



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, KOROBEIT
309 MYRNIONG-KOROBEIT ROAD 3341

THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST -YEAR B

2nd June 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 3/6/2024-9/6/2024

MASS TIMES:

Monday	3/6	6.30pm
Tuesday	4/6	9.30am
St Anthony's Novena 12th Week-Adoration 6pm Novena 6.15pm		
Followed by Benediction & Mass		6.30pm
Wednesday	5/6	9.30am
Thursday	6/6	9.30am
Friday	7/6	9.30am
First Friday Devotion		7.30pm
Saturday	8/6	9.00am

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

Rosary **8.30am prior to Saturday mass**



Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil	8/6	5.00pm
Sunday	9/6	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 3/6/2024-9/6/2024

MASS TIMES:

Monday	3/6	No Mass
Tuesday	4/6	7.30am
Holy Hour		7.00pm
Wednesday	5/6	9.30am
Thursday	6/6	7.30am
Friday	7/6	7.30am
Saturday	8/6	9.00am

Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil	8/6	5.00pm
Sunday	9/6	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 **2nd & 3rd Saturdays of the month** 5.00pm

Saturday 8th & 15th June

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 FEAST OF CORPUS CHRISTI 2024 -Mary Fermio rsj

Trinity Sunday celebrated the sign of the Cross, a bodily gesture to affirm we are people in communion with God. Today's liturgy continues the theme of communion with God with another symbol – eating and drinking of food. Gathering round a table for a meal is a common way of celebrating friendship, community and closeness with our loved ones. And so, we continue to do this, especially on a Sunday.

Our liturgy has changed and developed over 2000 years and is now quite formal. It is possible to lose sight of the basic element of a gathering of people around a table to share food. Jesus would have shared many meals with his friends and the Gospel highlights the last one, when Jesus gave bread and wine a new meaning.: that of his own life. Jesus instructed his disciples to continue to gather round a table, to share bread and wine and by his words "This is my Body; this is my blood" promised to be present, instructing them to "do this in memory of me".

Christians have continued this practice of celebrating the Lord's Supper in homes, in caves, in prisons, on war fields, in catacombs, in halls, in cathedrals. The Eucharist gathers God's fragile, frequently failing people, to nourish, forgive and bless.

Let me ask myself: Why do I come to Mass? Why do I "Take and eat!"? Has this made a difference in my life?

(Source: Sundays under the Southern Cross – Mary Coloe pbvm)



PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

WINTER APPEAL –ST VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY-THIS WEEKEND

We will have a special collection this 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.

ST ANTHONY'S

CORPUS CHRISTI FEAST DAY -2nd June

We will have a procession around the church vicinity after the 10.30am Mass, followed by solemn benediction inside the Church.

THE FEAST OF ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA

- 13 June St. Anthony of Padua Feast Day Mass at 6.30 PM.
At the end of mass, there will be Blessing of bread and a prayer to St. Anthony. Followed by Fellowship.
NO MORNING MASS
- 15 June Vigil Mass at 5 PM.
At the end of mass, there will be Blessing of bread and a prayer to St. Anthony.
- 16 June Sunday Mass at 8.30 AM.
At the end of mass, there will be Blessing of bread and a prayer to St. Anthony.
- 16 June Sunday Mass at 10.30 AM.
Followed by a procession at the school oval.
Procession to conclude at the Padua Hall, with the Blessing of bread.
Followed by Fellowship.

There will be collection at these masses (13th, 15th & 16th) towards the expenses for the celebration of the Feast of St. Anthony.

ST. ANTHONY'S BREAD

Among many miracles attributed to St. Anthony, one story tells of a mother whose son fell into a barrel of water and drowned. She implored the saint's intercession and promised that if her son were restored to life, she would give the boy's weight in grain to the poor. Her prayers were heard, her son brought back to life, and she fulfilled her promise with a generous gift.

So began the devotion known as "St. Anthony's Bread" in thanksgiving to God for blessings received through the prayers of St. Anthony.



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

PARISH OFFICE

Parishioners please note the Parish Office will have reduced hours this week—Tuesday 4th June-Thursday 6th June. The office will be opened 9.30am-1.30pm.

