



St Anthony's Parish

67-75 EXFORD ROAD, MELTON SOUTH, 3338.
P.O BOX 2152 MELTON SOUTH 3338
TEL: 9747 9692



St Bernard's Parish

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

THE 22nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME -YEAR B

1st September 2024

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Alex Clemente
ASSISTANT PRIESTS: Fr Wilford Urmaza and Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint

ST ANTHONY'S PARISH

Parish Secretary: Lesley Morffew
Admin Assistant: Judy Johnson

Parish Office Hours:

Tuesday—Friday 9.30am-4.30pm

Email: meltonsouth@cam.org.au

Website: www.stanthonyofpadua.com.au

St Anthony's School Acting Principal: Caitlyn Lalor

Wilson Road, Melton South 3338

Phone: 8099 7800

Email: principal@sameltonsth.catholic.edu.au

Website: www.sameltonsth.catholic.edu.au

St Lawrence of Brindisi School Principal: Bill Hill

31 Waterway Boulevard, Weir Views, 3338

Phone: 8099 6699

Email: principal@slweirviews.catholic.edu.au

Website: www.slweirviews.catholic.edu.au

ST BERNARD'S PARISH

Parish Secretary: Dolores Turcsan

Admin Assistant: Judy Johnson

Bookkeeper: Naim Chdid

Pastoral Worker for the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne

Parish Office Hours:

Tuesday—Friday 9.30am-1.30pm

Email: bacchusmarsh@cam.org.au

Website: www.stbernardsbacchusmarsh.com.au

Facebook link:

<https://www.facebook.com/stbernardsbacchusmarsh>

St Bernard's School Principal: Sr Mary Sarah Galbraith

19a Gisborne Rd, Bacchus Marsh VIC 3340

Phone: (03) 5366 5800

Email: principal@sbbacchusmarsh.catholic.edu.au

Website: www.sbbacchusmarsh.catholic.edu.au

St Francis Catholic College- Melton (Years 7-12)

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

109-141 Bulmans Rd, West Melton, 3337 / Bridge Rd, Cobblebank 3338 **Website:** www.sfcc.vic.edu.au

In the case of urgent situations-sickness etc. please call 0422 869 646

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL COUNCIL

Godwin Barton	0425 734 449
Naim Chdid	0437 004 790
Lillian Christian - Vice Chair	0400 441 257
Amy Honrade	0457 042 695
Natalie Howard - Chair	0492 947 201
Rose Ma'ae	0460 672 571
EX-OFFICIO: Fr Alex Clemente PP, Fr Wilford Urmaza, Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint, and Bill Hill	
Council Secretary: Judy Johnson	

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL COUNCIL

Rob Brennan OLHC	0430 312 684
Shane Cook -School Advisory Board	0419 999 052
Annette Marum	0417 525 617
Moira Ross	0400 675 056
Aaron Russell - Chair	0401 927 502
EX-OFFICIO:	
Fr Alex Clemente PP, Fr Wilford Urmaza, Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint and Sr Mary Sarah Galbraith	

SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Coordinator/Officer: Aloysious Dacunha 0431 012 511 **Officers:** St Anthony's - Allison Pereira 0422 775 245 Lorraine Tellis 0409 110 259
Geetha Vincent 0478 112 996
St Bernard's - Margaret Love (0437 247 779) Ron Geurts, Vikki Benson & Marj Tung

Email: parish.safeguard@gmail.com

For any queries regarding the newsletter please contact Judy Johnson 0414 007 009

Items for the newsletter must be submitted by Wednesday midnight please email judyparishnews@gmail.com

Judy Johnson's office hours are Tue, Wed and Thu 9.30am-1.30pm

MASS AND DEVOTIONS

ST ANTHONY'S MELTON SOUTH 2/9/2024-8/9/2024

MASS TIMES:

Monday	2/9	6.30pm
Tuesday	3/9	9.30am
Novena Mass & Blessing of St Anthony's bread		6.30pm
Wednesday	4/9	9.30am
Thursday	5/9	9.30am
Friday	6/9	9.30am
First Friday Devotion		7.30pm
Saturday	7/9 (First Saturday)	9.00am

Rosary **9.00am prior to weekday masses &**

Rosary **8.30am prior to Saturday mass**

Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil	7/9	5.00pm
Sunday	8/9	8.30am & 10.30am

(Rosary 10.00am on Sundays)

Confession is available and begins 30 minutes prior to each Mass and will cease 5 minutes before Mass commences.
No Confession on Monday.

