



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 21st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME -YEAR B

25th August 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 26/8/2024-1/9/2024

MASS TIMES:

Monday	26/8	6.30pm
Tuesday	27/8	9.30am & 6.30pm
Wednesday	28/8	9.30am
Thursday	29/8	9.30am
Friday	30/8	9.30am
Saturday	31/8	9.00am

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

Rosary **8.30am prior to Saturday mass**

Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil	31/8	5.00pm
Sunday	1/9	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 26/8/2024-1/9/2024

MASS TIMES:

Monday	26/8	No Mass
Tuesday	27/8	7.30am
Holy Hour		7.00pm
Wednesday	28/8	9.30am
Thursday	29/8	7.30am
Friday	30/8	7.30am
Saturday	31/8	9.00am

Sunday Mass

Saturday Vigil	31/8	5.00pm
Sunday	1/9	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.

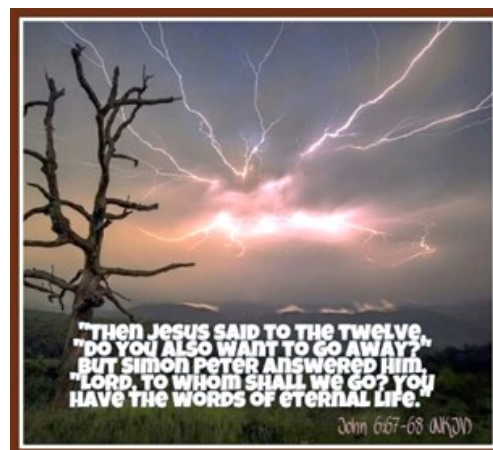
REFLECTION 21st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME-YEAR B—Sr Mary Fermio rsj

Sometimes we can be disillusioned by the Church, leaders and people. At these times we have to make a choice. Some leave, finding their faith less important, or not strong enough; others stay, knowing we are all sinners and we all make mistakes at times – and we are the Church.

Some of the followers of Jesus turn away and leave, because he said they would eat his flesh. Instead of trying to understand or wait for an explanation, they find it too hard. There is no sitting on the fence – you follow Jesus or you turn away. Our faith is an encounter with our God and Peter realized this when asked "Will you too go away?" Peter in his reply called Jesus, "Lord". The Jewish people only called God "Lord", so he was acknowledging his faith in Jesus.

The knowledge of what this meant grew, as he learnt more about what it meant to follow Jesus.

When following Jesus becomes difficult and calls for harder decisions, can I like Peter, dig deep and deepen my faith.
Can I still call Jesus, "Lord"? We can strengthen our faith by increasing our knowledge by reading, prayer and listening to God's word.



**"THEN JESUS SAID TO THE TWELVE,
"DO YOU ALSO WANT TO GO AWAY?"
BUT SIMON PETER ANSWERED HIM,
"LORD, TO WHOM SHALL WE GO? YOU
HAVE THE WORDS OF ETERNAL LIFE."**

John 6:67-68 (NRSV)

PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

FAITH FORMATION

Sessions will begin **27th August** 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 1: What do you Seek? - The Desire for Happiness-Fulfilling that Desire**

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.

The **9-day Novena** for the Feast of the Nativity of Mary will begin from **29th August 2024**.

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.

PRIME TIMERS

Our next outing will be a Games Day at the Leisure Centre, Lifestyle Village Melton. Tuesday 27th August from 11.30am. BYO lunch, tea/ coffee provided. Hope to see you all for a fun day. Enquires Ineke 0400 120 401 or ineke49@yahoo.com.

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.

LOST PROPERTY

Dear Parishioners

We have a lot of lost items in the lost property box in the Church foyer. If you have misplaced something recently, please check the box. Thanks.

PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office will close at 1.30pm on Thursday 29th August. Staff are attending a training course.

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!

SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY-25th August 2024

Social Justice Sunday observance by the Catholic Church in Australia has a long tradition. Since 1940, catholic bishops have teamed up practically every year to issue major social justice pronouncements.