ST BERNARD'S

CORPUS CHRISTI FEAST DAY -2nd June

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.

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

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, Koroheit will have a **5pm Vigil Mass every 2nd and 3rd Saturdays of the month**.

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.

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.



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

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: 8th & 9th 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: 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: Philip Anyayahan & Roa Seufatu

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: Julie & Godwin

8.30am: Josephine & Lillian

10.30am: Leonia & Godwin

ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 8th & 9th June

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

6.30pm: Sonia Smith

8.30am: Moira Ross

10.30am: Dominic van der Linden

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

6.30pm: Vicki Benson

8.30am: Tup Shea

10.30am: Vanina Isah

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

June: Margaret Love

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Seloti Alainuuese, Sheila Coburn,
Emmanuel & Jane DeBrincat, Philip Giordamanja,
Alfred Grech & Romeo M Miranda

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, 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,
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.

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Sheila Coburn, Kathleen Corrigan, Christine Hansen,
Norma Nichol, Frank O'Malley, Ivan Prkic, Leo Ryan,
Paul Stokie, Magdalena Wasilewski & James Younger.

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 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, 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: 8th & 9th June

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: Liza Chdid
8.30am: Pat Chiles
10.30am: Josephine Doretty

CHURCH FLOWERS

June: Gloria

CUPPA VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil:
8.30am:
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.
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 : 8th & 9th June

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: 6.30pm: Marj Tung
Sunday: 8.30am: Dianne Shelly

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:	Wayne & Marian Muller	0400 007 286
Group 2:	Gregory McCutcheon	0455 457 645
Group 3:	Louise Sciberras	0401 413 439

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,

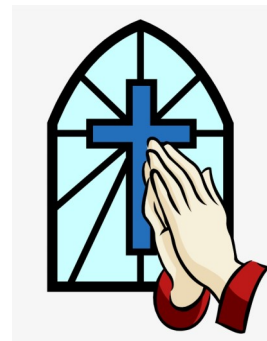
so that we may discern our journey

with compassionate and humble hearts

and come to know your Holy Spirit

Moving within and amongst us,

And so be transformed Amen.



ENTRANCE PROCESSION

He fed them with the finest wheat
and satisfied them with honey from the rock.

FIRST READING Exodus 24:3-8

Moses went and told the people all the commands of the Lord and all the ordinances. In answer, all the people said with one voice, 'We will observe all the commands that the Lord has decreed.' Moses put all the commands of the Lord into writing, and early next morning he built an altar at the foot of the mountain, with twelve standing-stones for the twelve tribes of Israel. Then he directed certain young Israelites to offer holocausts and to immolate bullocks to the Lord as communion sacrifices. Half of the blood Moses took up and put into basins, the other half he cast on the altar. And taking the Book of the Covenant he read it to the listening people, and they said, 'We will observe all that the Lord has decreed; we will obey.' then Moses took the blood and cast it towards the people. 'This' he said 'is the blood of the Covenant that the Lord has made with you, containing all these rules.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 115

Commentator: I will take the cup of salvation,
and call on the name of the Lord.

All: I will take the cup of salvation,
and call on the name of the Lord.

How can I repay the Lord
for his goodness to me?
The cup of salvation I will raise;
I will call on the Lord's name.

O precious in the eyes of the Lord
is the death of his faithful.
Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;
you have loosened my bonds.

A thanksgiving sacrifice I make:
I will call on the Lord's name.
My vows to the Lord I will fulfil
before all his people.

I will take the cup of salvation,
and call on the name of the Lord.

NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS

10th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FIRST READING: Gen 3:9-15
SECOND READING: 2 Cor 4:13-5:1
GOSPEL: Mk 3:20-35



SECOND READING Hebrews 9:11-15

Now Christ has come, as the high priest of all the blessings which were to come. He has passed through the greater, the more perfect tent, which is better than one made by men's hands because it is not of this created order; and he has entered the sanctuary once and for all, taking with him not the blood of goats and bull calves, but his own blood, having won an eternal redemption for us. The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer are sprinkled on those who have incurred defilement and they restore the holiness of their outward lives; how much more effectively the blood of Christ, who offered himself as the perfect sacrifice to God through the eternal Spirit, can purify our inner self from dead actions so that we do our service to the living God.