ST BERNARD'S BACCHUS MARSH 2/9/2024-8/9/2024

MASS TIMES:

Monday	2/9	No Mass
Tuesday	3/9	7.30am
Holy Hour		7.00pm
Wednesday	4/9	9.30am
Thursday	5/9	7.30am
Friday	6/9	7.30am
Saturday	7/9	9.00am

Sunday Mass

Saturday Vigil	7/9	5.00pm
Sunday	8/9	8.30am & 10.30am

(Rosary in the Chapel 10.00am on Sundays)

Confession is available and begins 30 minutes prior to each Mass and will cease 5 minutes before Mass commences.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS KOROBET MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil **2nd & 3rd Saturdays of the month** 5.00pm
Saturday 14th & 21st September

PARISHIONER'S FIRST COLLECTION/SECOND COLLECTION

Parishioners who normally give cash each weekend for the collections, and wish to pay electronically 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>

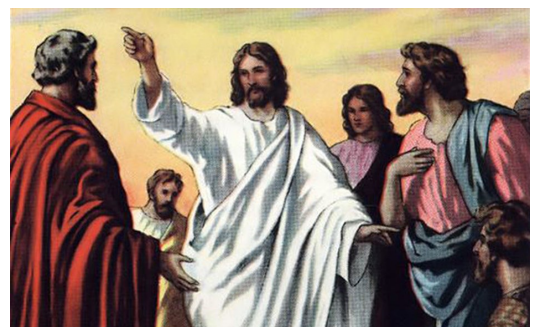
Please put your name and thanksgiving number if you know it as a reference. Thank you.

REFLECTION 22nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME-YEAR B—Sr Mary Fermio rsj

Rules are one of the things that keep us safe, regulate our relationship with others, keep harmony in our homes and communities, give us freedom and safeguard our environment. Some buck against keeping rules set by others without realising they also benefit from them and havoc could occur without them.

The Pharisees and Scribes were very good at making rules about washing and preserving themselves from the "uncleanness" of mixing with others, especially in the market place. They observed that Jesus and his disciples did not follow these rules and questioned him on respecting the traditions – rules – of the elders. Jesus points out very firmly, that it is the sins we commit, that make someone unclean. Uncleanness comes from within, from the heart, from why and what we do to others, not from what we eat, or failure to wash our hands.

We are challenged today to check that our actions match what we believe – our faith- do I really live as if God's law is all about love? Is my faith regulated by rules and not by the teachings of Jesus – "love your neighbour as yourself"?



PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

FAITH FORMATION

Sessions are held every **Tuesday at 7.15pm** in the Mackillop meeting room at St Anthony's church.

Everyone is encouraged to attend especially those who seek to deepen their faith or learn about the catholic faith or want to receive the Sacraments of the Catholic Church and be baptised a Catholic. **Week 2: The Existence of God - Does God Exist?**

ST ANTHONY'S

THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

The Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary will be celebrated on **7th September 2024 at 9am**. There will be a special collection at this Mass to support feast celebrations. After mass, there will be fellowship. Parishioners are welcome to bring a plate. Don't miss the exhibition of various statues of Our Lady in conjunction with the Feast celebrations.

BINGO CALLER VOLUNTEER NEEDED

We need a caller for Bingo-urgently- Tuesdays 5.30pm-10.00pm. If you are able to help please speak to Rose Ma'ae 0460 672 571.

SOLDIERS OF CHRIST-CHILDREN'S CATECHISM

Children's Catechism sessions will be held on

Sunday 8th September. Suitable for children aged 5-12 years of age. 12pm till 1.30pm in the Padua Hall. The sessions will include games, Catechism activities and fun! Contact : Naim 0437 004 790.

BINGO

Bingo is held every Tuesday evening at 7.00pm, in the Padua Hall. Bingo books can be purchased from 6.00pm. We have a great canteen with delicious food available and we have complimentary tea and coffee. Come along and try your luck!

FATHER'S DAY-CUPPA Please join us after mass this weekend for a cuppa to celebrate Father's Day.

PARISH CENSUS 2024

If your name appears below please contact the Parish Office 9747 9692 to clarify the recent census cards that were completed . Thank you
Rul & LC Abad at Riverside Concourse, Meharzghi & Semhar at Wasim Circuit, Finn at Wembley Ave, Mary at Gretel Grove, Hardy & Leticia at Wembley Ave, Mary at Bolton St, Vincent at Station Rd, Janice & Andrew at Thornhill Park, Maria at Saltbush Cres, Ruby & Rodel at Viscosa, Joanna & Tai at Monash St.

