



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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT -YEAR B

24th December 2023

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:

Closed 23rd Dec Re-open 9th Jan 2024
Email: parishsecretary83@gmail.com
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 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
Sacramental Coordinator/ Bookkeeper: Naim Chdid

Parish Office Hours:

Closed 23rd Dec Re-open 9th Jan 2024
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, Damien Schuster 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
Peter Kennedy - Secretary	0407 778 119
Annette Marum	0417 525 617
Moir 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: Godwin Barton (0425 734 449) **Officers:** St Anthony's - Lorraine Tellis 0409 110 259 Geetha Vincent 0478 112 996
St Bernard's - Margaret Love (0437 247 779) Ron Geurts, Vikki Benson & Marj Tung

Judy Johnson's Office Hours 9.30am-1.30pm Tuesday-Thursday 0414 007 009

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

MASS AND DEVOTIONS

ST ANTHONY'S MELTON SOUTH 25/12/2023-31/12/2023

MASS TIMES:

Monday	25/12 Christmas Day	10.30am
Tuesday	26/12	6.30pm
Wednesday	27/12	9.30am
Thursday	28/12	9.30am
Friday	29/12	9.30am
Saturday	30/12	9.00am

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

Rosary **8.30am prior to Saturday morning masses**



Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil	30/12	5.00pm
Sunday	31/12	8.30am & 10.30am & 11.00pm

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 25/12/2023-31/12/2023

MASS TIMES:

Monday	25/12 Christmas Day	10.30am
Tuesday	26/12	9.30am
		No Holy Hour
Wednesday	27/12	9.30am
Thursday	28/12	9.30am
Friday	29/12	9.30am
Saturday	30/12	9.00am

Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil	30/12	6.30pm
Sunday	31/12	8.30am & 10.30am

(Rosary in the Chapel 10.00am on Sundays)

Every Monday-Rosary and Adoration 7pm-8pm in the church.

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

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS KOROBEIT MASS TIMES

VIGIL	30/12	5.00pm
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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. Thank you.

REFLECTION 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 2023—God's Choice of Mary and Our Mission" - by Fr. Lucas Kyaw Myint

In today's Gospel, we celebrate the extravagant love of God who freely chose Mary to be the mother of his Son. The Gospel does not begin with what Mary does; it begins with what God does through Mary. God chose all of us in Christ to be His children and to fulfill his missions. "God chose us, in Christ, to be holy and spotless and to live through love in his presence." (Ephesians 1:4)

Like Mary, we face God's choice of us: like her, we are challenged to say yes. We are chosen as his children and missionaries. God has given us freedom to say or no to his invitation. First, we have to find out God's will for us or what God wants us to do. Once we know God's will and plan for us, like Mary, we have to co-operate with God to fulfill his missions.

In second reading, St. Paul tells the Romans, "When the mystery of Jesus Christ, hidden for many ages, was finally revealed, God expected human beings to believe and obey." (Rom. 16: 25-26) Mary obeyed. Her obedience was risk-taking when she said, "**FIAT**" or let it be done according to your Word." (Lk. 1:38) Mary had suffered many times, for saying "Yes" to God's will.

Like Mary, if we accept God's will and fulfill God's mission for each one of us, we can also make Christ present within us and through us his light can illumine the world.



PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

Dear Parishioners, the Parish Offices of St Anthony's and St Bernard's will be closed from the 23rd December and will reopen on Tuesday 9th January 2024.

Wishing you all a joyous Christmas and blessings in the coming New Year!

Lesley, Dolores, Naim and Judy



CATHOLIC YOUNG ADULTS RETREAT

18-30 YEARS

ADORATION-HOLY MASS-CONFESSION-TALKS-CAMPFIRE-RECREATION

Jan 6-7 2024 Saturday 9.00am-Sunday 5.00pm

ST PAUL'S RETREAT CENTRE-11 Nortons Lane, Wantirna South

\$40 (day attendees) OR \$70 (inc. all meals & accommodation)

BYO fitted sheet and pillow

RSVP 1st January 2024

0452 088 783 or email ahfibrothers@gmail.com Limited beds

ALLIANCE OF THE HOLY FAMILY INTERNATIONAL

ST ANTHONY'S

FAMILY CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS-5.30PM 24th DEC

Just a reminder, we are inviting all children attending the Family Christmas vigil mass at 5.30pm to come dressed as biblical Christmas characters; e.g. Mary, Jesus, Joseph, shepherd, angel, wise man, star, drummer boy etc.

ST VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY-CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Our parish had a special collection last weekend to support the St Vincent de Paul's Christmas Appeal.

We collected \$630.00. Thank you for your generosity.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS

We collected \$327.70 for our flowers for the Christmas Services. Thank you for your generosity.

BINGO

Bingo will recommence on Tuesday 16th January 2024.

ST BERNARD'S

WEEKDAY MASS TIMETABLE

Parishioners please note our weekday 7.30am mass will now be held at 9.30am during the summer school holidays.

