



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 MOST HOLY TRINITY -YEAR B

26th May 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 **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

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, 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
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 - 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

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 27/5/2024-2/6/2024

MASS TIMES:

Monday	27/5	6.30pm
Tuesday	28/5	9.30am
St Anthony's Novena 11th Week-Adoration 6pm Novena 6.15pm		
Followed by Benediction & Mass		6.30pm
Wednesday	29/5	9.30am
Thursday	30/5	9.30am
Friday	31/5	9.30am
Saturday	1/6 First Saturday	9.00am

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

Rosary **8.30am prior to Saturday mass**



Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil	1/6	5.00pm
Sunday	2/6	8.30am & 10.30am

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 27/5/2024-2/6/2024

MASS TIMES:

Monday	27/5	No Mass
Tuesday	28/5	7.30am
Holy Hour		7.00pm
Wednesday	29/5	9.30am
Thursday	30/5	7.30am
Friday	31/5	7.30am
Saturday	1/6	9.00am

Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil	1/6	6.30pm
Sunday	2/6	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 commence.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS KOROBET MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil	1/6	5.00pm
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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 THE MOST HOLY TRINITY-SUNDAY 26th MAY 2024– Mary Fermio rsj

As Sisters of St Joseph, when we make our vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, we begin by saying **In the Name of God, Amen**. As we enter the Church or start our prayers we may make the Sign of the Cross **in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit**. The words can be said so automatically or not even said, that we forget that what we are going to do is in the name of the Blessed Trinity and what they really mean. We pray, we offer our worship at Mass in God's name.

The priest begins the Mass: In the Name... The priest baptises us **in the name of** Father, Son and Spirit – not in his own name but in God's name. What a responsibility? To do an action in the name of GOD! And who gave us permission? Jesus told his disciples to go out into the world and baptise in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. When confirming the other Sacraments, the priest also does this In the Name of... When we do this, we are witnessing to Jesus, sent in the name of the Blessed Trinity.

We can be very slapdash about how we make the Sign of the Cross, a "brush and gabble" as someone called it. Let us do it thoughtfully, recalling what we are about to do - in God's name.



PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

WINTER APPEAL –ST VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY-NEXT WEEKEND

We will have a special collection next weekend for the St Vincent de Paul Society-Winter Appeal. Funds raised through the Vinnies Winter Appeal will be used to fund our core programs including supporting people experiencing or at risk of homelessness and also people struggling with poverty and cost of living pressures.

PRAYER IN PARLIAMENT

In response to a push by some parliamentarians to end the recitation of prayer in the Victorian Parliament, together with other religious leaders, Archbishop Comensoli has written to all Members of Parliament about the fundamental and ongoing importance of prayer.

The letter can be found at: www.bit.ly/parliamentaryprayer.

There are two simple ways you can support the continuation of prayer in parliament:

- Sign this petition to the Legislative Council: www.bit.ly/petitionparlprayer
- Write to your local state members of parliament to respectfully let them know your views. You can find out who your local MPs are at: findelectorate.parliament.vic.gov.au. Writing to both your Legislative Assembly member and to some or all of your five Legislative Council members is recommended.

ST ANTHONY'S

CUPPA WEEKEND

Please join us after all our masses this weekend for a cuppa.

INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL-THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone that made our International Food Festival a very successful fundraising event.

Thanks to all our community groups that held stalls :

Australian, Burundi, Fijian, Filipino, Indian, Malaysian, Maltese, Pakistan, Samoan, Sri Lankan & The Youth Group.

Thank you to all our Parishioners that came along and supported this event and a big thank you to the St Anthony's Social Committee that organised and set-up the event.

We raised \$6718.00! All funds raised will go towards the extension of Padua Hall.

THANK YOU

We thank Classic Artisan Foods -Melton for their generous donation of pastizzi, for our International Food Festival.

TRIVIA NIGHT

There will be a Trivia night facilitated by St Anthony's youth

Saturday 1st June 2024. It will be a night of competitive fun, food & some entertainment.

Come and support the youth & parish on this night. Please use QR code to book your seats.



PARISH CENSUS 2024

Dear Parishioners to support our pastoral leadership teams, in their role of acknowledging, guiding and empowering our Parish community, please fill in the census card.

This information is used only for pastoral and administrative purposes within this parish and will not be shared. Thanks to those who have completed the census cards. To those who are yet to fill in the census card please do so. Any queries, please contact either Natalie Howard, Lillian Christian, Godwin Barton or Lesley Morffew. Thank you.

BINGO SPECIAL POSTPONED TILL 11th JUNE 2024

Join us for a night of fun. \$200 package=47games

Contact Rose for further details on 0460 672 571

ST BERNARD'S

MASS TIMETABLE-VIGIL MASS-ST BERNARD'S AND KOROBET

Dear Parishioners, please note the change in the Mass timetable for the Saturday Vigil Mass at St Bernard's commencing Saturday 8th June 2024. The Vigil Mass at St Bernard's Church will be held at 5.00pm, this will continue until further review, after daylight savings in October.