ST. JOSEPH, GUARDIAN OF JESUS AND CHASTE HUSBAND OF MARY, YOU PASSED YOUR LIFE IN LOVING FULFILLMENT OF DUTY. YOU SUPPORTED THE HOLY FAMILY OF NAZARETH WITH THE WORK OF YOUR HANDS. KINDLY PROTECT THOSE WHO TRUSTINGLY COME TO YOU. YOU KNOW THEIR ASPIRATIONS, THEIR HARDSHIPS, THEIR HOPES. THEY LOOK TO YOU BECAUSE THEY KNOW YOU WILL UNDERSTAND AND PROTECT THEM. YOU TOO KNEW TRIAL, LABOR AND WEARINESS. BUT AMID THE WORRIES OF MATERIAL LIFE YOUR SOUL WAS FULL OF DEEP PEACE AND SANG OUT IN TRUE JOY THROUGH INTIMACY WITH GOD'S SON ENTRUSTED TO YOU AND WITH MARY, HIS TENDER MOTHER. ASSURE THOSE YOU PROTECT THAT THEY DO NOT LABOR ALONE. TEACH THEM TO FIND JESUS NEAR THEM AND TO WATCH OVER HIM FAITHFULLY AS YOU HAVE DONE.
– SAINT JOHN XXIII

SOURCE: [HTTPS://WWW.THECATHOLICTELEGRAPH.COM/A-FATHERS-DAY-PRAYER/52013](https://www.thecatholictelegraph.com/a-fathers-day-prayer/52013)



ST BERNARD'S

2024 ARCHBISHOP'S CAMPAIGN

Thank you to everyone who has so generously already made a pledge or gift to the 2024 Archbishop's Campaign. Every gift, large or small, is greatly appreciated. If you are yet to make a gift, you can still do so. This campaign supports the vital ministries of the Church in our Archdiocese. Campaign envelopes with tear-off pledge cards are still available in the church. You can also make a gift online at www.melbournecatholic.org/archbishopscampaign. We encourage you to please give generously to the campaign.

MORNING TEA

Morning tea will be held after the 8.30am and 10.30am Masses on Sunday September 8th. All welcome!

TRAINING DATES FOR MINISTERS & ALTAR SERVERS

The dates/ times have been set for the training of Ministers of the Word, Eucharistic Ministers and Altar servers. These are as follows: **September 14th**, after the Vigil mass at **6:00pm for all new and existing ministers** of the Word and Eucharistic ministers. The sessions will be held in our church. The training date **for all new and existing altar servers** will be held on **Sunday 15th September** after the 10:30am mass at **11:30am** in our church. Yours in partnership, St Bernard's Liturgy co.

THE LITURGY COMMITTEE

As communicated last week, the last Liturgy co meeting took place on August 14th. Apologies that the actions from this meeting and the communication slips were not available last week, you will now find a copy of actions adopted on the display board in the Gathering space and if you would like to have anything considered for the September 25th meeting agenda, you are invited to fill in a slip which you will find in the pouch on the display board. Please sign and return your slip to the pouch after you have completed it.
Yours in partnerships Bernard's Liturgy co.

ST BERNARD'S YOUNG ADULTS GROUP

The first gathering of St Bernard's Young Adults Group (18-35 years) will be held on Tuesday 3rd September at St Bernard's Church & Parish Centre. The monthly gatherings will be held on the first Tuesday of the month & will be incorporated into the regular Tuesday night Holy Hour. The tentative program will commence at 6pm with complimentary meal & fellowship, followed by Holy Hour, Benediction & Night Prayer (confession available), then finish with Formation Talk until 9pm. Coordinators are Joseph & Evana Carragher. **For catering purposes, if you want to be present for the meal, please text details to 0423 965 819** by Monday afternoon prior to date you are attending. Include "Young Adults Group" as well as your name and names of others coming with you.

PARISH OFFICE

The Parish office will be closed on Thursday 5th September.

WORSHIP NEWS

ALL VOLUNTEERS IN OUR PARISH MUST HAVE A CURRENT VALID WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK AND A CODE OF CONDUCT FORM SIGNED.