The Australian Church's commitment to inspiring engagement and effective responses among the Catholic community is exemplified through the Social Justice Statement. The 2024 – 2025 Social Justice Statement, *Truth & Peace: A Gospel Word in a Violent World*, scrutinises the signs of our own times in the light of the Gospel, sees the violence and asks why the world is as it is and what is needed for there to be peace. It also asks the question: is peace possible? For further information please visit the website: [Social Justice Statement 2024-25 - Office For Justice, Ecology and Peace \(catholic.org.au\)](https://www.catholic.org.au/social-justice-statement-2024-25-office-for-justice-ecology-and-peace)

ST BERNARD'S

ARCHBISHOP'S CAMPAIGN

We ask everyone to consider making a pledge through the 2024 Archbishop's Campaign to support the vital ministries of our Archdiocese outlined in the campaign brochure in your pew and in the foyer. Gifts of \$2 or more are tax-deductible and go to the Archbishop's Charitable Fund which supports the Corpus Christi College Building Fund, the Priests Retirement Foundation, the John Pierce Centre, Melbourne Overseas Mission, University of Divinity Building Fund, as well as Catholic community agencies and service organisations. Non-tax-deductible donations go to the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne Religious Projects Fund and support seminarian formation and evangelisation ministries. Please review the campaign material and prayerfully consider pledging a recurring monthly gift to help us continue to strengthen the Christian faith and address the needs of God's people. Tear-off pledge cards are attached to the campaign envelopes. You can also make a gift online at www.melbournecatholic.org/archbishopscampaign or via the QR codes on the campaign material. Please give generously to this important campaign.

SOCIAL EVENT - MEN'S POKER NIGHT

To celebrate Father's Day, we are hosting a men's poker night in the parish hall on Saturday 31st August. This is a great opportunity to socialise and form connections with other men at the parish. If you'd like to attend, please get in touch with Thomas Halloran on 0431 504 402.

TRAINING DATES FOR MINISTERS & ALTAR SERVERS

The dates/times have been set for training of **all new and existing** Ministers of the Word, Eucharistic Ministers and Altar Servers. These sessions will be held in our church, and are as follows:
6:00pm Saturday 14th September for Ministers of the Word and Eucharistic Ministers.

11:30am Sunday 15th September for Altar Servers.
Yours in partnership, St Bernard's Liturgy Committee.

THE LITURGY COMMITTEE

The Liturgy co meeting for August took place on August 14th. You will find a copy of actions adopted on the display board in the Gathering space.

If you would like to have anything considered for the September 28th 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 partnership, St Bernard's Liturgy co.

PARISH OFFICE

The Parish office will be closed on Thursday 29th August. Staff are attending a training course.

CENSUS

Our census still has gaps. If you are a St Bernard's parishioner and did not complete the census card in October 2023, would you please pick up a form from the back of the church and return it, completed, via the collection bag.

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: 31st August & 1st Sept
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: Aloysious Dacunha & Marian Muller
8.30am: Eva Caliguran & Leonia Jessop
10.30am: Elizabeth Underwood & Susan Malinov

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Gavin Pereira & Dolores Turcsan
8.30am: Geoff Sutton & Ron Howard
10.30am: George Bonello & Doris Bonello

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

MASS COORDINATORS

5.00pm: Godwin & Julie
8.30am: To be advised
10.30am: To be advised

ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 31st August & 1st Sept

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

5.00pm: Jeremy Toledo
8.30am: Nathan Costin
10.30am: Samantha Butler

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: John Thorne
8.30am: Tup Shea
10.30am: Volunteer needed

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

September: Paul Miesen & family

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Gloria Ainsworth, Alvin John Bugeja, Cassandra O'Keefe, & Dorette Turcsan.

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.

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 PASTORAL CARE

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

Alice Doolan, Kevin Eddy, Ashley Hine, Joan Kervin, Phillip Lennox, Kathleen Martin, John O'Leary, & Brian Ward.

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, Judy Delahey, 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.

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: 31st August & 1st Sept PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: Kim Barton
8.30am: Edwina La Rose
10.30am: Merla Veloso

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 : 31st August & 1st Sept PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: 5.00pm: Marj Tung
Sunday: 8.30am: Dianne Shelly

CHURCH FLOWERS

August: 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

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me;
save the servant who trusts in you, my God.
Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

FIRST READING Joshua 24:1-2,15-18

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem; then he called the elders, leaders, judges and scribes of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Then Joshua said to all the people: 'If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve, whether the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are now living. As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord.' The people answered, 'We have no intention of deserting the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery, who worked those great wonders before our eyes and preserved us all along the way we travelled and among all the peoples through whom we journeyed. We too will serve the Lord, for he is our God.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 33

Commentator: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

All: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad.

The Lord turns his face against the wicked
to destroy their remembrance from the earth.
The Lord turns his eyes to the just
and his ears to their appeal.

They call and the Lord hears
and rescues them in all their distress.
The Lord is close to the broken-hearted;
those whose spirit is crushed he will save.

Many are the trials of the just man
but from them all the Lord will rescue him.
He will keep guard over all his bones,
not one of his bones shall be broken.