He brings a new covenant, as the mediator, only so that the people who were called to an eternal inheritance may actually receive what was promised: his death took place to cancel the sins that infringed the earlier covenant.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the living bread from heaven, says the Lord;
whoever eats this bread will live for ever.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mark 14:12-16, 22-26

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb was sacrificed, his disciples said to Jesus, 'Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the passover?' So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the city and you will meet a man carrying a pitcher of water. Follow him, and say to the owner of the house which he enters, "The Master says: Where is my dining room in which I can eat the passover with my disciples?" He will show you a large upper room furnished with couches, all prepared. Make the preparations for us there.' The disciples set out and went to the city and found everything as he had told them, and prepared the Passover. And as they were eating he took some bread, and when he said the blessing he broke it and gave it to them. 'Take it,' he said 'this is my body.' Then he took a cup, and when he had returned thanks he gave it to them, and all drank from it, and he said to them, 'This is my blood, the blood of the covenant, which is to be poured out for many. I tell you solemnly, I shall not drink any more wine until the day I drink the new wine in the kingdom of God.'

After psalms had been sung they left for the Mount of Olives.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood
remains in me and I in him, says the Lord.

The Blessed Virgin Mary 3

Our Lady's life before the Annunciation (continued)

'Full of grace'

However, there is a lot more going on in Mary than meets the eye. Luke's Gospel provides one more detail that shows how underneath what appears to be a normal life, God has been doing something absolutely amazing in Mary's soul; something that has never been done before in the history of the human family.

Consider again the first words that Gabriel says to Mary: "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!" (Luke 1:28).

"Full of Grace."

For many of us Catholics who routinely recite these words of Gabriel in the Hail Mary, the expression "full of grace" may be so familiar that we might fail to catch its profound significance.

This is no ordinary greeting. In fact, no one in salvation history had ever been addressed like this before. And note that the angel does not say, "Hail, Mary, full of grace", even though that is how we pray it in the Hail Mary. Gabriel says: "Hail, full of grace." The angel addresses Mary not by her personal name, but with the title, "full of grace".

As some Scripture scholars, such as Joel Green in his commentary on the Gospel of Luke, have pointed out, it is as if Mary is being given a new name. John Paul II, in reflecting on this passage in his book, *Theotokos*, writes that "full of grace" is "the name Mary possesses in the eyes of God":

"In Semitic usage, a name expresses the reality of the persons and things to which it refers. As a result, the title 'full of grace' shows the deepest dimension of the young woman of Nazareth's personality: fashioned by grace and the object of divine favour to the point that she can be defined by this special predilection."

By Edward P. Sri, catholicculture.org

But what does this unusual title mean? The Greek word in this passage commonly translated "full of grace" is *kecharitomene*. This word is in a past perfect participle form, indicating an action that began in the past and continues in the present. It literally can be translated "you who have been and continue to be graced".

In fact, the same verb is used in Ephesians 1:6-7 to describe not simply grace in the general sense of God's showing his favour on someone, but the particular kind of divine favour that is associated with forgiveness of sins and redemption.

Therefore, it is as if the angel is saying to Mary: "Hail, you who have been and continue to be graced ... Hail, you who already have received the forgiveness of sins and the gift of redemption."

One can appreciate why many have turned to this verse for biblical support for the Catholic doctrine of the Immaculate Conception: the belief that Mary was conceived full of grace and without the stain of original sin. Indeed, this verse indicates that Mary already had the working of grace in her life before the Annunciation scene.

In other words, while certainly not serving as a definitive "proof-text" for the Immaculate Conception, Luke's Gospel clearly reveals that Mary already had forgiveness of sins and redemption before the angel Gabriel ever appeared to her.

Gabriel's words, therefore, reveal the most significant aspect of Mary's early life. On the surface, she may appear to be simply a young, betrothed woman dwelling in nowhere Nazareth.

But in the midst of this seemingly uneventful life, God has made her "full of grace" as He quietly prepares her for the most important mission any woman ever embraced in the history of the world: to become the Mother of God.