ST ANTHONY'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 7th & 8th September

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: Lisa Marshall & Liza Fernandes
8.30am: Mercy Seufatu & Eva Caliguran
10.30am: Romeo Sacris & Anakin Anderson

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Aloysious Dacunha & Leo Felix
8.30am: Ron Howard & Elizabeth Underwood
10.30am: Frank Carreon & Cita Carreon

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

MASS COORDINATORS

5.00pm: Natalie & Ron
8.30am: Josephine & Ron
10.30am: Leonia & Josephine

ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 7th & 8th September

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

5.00pm: Maureen Zahra
8.30am: Dominican Sisters
10.30am: Chloe Lindorff

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Vicki Benson
8.30am: Volunteer needed
10.30am: Vanina Isah

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

September: Paul Miesen & family

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Anthony Knight, Malaga Niko Levi, Marie Rietschel, & Giovanni Viscosi.

Please pray for the Sick:

Teresita Arrozal, Nickolia & Klara Butkovic, Maria Caruana, Mary Caruana, Christabelle, Lydia De Vega, Ann Eskdale, Melanie Fue, Bruce Hynes, Kotinis Cornelia Kani, Judy Layton, Faamu Leiataua, Peter Manicaro, Gregory McCutcheon, Pam Meier, Damien Michael, Hazel Michael, Tony Michael, Veronica Michael, Jan Mifsud, Nickol, Caleb O'Brien, John Osborne, Anna Samy, Samantha Smith, Sina, Saleri, Charlie Spiteri, Janko Stojanovic, Uatoa Tuigamala, 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.

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

We pray for the recently deceased:

Judith & Terry Delahey
Terry's funeral service will be held on Monday 2nd September 2024 -1.30pm at St Bernard's Church.

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

Angelina Baiti, Vittoria de Bortoli, Harry Grixti, Denis Leahy, Noreen Matthews, Rosa Pollino, Nathan Prince, Brian Salt, Robert Taylor, & Edward Thorne.

Please pray for the Sick:

Aubrey, Noah Barlow, Michael Barrett, Stephen Beaton, Peter Bennett, Carmel Berry, Steven Braszel, Tina Bower, Tracey Burn, Alex, Fred Capuano, Charlie, Gary Ching, Josephine Cilia, Brendan Coburn, Robyn Cola, Ted Cooling, Lindsay & Kathleen Dally, Allison Evans, Helen Evans, Evelyn, George Farrell, Yvonne Feliciouz, Justin Fernandez, Pasquale Gagliarbi, Mario Galea, Cynthia Goodyear, Gwen Green, Joe Gristi, Adam Hillier, Leonie Kervin, Elle Hillman, Kiahni Holamotutama, Alicia Holborn, Matthew Jansen, John & Frances, Joe, David Kasprzak, Michael Larkin, Marie Maloney, Patricia Marechal, Brian Marshall, Debbie Marshall, Jordanis Mary Pauline McDonald, Ian McKechnie, Marcus Meno, Paul Mullin, Joanne Mumford June Murray, Nancy Pace, Arthur Pape, Michael Paterson, Georgia Peacock, Mitchell Prendergast, Peter Roberts, Ken Shaw, Terry Sims, Marian Smith, Elizabeth Stehmann, Colin Taffe, Catherine Time, Susan Trist, Stephen Van Eede, John Van Orsouw, Angela Vicum, Louis Vogels, Barry Walsh, Jayne Wilkins, Nathan Witmore, Patricia Yazbek, & Betty Young 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



SERVICE / COMMUNITY

ALL VOLUNTEERS IN OUR PARISH MUST HAVE A CURRENT VALID WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK AND A CODE OF CONDUCT FORM SIGNED.

ST ANTHONY'S

WEEKEND VOLUNTEERS: 7th & 8th September

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: Lorraine Tellis
8.30am: Pat Chiles
10.30am: Geetha Vincent

CHURCH FLOWERS

September: Gloria

CUPPA VOLUNTEERS

5pm Sat (24 & 31 Aug)

Julie Sequiera, Isabella Dawn Jusayan, Marian Muller

8.30am (25 Aug & 01 Sep)

Sam and Pat Chiles, Remie Peroy and Raquel Barrameda

10.30am (25 Aug & 01 Sep)

Kathleen McCurry, Melissa Battaglia;

Ana and Niko Taumu (25 Aug only)

Emily and Doris Bonello (01 Sep only)

Romeo and Maribel Sacres (donor 01 Sep)

Thank you for the plates to share.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Welfare Number: 1800 305 330

The Melton South Conference meet every 1st Tuesday of the month in the Mackillop 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.

We cannot accept re-packaged food.

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. 100 Coburn's Road Melton South 9747 6811.