Our Lady Help of Christians, Korobeit will have a 5pm Vigil Mass every 2nd and 3rd Saturdays of the month, this will commence in June, please note we will have a 5pm Mass at Korobeit on Saturday 1st June.

PROCESSION AT THE BEGINNING AND END OF WEEKEND MASSES

Fr. Alex, Fr. Wilford & Fr. Lucas would like to reinstate the practice of rostered Eucharistic ministers & Readers processing in and out of all weekend masses with the priest. They would like you to meet in the Gathering space for prayer before the start of mass. Readers are requested to carry the lectionary during the entry procession. Liturgy committee.

CORPUS CHRISTI FEAST DAY

Sunday June 2nd. Please join us in a centuries- old tradition of processing the Real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist after the 10.30am Mass, followed by Benediction.

CENSUS REMINDER

It would be appreciated if new St Bernard's parishioners and those who may have missed the census period late last year, would fill in a census card and place it in the collection bag. Census cards are kept on the ledge inside our church.

150th ANNIVERSARY MASS

Parishioners are reminded that the 150th Anniversary Mass will be celebrated by Archbishop Peter Comensoli on **Sunday June 23rd 2024 at 11.00am**. Former parishioners are warmly invited to attend. **There will be no 8.30am & 10.30am Masses that day.**

FAMILY WORKING BEE Family working bee at St. Bernard's Church on Saturday 8th June, starting at 10.00am. Please come and help us clean up the grounds in preparation for the 150th Anniversary Celebration.

Please bring gloves and any gardening tools you have. **FREE SAUSAGE SIZZLE** for those attending.

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: 1st & 2nd June

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: Amy Honrade & 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: Josephine & Leonia

8.30am: Godwin & Olen

10.30am: Godwin & Annonica

ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 1st & 2nd June

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

6.30pm: Vikki Benson

8.30am: Evana Miesen

10.30am: Rita Marshall

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

6.30pm: John Thorne

8.30am: John Wilson

10.30am: Volunteer needed

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

June: Margaret Love

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Angela Aquilina, Vincent Barton, John DeBrincat, Sam DeBrincat, Raymond Borg, Mary Giordmaina, Eugene Julien & Joseph Portelli.

Please pray for the Sick:

Bruce Amoa, 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, Damien Michael, Hazel Michael, Tony Michael, Veronica Michael, Nickol, Caleb O'Brien, John Osborne, Anna Samy, Samantha Smith, Sina, Saleri, Charlie Spiteri, Janko Stojanovic, Uatoa Tuigamala, Clint Abela Wadge, Wai Walsh, Remy Zografidis 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 the recently deceased:

Carolina Ramero Cruz & Salvatore Schifo

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

Denis (Jim) Barry, Kay Cowman, John Deveny, Merv Dillon, Stan Douglas, Francis Farrugia, Frank Sammut, Keith (Sos) Selvidge, George (Podge) Vallence & Elaine Wooller.

Please pray for the Sick:

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, Theresa Dockter, Allison Evans, Helen Evans, Evelyn, George Farrell, Yvonne Felicieux, 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, 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: 1st & 2nd June

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: Lorraine Tellis
8.30am: Edwina La Rose
10.30am: Lorette Soba

CHURCH FLOWERS June: Gloria

CUPPA VOLUNTEERS– 25th & 26th May

5.00pm Vigil: Julie Sequiera, Cristal D'Souza,
Isabella Dawn Jusayan, Jojo Dimapilis

8.30am: Sam & Pat Chiles, Mary Saliba,
Remie Peroy, Raymund Sumayed

10.30am: Kathleen McCurry, Romeo & Maribel
Sacres, Melissa Battaglia,
Marianne McCullagh

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 : 1st & 2nd June

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: 6.30pm: Margot Short
Sunday: 8.30am: Carmel Shea
10.30am: Natalia Klenkowski

CHURCH FLOWERS

June: 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



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



THEY WILL BE NO BAPTISMS ON THE 15TH JUNE AT ST ANTHONY'S.

THEY WILL BE NO BAPTISMS ON THE 22ND JUNE AT ST BERNARD'S

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:	Uili & Lagi Maiava	0429 340 404
Group 2:	Gordon & Gladys Clarke	0402 021 435
Group 3:	Anthony & Mary Saliba	0418 358 090

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,

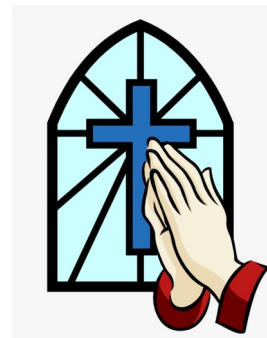
so that we may discern our journey

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

Blest be God the Father, and the Only Begotten Son of God, and also the Holy Spirit, for he has shown us his merciful love.