Evil brings death to the wicked;
those who hate the good are doomed.
The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants.
Those who hide in him shall not be condemned.

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS

22nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

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

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



SECOND READING Ephesians 5:21-32

Give way to one another in obedience to Christ. Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord, since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife; and as the Church submits to Christ, so should wives submit to their husbands, in everything. Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body - and we are its living parts. For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body. This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Your words, Lord, are spirit and life:
you have the words of everlasting life.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 6:60-69

After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, 'This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, 'Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before?'

'It is the spirit that gives life,
the flesh has nothing to offer.

The words I have spoken to you are spirit
and they are life.

'But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.' After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him. Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord;
you bring forth bread from the earth
and wine to cheer the heart.

The Blessed Virgin Mary 15

The Annunciation (5)

But what tongue can express the inward feelings and affections which then filled the glowing heart of the most pure Mother of God? What light shone in her understanding to penetrate the mysteries and the excess of the unfathomed goodness of God! What ardours of holy love inflamed her will! what jubilee filled her soul!

Let men redeemed exult and praise, returning to God their best homages of adoration, thanksgiving, and love. It is for this duty that the Church has appointed the Feast of the Annunciation, which we ought chiefly to consecrate to the contemplation of this adorable mystery with hymns of love, praise, and thanksgiving.

It was the hope and comfort of all the ancient saints, and the great object of all their earnest prayers, tears, and sighs. The Prophets had a view to it in all their predictions, this being the principal point in all the wonderful revelations of God made to his Church since the fall of Adam in Paradise, whom he immediately comforted with a promise and glimpse of this glorious mercy.

Every ordinance in the law which he gave the Jews was typical, and had either an immediate or at least an indirect relation to Christ and our redemption by him. Among the numberless religious rites and sacrifices which were prescribed them, there was not one which did not in some manner represent or allude to this mystery. How high an idea ought this circumstance to give us of its incomprehensible greatness, which its nature and wonderful effects and fruits must enhance beyond the power of words! We are lost in astonishment when we contemplate this prodigy of omnipotence and infinite wisdom and mercy, and adore it in raptures and silence.

Fourteenth-century French theologian Jean Gerson cries out: "What ought every heart to say or think! every religious, every loving and faithful heart? It ought to rejoice exceedingly in this singular comfort, and to salute you with Gabriel, 'O blessed among women'.

"On this day is the Saviour of mankind, true God and man, conceived in the womb of Mary. This day our Lady received a name more sublime than can be understood, and the most noble of all names possible after that of her Son, by which she is called the Mother of God. On this day the greatest of miracles is wrought. Hear the wonders of love and mercy on this festival: God is

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made man; and man, in the divine person, God: he that is immortal is become mortal, and the Eternal is born in time. A virgin is a mother a woman the mother of God; a creature has conceived her Creator!"

St Peter Chrysologus (fifth century) expresses the truth of this mystery as follows: "One virgin so receives and contains God in the lodging of her breast as to procure peace for the earth, glory for heaven, salvation for the lost, life for the dead, an alliance of those on earth with the blessed in heaven, and the commerce of God with the flesh."

From the example of the Virgin Mary in this mystery, how ardent a love ought we to conceive of purity and humility! According to St Gregory of Nyssa, and St Jerome, she would rather be the spouse of God in spirit, by spotless virginity, than his mother in the flesh; and so acceptable was this her disposition to God, that she deserved immediately to hear, that she should bring forth the Son of the Most High, still remaining a most pure virgin: nor would God have otherwise raised her to this astonishing honour.

The Holy Ghost is invited by purity to dwell in souls, but is chased away by the filth of the contrary vice. The dreadful havoc which vice now-a-days makes among Christian souls, calls for torrents of tears, and is the source of the infidelity and universal desolation which spreads on every side. Humility is the foundation of a spiritual life. By it Mary was prepared for the extraordinary graces. and all virtues with which she was enriched, and for the eminent dignity of Mother of God.

St Augustine says that, according to an ancient tradition, this mystery was completed on March 25. Both Eastern and Western churches celebrate it on this day, and have done so at least since the fifth century. This feast day is mentioned by Pope Gelasius I in 492. The tenth council of Toledo, in 656, calls this solemnity "the festival of the Mother of God".

To praise the divine goodness of this incomprehensible mystery of the incarnation, Urban II, at the council of Clermont in 1095, ordered the bell to be rung every day for the triple Angelical Salutation, called Angelus Domini, at morning, noon, and night; which practice of devotion continues today.