*The Harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few;
Pray therefore (**Rogate Ergo...**) to the Lord of the
Harvest that He may send Good workers into His vast
vineyard. (Mt. 9:37-38).*

*Prayer is the answer to the perennial
problem of the lack of good evangelical workers.
It is a command and not just a simple request or an
invitation. The Church needs holy workers.*

*She needs committed, faithful, and zealous ministers of
the Gospel. But if we will not beg the Lord, we will never
be blessed with Good and Holy Vocations.*

*St. Hannibal Ma. Di Francia, the Patron of Vocations
said; Vocations come from on High, if we do not pray,
vocations will not come. Let us therefore implore the
Master of the Harvest with this short prayer:*

Send, O Lord, Holy Apostles into Your Church!



ST BERNARD'S

WEEKEND VOLUNTEERS : 7th & 8th August

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: 5.00pm: Jan Farmelo
Sunday: 8.30am: Jan & Colm
10.30am: Natalia Klenkowski

CHURCH FLOWERS

September: Tup Shea

PRESBYTERY & CHURCH GROUNDS-MOWING

Colm Carragher, Ron Geurts and Michael Love.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY:

Welfare number 1800 305 330.

Bacchus Marsh Vinnies Store 164-190 Main Street is in urgent need of donations. All donations gratefully appreciated and can be dropped at the Store 7 days a week. Any enquiries 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 \$2000 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

All use of the Parish Centre must be authorised by either the parish office or by contacting Marie Casey. Mass coordinators will unlock & lock the Parish centre before & after masses so that the toilets can be accessed.

FAITH FORMATION

ST ANTHONY'S AND ST BERNARD'S

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

Baptisms will be held at St Anthony's on the 1st & 3rd Saturdays of the month at 11.00am and Baptisms will be held at St Bernard's on the 2nd & 4th Saturdays of the month at 11.00am.

Please go to:

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

[Baptism of Infants | St Bernard's Catholic Parish \(stbernardsbacchusmarsh.com.au\)](#)

click on 'Faith Formation' and then 'Baptism of Infants' for all the information and the application form.

Please contact the Parish Offices if you need any assistance. Thank you.

ADULT PREPARATION Adult preparation for the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist or Confirmation are through the R.C.I.A Program. Please see Fr Alex, Fr Wilford, Fr Lucas or Naim Chdid .



FATIMA STATUE—ST ANTHONY'S

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

Group 1:	Joseph & Caroline Da Rocha	0421 854 711
Group 2:	Tunya & Jason Sant	0422 178 260
Group 3:	Amy & Ronald Honrade	0457 042 695



DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

1st Sunday of the month 3pm.

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

Lord, we ask you to continue

to be with us as we

' TAKE THE WAY OF THE GOSPEL '

together in prayer.

May we open ourselves to you

with a new depth of trust and conviction

in your guiding hand,

so that we may discern our journey

with compassionate and humble hearts

and come to know your Holy Spirit

Moving within and amongst us,

And so be transformed Amen.



LITURGY OF THE WORD

ENTRANCE PROCESSION

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.
O Lord, you are good and forgiving,
full of mercy to all who call to you.

FIRST READING Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8

Moses said to the people: 'Now, Israel, take notice of the laws and customs that I teach you today, and observe them, that you may have life and may enter and take possession of the land that the Lord the God of your fathers is giving you. You must add nothing to what I command you, and take nothing from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God just as I lay them down for you. Keep them, observe them, and they will demonstrate to the peoples your wisdom and understanding. When they come to know of all these laws they will exclaim, "No other people is as wise and prudent as this great nation." And indeed, what great nation is there that has its gods so near as the Lord our God that has laws and customs to match this whole Law that I put before you today?'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 14

Commentator: The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

All: The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

Lord, who shall dwell on your holy mountain?
He who walks without fault;
he who acts with justice
and speaks the truth from his heart.

He who does no wrong to his brother,
who casts no slur on his neighbour,
who holds the godless in disdain,
but honours those who fear the Lord.

He who keeps his pledge, come what may;
who takes no interest on a loan
and accepts no bribes against the innocent.
Such a man will stand firm for ever.

The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS

23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FIRST READING: Is 35:4-7

SECOND READING: James 2:1-5

GOSPEL: Mk 7:31-37



SECOND READING James 1:17-18, 21-22, 27

It is all that is good, everything that is perfect, which is given us from above; it comes down from the Father of all light; with him there is no such thing as alteration, no shadow of a change. By his own choice he made us his children by the message of the truth so that we should be a sort of first-fruits of all that he had created.