FIRST READING Deuteronomy 4:32-34, 39-40

Moses said to the people: 'Put this question to the ages that are past, that went before you, from the time God created man on earth: Was there ever a word so majestic, from one end of heaven to the other? Was anything ever heard? Did ever a people hear the voice of the living God speaking from the heart of the fire, as you heard it, and remain alive? Has any god ventured to take to himself one nation from the midst of another by ordeals, signs, wonders, war with mighty hand and outstretched arm, by fearsome terrors - all this that the Lord your God did for you before your eyes in Egypt?

'Understand this today, therefore, and take it to heart: The Lord is God indeed, in heaven above as on earth beneath, he and no other. Keep his laws and commandments as I give them to you today so that you and your children may prosper and live long in the land that the Lord your God gives you for ever.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 32

Commentator: Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

All: Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

The word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love.

By his word the heavens were made,
by the breath of his mouth all the stars.
He spoke: and they came to be.
He commanded; they sprang into being.

The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine.

Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
The Lord is our help and our shield.
May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you.

Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

SECOND READING Romans 8:14-17

Everyone moved by the Spirit is a son of God. The spirit you received is not the spirit of slaves bringing fear into your lives again; it is the spirit of sons, and it makes us cry out, 'Abba, Father!' The Spirit himself and our spirit bear united witness that we are children of God. And if we are children we are heirs as well: heirs of God and coheirs with Christ, sharing his sufferings so as to share his glory.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Glory to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit:
to God who is, who was, and who is to come.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 28:16-20

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Since you are children of God,
God has sent into your hearts the Spirit of his Son,
the Spirit who cries out: Abba, Father.

NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS

THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

FIRST READING: Ex 24:3-8

SECOND READING: Heb 9:11-15

GOSPEL: Mk 14:12-16, 22-26



The Blessed Virgin Mary 2

Our Lady's life before the Annunciation (Continued)

Betrothed, not engaged

The second fact we learn about Mary is that she was a "virgin" who was "betrothed". This tells us three important things about Mary.

First, since Jewish women were typically betrothed around the age of 13, Mary probably was very young when she received this most weighty message from the angel Gabriel about her call to serve as the mother of the Messiah.

Second, as a betrothed woman, Mary would have been legally married to Joseph, but still living with her own family. Here we see how Jewish betrothal was not the same as our modern notion of engagement.

Betrothal was the first step in a two-stage marriage process. At their betrothal, Mary and Joseph would have exchanged their consent to marry each other before witnesses, and this would have made them legally married. However, as a betrothed wife, Mary would have remained living with her own family apart from her husband for up to one year until the second step of marriage took place. In this second step, the husband would take his wife to his own home for normal married life to begin.

Therefore, when the angel Gabriel appeared to her, Mary would have been living between these two stages of marriage: she would have been Joseph's wife, but not yet dwelling with him.

Third, according to Jewish marriage customs, sexual relations would not take place until the second stage of marriage. Thus, since Mary is a betrothed woman and not yet living with her husband, it would come as no surprise that she was a "virgin" (Luke 1:27).

By Edward P. Sri, catholicculture.org

The House of David

The third and perhaps most striking fact about Mary from this opening chapter of Luke's Gospel is that she is betrothed "to a man named Joseph, of the house of David" (1:27). Although the Scriptures are not clear as to Mary's own ancestry (theologians debate whether she, too, was of the house of David), her betrothal to Joseph connects her to the Davidic family.

This has important implications for Mary. It tells us that Mary is not part of any ordinary family, but a royal family. Indeed, "the house of David" was the most famous family in Israel's history. David's descendants ruled over the Jews for several centuries in the glory days of the Kingdom of Judah. And God promised David that his family would have an everlasting dynasty and that his kingdom would never end (2 Samuel 7:13,16).

However, in the first-century world of Mary and Joseph, the Davidic dynasty seemed to have been lying dormant for centuries as one foreign nation after another ruled over the Jews. In fact, no Davidic king had sat on the throne since 586 BC, and the Romans were the latest foreign powers to control the land.

Thus, for Mary, being a part of "the house of David" did not bring the privilege, honour, and authority it did in the days of the great kings of old. Mary may be married to a man who possesses the royal bloodline of the Davidic kings, but her husband is not reigning as a prince in a Jerusalem palace. Instead, he works as a humble carpenter, appearing to live a quiet, run-of-the-mill life in the secluded village of Nazareth.

On the surface, there does not appear to be anything extraordinary about Mary. She is a young woman betrothed to a man from the house of David, but she lives a seemingly ordinary life in the small, insignificant town of Nazareth.

To Be Continued