THE KSC RACING GAME

The Knights of the Southern Cross Racing Game for 2023 is now complete

Congratulations to the three final prize winners: -

1st prize of \$200 goes to **John Righetti** with 97points

2nd prize of \$100 goes to **Hugh Miller** with 91points

3rd prize of \$50 goes to **Bernie Coburn** with 84points

Closely 4th was Quentin Tibballs (82points) and

Raphael Diacono (81 points)

Unlucky last was Gabriel Diacono with 34.5 points

Thank you to all parishioners who supported this fundraiser for our six awards, which were presented to St Bernard's Primary School students last Thursday evening.

Merry Christmas from the KSC.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

CAROLS PRECEDING ALL MASSES

Christmas Eve	24th Dec	Live streamed	5.30pm Mass
Christmas Eve	24th Dec		8.00pm Mass
Christmas Eve	24th Dec		11.00pm Mass
Christmas Day	25th Dec		10.30am Mass

NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICES

New Year's Eve	31st Dec	Adoration 10.00pm	11.00pm Mass
New Year's Day	1st Jan		10.30am Mass

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

CAROLS PRECEDING ALL MASSES

Christmas Eve	24th Dec	6.30pm Mass
Christmas Eve	24th Dec (Korobeit)	8.30pm Mass
Christmas Eve	24th Dec	10.00pm Mass
Christmas Day	25th Dec	10.30am Mass

NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICES

New Year's Day	1st Jan	10.30am Mass
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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: 30th & 31st 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: Mary Felix & Marian Muller
8.30am: Mercy Seufatu & Geoff Sutton
10.30am: Rosabella Tuala & Anakin Anderson

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Leo Felix & Gavin Pereira
8.30am: Roa Seufatu & Ron Howard
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: Godwin & Annonika
8.30am: Josephine & Godwin
10.30am: Annonika & Olen

ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

6.30pm: Vikki Benson
8.30am: Evana Miesen
10.30am: Charlotte Lindorff

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS-THIS WEEKEND

6.30pm: John Thorne

MINISTERS OF THE WORD 30th & 31st December

6.30pm: Volunteer needed
8.30am: Volunteer needed
10.30am: Dominic Van Der Linden

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

6.30pm: John Thorne

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

December: Jan Carragher

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Emanuel Bonello, Consiglio Bonnici, Emanuel Bonnici,
 Joseph Buttigieg, Lorraine & Tom Cammilleri,
 Eustace Christian, Charlu Sr Chua, Ursula & Joe Formosa,
 Joseph Galea, Michael Gatt, Dan Hassett, Toloa'l Malo Ma'ae,
 Patrick McCurry, Sam Micallef, Godfrey Pinto,
 Thomas Portelli, Leonard Sacco, Louis & Grace Stellini,
 Fred Sultana & Colin Thomson.

Mass intentions for: Sam and Carmen Sultana

Please pray for the Sick: David Bonello, Nickolia & Klara Butkovic, Maria Caruana, Mary Caruana, Christabelle, Lydia De Vega, Melanie Fue, Bruce Hynes, Kotinis Cornelia Kani, Judy Layton, Peter Manicaró, Lisa Melia, Damien Michael, Hazel Michael, Tony Michael, Veronica Michael, Nickol, Caleb O'Brien, John Osborne, Troy Saliba, Anna Samy, Samantha Smith, Sina, Saleri, Charlie Spiteri, Janko Stojanovic, Christina Tuigamala, 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 those whose death anniversaries occur at this time:

Kathleen Adair, Charlie Azzopardi, Steven Barnes, Katherine Caldwell, Lisa Closter, Frank Finn, Catherine Hynes, Pamela King-Eason, Maree Maitland, Gerald Shanahan, Coral Sharpe (Hardy), Leo Sizeland, Elka Timmins, Lorraine Turner, Rene Tyquin & Martin Vrbec.

Please pray for the Sick:

Patricia Allison, Noah Barlow, Chaiel Balcombe, 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, Theresa Dockter, Allison Evans, Helen Evans, Evelyn, George Farrell, Yvonne Feliciouz, Justin Fernandez, Pasquale Gagliardi, Mario Galea, Cynthia Goodyear, Gwen Green, Joe Gristi, Adam Hillier, Leonie Kervin, Elle Hillman, Kiahni Holamotutama, Alicia Holborn, Chaiel Jackson, Matthew Jansen, Joe, 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, Troy Saliba, 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: 30th & 31st December

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: Kim Barton
8.30am: Judy Johnson
10.30am: Merla Veloso

CHURCH FLOWERS

December: Gloria

CUPPA VOLUNTEERS-

5.00pm Vigil:
8.30am: To be advised
10.30am:

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.
ress: 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 : 30th & 31st December

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: 6.30pm: Jan & Colm
Sunday: 8.30am: Jan Farmelo
10.30am: Natalia Klenkowski



CHURCH FLOWERS

December: Melinda Martin Blooms

PRESBYTERY & CHURCH GROUNDS-MOWING

December: Colm Carragher & Ron Geurts

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

FAITH FORMATION

ST ANTHONY'S AND ST BERNARD'S

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

Dear Parishioners,

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](#) 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 or Fr Lucas .