Accept and submit to the word which has been planted in you and can save your souls. But you must do what the word tells you, and not just listen to it and deceive yourselves.

Pure, unspoilt religion, in the eyes of God our Father is this: coming to the help of orphans and widows when they need it, and keeping oneself uncontaminated by the world.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Father gave us birth by his message of truth,
that we might be as the first fruit of his creation.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

The Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered round Jesus, and they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with unclean hands, that is, without washing them. For the Pharisees, and the Jews in general, follow the tradition of the elders and never eat without washing their arms as far as the elbow; and on returning from the market place they never eat without first sprinkling themselves. There are also many other observances which have been handed down to them concerning the washing of cups and pots and bronze dishes. So these Pharisees and scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not respect the tradition of the elders but eat their food with unclean hands?' He answered, 'It was of you hypocrites that Isaiah so rightly prophesied in this passage of scripture:

This people honours me only with lip-service,
while their hearts are far from me.

The worship they offer me is worthless,
the doctrines they teach are only human regulations.

You put aside the commandment of God to cling to human traditions.'

He called the people to him again and said, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that goes into a man from outside can make him unclean; it is the things that come out of a man that make him unclean. For it is from within, from men's hearts, that evil intentions emerge: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, malice, deceit, indecency, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these things come from within and make a man unclean.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

How great is the goodness, Lord,
that you keep for those who fear you.

The Blessed Virgin Mary 16

The Visitation (1)

The Feast of the Visitation of Our Lady to Elizabeth was established by Pope Urban VI in 1389 in order to bring the Great Schism to an end through the intercession of Mary. It originated in Byzantium when, on July 2, the Gospel of Mary's visit to Elizabeth was read on the Feast of the Deposition in the Basilica of the Holy Garment of the *Theotokos* (Mother of God). The Franciscans had already adopted this Marian feast day in 1263, calling it the Visitation of Mary. After the liturgical reform of the Second Vatican Council, the date for the feast was fixed on May 31, at the end of the month dedicated to Mary.

“Mary set out and travelled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, “Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.” (Luke 1:39-42)

Travelling in haste

Because of a type of interior impulse, the Virgin Mary went hastily to her cousin Elizabeth. There are many possible reasons that drove the Virgin Mary to undertake that journey. It could have been the desire to be of service to her cousin, Elizabeth, knowing that she was expecting a baby at an advanced age. She may have wanted to communicate what had happened to herself, knowing that she would be more easily understood by another woman who had been “visited” by an angel. In her haste, Mary reveals herself to be a woman missionary (by bearing and sharing the joy of the annunciation) and a woman of charity (by being of service to her elder cousin).

But there is no reason why we can't think that there was also a “holy desire” to go and see the “sign” that the Angel had given her: “And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God” (Luke 1:36-37). After all, even the shepherds went in haste to see “the sign” that the angels had announced to them on Christmas night: “And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger” (Luke 2:12). This

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would confirm that Mary valued the “signs” that God offered her.

Two mothers meet

This Gospel scene connects the two “annunciations” of Elizabeth and Mary – two women and two promises. As soon as Elizabeth hears Mary's greeting, the baby in Elizabeth's womb begins to “dance”. Jesus, the Messiah, who is not yet born, but is present in his mother's womb, meets his precursor, the prophet, who is also present in the womb of his mother, Elizabeth. He recognises the cause of joy, of exultation, of dancing, as did David before the ark of the Lord's presence (see 2 Samuel 6:12-15).

From praise to service

The Magnificat is a song of praise that recounts the overturning of human logic, where the last become first, not remaining a dead letter, and where life is made through service.

Prayer of Blessed Charles de Foucauld

Mary, solicitous Mother in the Visitation,
teach us how to listen to the Word,
a listening that makes us jump up quickly
and leads us toward the situations of poverty
where the presence of your Son is needed.
Teach us to bear Jesus,
silently and humbly as you did!
May our fraternity (families) be in the midst
of those who do not know him
to spread His Gospel
testifying to it not in words but with our lives;
not proclaiming it but living it!
Teach us to travel simply as you did,
with our eyes always fixed on Jesus
present in your womb – contemplating him,
adoring him, and imitating him.
Mary, Woman of the Magnificat,
teach us to be faithful to our mission:
to bring Jesus to people!
Oh, beloved Mother, this is your own mission,
that Jesus first entrusted to you
and which you have willed to share with us.
Help us and intercede for us so that we might
do what you did in the house of Zechariah:
to glorify God and sanctify people in Jesus,
thanks to Him and for Him! Amen!