Ralph) Mataia.,
Frederick Radford, and Felix Scotto.

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



FAITH FORMATION

ST ANTHONY'S AND ST BERNARD'S

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

Dear Parishioners

Keeping in line with the Archbishop's vision for Mission, the Parishes of St Anthony's and St Bernard's going forward will put together a new Baptism Preparation Program, for any parents who wish to have their child Baptised.



Preparations for Baptisms will take place on Saturdays alternating between both Parishes.

Parents must attend two sessions. Sessions will run from 12.00pm-3.30pm.

Baptisms will be held on Saturday mornings at 10.30am.

The new program will begin in February 2022. Bookings must be made to attend these sessions.

More information will be provided in the coming weeks.

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: Ben & Joan Antony

9743 8154

Group 2: Kalolaine & Sam Foma

0432 295 121

Group 3: Amy & Ronald Honrade

0457 042 695

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 people of Zion, behold,
the Lord will come to save the nations,
and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard
in the joy of your heart.

FIRST READING Baruch 5:1-9

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress,
put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever,
wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you,
put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head:
since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven,
since the name God gives you for ever will be,
'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness'.
Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights
and turn your eyes to the east:
see your sons reassembled from west and east
at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered
them.

Though they left you on foot,
with enemies for an escort,
now God brings them back to you
like royal princes carried back in glory.
For God has decreed the flattening
of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills,
the filling of the valleys to make the ground level
so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God.
And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade
for Israel at the command of God;
for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory
with his mercy and integrity for escort.
The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 125

Commentator: The Lord has done great things for us;
we are filled with joy.

All: The Lord has done great things for us;
we are filled with joy.

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage,
it seemed like a dream.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
on our lips there were songs.

The heathens themselves said:
'What marvels the Lord worked for them!'
What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad.

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage
as streams in dry land.

Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap.

They go out, they go out, full of tears
carrying seed for the sowing:
they come back, they come back, full of song,
carrying their sheaves.

The Lord has done great things for us;
we are filled with joy.

SECOND READING Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering
how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day
you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that
the One who began this good work in you will see that it is fin-
ished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how
much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My
prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and
more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening
your perception so that you can always recognise what is best.
This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare
you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect good-
ness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise
of God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 3:1- 6

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius
Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his
brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis,
Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas
and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah,
in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district
proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins,
as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.

Every valley will be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low,
winding ways will be straightened
and rough roads made smooth.

And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights,
and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

NEXT WEEK'S READING

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT —YEAR C

First Reading: Zeph 3:14-18;

Second Reading: Phil 4:4-7;

Gospel: Lk 3:10-18



Advent II

An Advent Meditation

People sometimes ask, Why need they profess religion? Why need they go to church?

Why need they observe certain rites and ceremonies? Why need they watch, pray, fast, and meditate? Why is it not enough to be just, honest, sober, benevolent, and otherwise virtuous? Is not this the true and real worship of God? Is not activity in mind and conduct the most acceptable way of approaching Him?

How can they please Him by submitting to certain religious forms, and taking part in certain religious acts? Or if they must do so, why may they not choose their own? Why must they come to church for them? Why must they be partakers in what the Church calls "Sacraments"?

I answer, they must do so, first of all and especially, because God tells them so to do.

But besides this, I observe that we see this plain reason why, that they are one day to change their state of being. They are not to be here for ever. Direct converse with God on their part now, prayer and the like, may be necessary to their meeting Him suitably hereafter: and direct converse on His part with them, or what we call sacramental communion, may be necessary in some incomprehensible way, even for preparing their very nature to bear the sight of Him.

Let us then take this view of religious service: it is "going out to meet the Bridegroom" [Matthew 25: 6], who, if not seen "in His beauty" [Isaiah 33: 17], will appear in consuming fire.

Besides its other momentous reasons, it is a preparation for an awful event, which shall one day be. What it would be to meet Christ at once without preparation, we may learn from what happened even to the Apostles when His glory was suddenly manifested to them. St Peter said: "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, Oh Lord" [Luke 5:8]. And St John: "When he saw Him, fell at His feet as dead" [Revelation 1: 17].

This being the case, it is certainly most merciful in God to vouchsafe to us the means

Saint John Henry Cardinal Newman, www.catholiceducation.org

of preparation, and such means as He has actually appointed. When Moses came down from the Mount, and the people were dazzled at his countenance, he put a veil over it. That veil is so far removed in the Gospel, that we are in a state of preparation for its being altogether removed.

We are with Moses on the Mount so far, that we have a sight of God; we are with the people beneath it so far, that Christ does not visibly show Himself. He has put a veil on, and He sits among us silently and secretly.

When we approach Him, we know it only by faith; and when He manifests Himself to us, it is without our being able to realise to ourselves that manifestation.

Such then is the spirit in which we should come to all His ordinances, considering them as anticipations and first-fruits of that sight of Him which one day must be.

When we kneel down in prayer in private, let us think to ourselves, "Thus shall I one day kneel down before His very footstool, in this flesh and this blood of mine; and He will be seated over against me, in flesh and blood also, though divine.

"I come, with the thought of that awful hour before me, I come to confess my sin to Him now, that He may pardon it then, and I say, 'Oh Lord, Holy God, Holy and Strong, Holy and Immortal, in the hour of death and in the day of judgment, deliver us, O Lord!'"

Again, when we come to church, then let us say: "The day will be when I shall see Christ surrounded by His Holy Angels. I shall be brought into that blessed company, in which all will be pure, all bright.

"I come then to learn to endure the sight of the Holy One and His servants; to nerve myself for a vision which is fearful before it is ecstatic, and which they only enjoy whom it does not consume."

Acknowledgement

St John Henry Cardinal Newman, excerpt from "Worship: A Preparation for Christ's Coming", in *Parochial and Plain Sermons*, vol. 5.