FATIMA STATUE—ST ANTHONY'S

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

Group 1: Tunya & Jason Sant

Group 2: Julie & Roa Seufatu 0402 182 458

Group 3: Josephine Muncaro 0416 832 013

DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

1st Sunday of the month 3pm.



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



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

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

FIRST READING 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 88

Reader: For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

All: For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;
through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,
that your truth is firmly established as the heavens.

'I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn to David my servant:
I will establish your dynasty for ever
and set up your throne through all ages.'

He will say to me: 'You are my father,
my God, the rock who saves me.'
I will keep my love for him always;
for him my covenant shall endure.

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

NEXT WEEKEND 'S READINGS –

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH–YEAR B

First Reading: Gen 15:1-6, 21:1-3
Second Reading: Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19
Gospel: Lk 2:22-40



SECOND READING Romans 16:25-27

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;
and his name will be called Emmanuel.

The Holy Eucharist XLIV

My Eucharistic Day

An Adorer's Daily Life

Second Quarter — Thanksgiving

Adore the immense and personal love of Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist.

That you might not be left lonely and orphaned in this land of misery and exile he instituted the Holy Eucharist in such a way that he abides with you always to be your consoler and comforter. Thank him with all your heart and with all your strength. Thank him in union with all the Saints.

Wonder at and admire the fact that in his sacramental state Jesus conceals his divine and human glory that you may not be dazzled or blinded by their splendour and effulgence. He veils his majesty that you may dare to approach him familiarly and speak with him as friend to friend.

He retains his power and holds it captive that he may not punish or frighten you. He hides from you his wondrous perfections that your weaknesses may not be discouraging. He tempers even the ardours of his divine love, the love of the Sacred Heart, lest you could not support its strength and its tenderness. He permits his divine goodness alone to escape and to radiate from the Sacred Host as the rays of the sun shine through a light and fleecy cloud.

He receives you at all times, day or night. His love knows no repose. He is ever full of goodness to you. He forgets your sins and your imperfections when you visit him, to testify only his happiness, his delight at your visit. It would seem that he needed you to make him happy.

Oh, thank this dear and loving Jesus with all the effusion of your soul. Thank the heavenly Father for having thus given you his divine Son.

Invite heaven and earth, angels and men, to join you in thanksgiving, in blessing, in glorifying our Lord for his marvellous love.

Contemplate with wonder the humiliations of the sacramental state which Jesus has taken upon himself for love of you. He is even poorer in the Holy Eucharist than in Bethlehem, for there he had his mother. From heaven he has only brought his grace and his love. How obedient he is! He yields a meek, prompt obedience to every one, even to his enemies.

Admire his humility. He descends to the borders of annihilation, uniting himself to the common and inanimate appearances of the sacred species, whose frail elements have no consistency

By St Peter Julian Eymard, catholicculture.org

other than that given them by the word of the Almighty and which continually preserves them. His immortal love for us is the chain that binds him until the end of the world.

His living presence in our midst should be our heaven on earth. Unite your thanksgiving to that of the Blessed Virgin. With her repeat in joyous accents the Magnificat of your thanksgiving: "O Jesus, how good, how loving, how lovely you are in this Divine Sacrament!"

Third Quarter — Reparation

Adore your Eucharistic Lord and offer him reparation in the name of so many who forget to adore him and ask him for forgiveness.

Ask of your beloved Master forgiveness for so much ingratitude and forgetfulness, for so much lack of reverence and respect on our part and on the part of those who claim to believe in his true presence among us. It is too often those whom he has most loved, most honoured and most enriched with his gifts and graces who offend and dishonour him most in his holy Temple by their irreverence — who crucify him anew by tepid or even sacrilegious Communions.

O divine Jesus, could you have believed that the very greatness of your love would furnish man with an object for his malice and that he would turn against even your most precious gifts and graces!

Have I anything with which to reproach myself? Have I ever been negligent or unfaithful to you?

Adore Jesus and seek to make reparation for the negligence, profanation and sacrilege with which he so frequently meets. With this intention offer all the sufferings that you must endure during the day or the week. Impose on yourself some penance for your own sins and those of your relations, and for those whom you have disedified by your want of devotion in church.

But since all your satisfactions and penances are so few and so worthless in reparation for such great sins, unite them with those of Jesus Christ, your Saviour on the Cross. Gather up in spirit the Precious Blood and offer the prayers and sufferings of the crucified Jesus to the heavenly Father, and seek mercy for yourself and all sinners. Unite your reparation to that of his Immaculate Mother at the foot of the Cross, and through her you will obtain from Jesus all that you ask.

(To be continued next Sunday)