



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 11th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME -YEAR B

16th 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: 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 17/6/2024-23/6/2024

MASS TIMES:

Monday	17/6	6.30pm
Tuesday	18/6	9.30am & 6.30pm
Wednesday	19/6	9.30am
Thursday	20/6	9.30am
Friday	21/6	9.30am
Saturday	22/6	9.00am

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

Rosary **8.30am prior to Saturday mass**



Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil	22/6	5.00pm
Sunday	23/6	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 17/6/2024-23/6/2024

MASS TIMES:

Monday	17/6	No Mass
Tuesday	18/6	7.30am
Holy Hour		7.00pm
Wednesday	19/6	9.30am
Thursday	20/6	7.30am
Friday	21/6	7.30am

Saturday 22/6 9.00am

Sunday Mass

Saturday Vigil 22/6 5.00pm

Sunday 23/6 150th Anniversary Mass 11.00am

(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 KOROBEIT MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil **2nd & 3rd Saturdays of the month** 5.00pm

Saturday 13th & 20th July

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 11th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME-YEAR B (Mk 4: 26-34)- Fr Wilford Urmaza

In the Gospel of the 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Jesus speaks about the Kingdom of God. He describes the kingdom by using the analogy of a seed, which, when sown, would grow into a huge plant. The Kingdom of God starts small and grows into an expansive reality.

But what exactly is the Kingdom of God, and why is it compared to or described in relation to a seed?

The Kingdom of God is a reality, which is present here and now. For one who is just beginning to encounter God, his/her faith may begin even in a smallest size as a mustard seed. The growth of faith is often gradual and imperceptible. Faith is open to everyone seeking refuge in the Kingdom of God. Faith provides shelter and refuge to those who seek it.

The image of birds nesting in the mustard tree's branches suggests that faith in Christ's kingdom offers protection and an abode for all who approach it. The mustard seed grows quietly and silently, mirroring how faith develops gradually and unseen through the work of the Holy Spirit. This teaches us to trust in God's plan for the growth of our faith, even when progress is not immediately visible.

Embracing the faith, no matter how fragile and young it may seem, can be an impetus to a stronger and more expansive faith than what the kingdom is perceived to be. Since faith is a gift, it presupposes a response that will allow that faith to potentially grow and mature in an unimaginable way.

In summary, the parable of the mustard seed reveals how faith, like a small seed, can grow gradually yet powerfully into something great—a truth that should inspire others to hope and be patient in the process. Faith, therefore, is meant to bear fruit and build the Kingdom of God.

PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

ARCHBISHOP PETER COMENSOLI

Archbishop Peter Comensoli will be visiting our parishes of St Anthony's and St Bernard's on the weekend 22nd-23rd June.

PARISH FORUM-ST ANTHONY'S AND ST BERNARD'S PARISHES

Date: Saturday 22nd June

Time: 10.30am

Venue: Padua Hall, St Anthony's Parish, Melton South

All our parishioners are invited to the Forum. The Forum creates an opportunity for parishioners to speak with the Archbishop about priorities, goals and challenges.

ST ANTHONY'S

ARCHBISHOP PETER COMENSOLI

Archbishop Peter Comensoli will be celebrating our **5pm Vigil** on **Saturday 22nd June**. He will also be blessing our newly constructed Marian grotto after the mass.

Archbishop Peter Comensoli will also be celebrating **8.30am mass** **Sunday 23rd June**.

PARISH FORUM

Please see the above notice in relation to our upcoming visit from Archbishop Peter Comensoli.

PRIME TIMERS

Our June outing will be to Braybrook Hotel. 353 Ballarat Rd. Braybrook. Tuesday 25th, seniors cost \$26 for buffet lunch at 12 o'clock. Meet at old Bunnings's car park 11.15am. Lifts can be arranged.

Enquiries: Ineke 0400 120 401 or ineke49@yahoo.com.

PARISH PASTORAL MINUTES-21st March 2024

Copies of the Parish Pastoral Minutes are on display and available for collection in the church foyer.

THANKSGIVING DIRECT DEBITS

Our Parish has changed its Direct Debit Software System to a more secure and safe platform. As such, the description on your Bank Statements for Direct Debits and Credit Cards may be different. If you have any concerns or questions, please call the Parish Office and speak to Lesley on 9747 9692 Tuesday – Friday 9.30am to 4.30pm.

SOLDIERS OF CHRIST-CHILDREN'S CATECHISM

Children's Catechism sessions will be held every 1st Sunday of the month, beginning Sunday 7th July. 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! Please contact Naim 0437 004 790. See flyer on noticeboard.

ST ANTHONY'S FEAST DAY CELEBRATION-THIS SUNDAY

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 a special collection at the weekend masses. The funds raised will go towards the expenses for the celebration of the Feast of St. Anthony.



ST BERNARD'S

MORNING TEA-THIS WEEKEND

Morning tea will be held after the 8.30am and 10.30am Masses on Sunday June 16th. All welcome.

THE KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS

The June meeting of The Knights of the Southern Cross will be held on Monday, June 17 in the parish meeting room at 8pm.

PARISH FORUM

Please see the above notice in relation to our upcoming visit from Archbishop Peter Comensoli.

HELPERS NEEDED SUNDAY 23RD JUNE

We require volunteers to assist in the Parish Centre on Sunday 23rd June. If you are able to assist from either 10am or 12pm please let me know.

Margot Short 0419 507 438 margotmshort@gmail.com.

150th ANNIVERSARY MASS

On next **Sunday 23rd June** our parish, once again gathers to celebrate another meaningful occasion. At **11.00 am** Archbishop Peter Comensoli will be the principal celebrant of the Mass acknowledging the 150th Anniversary of the Blessing and Opening of St Bernard's Church. Special guests will be Nancy Lloyd, Mary McMahon, Bernice Light and Pat O'Leary, our longest continuing parishioners as well as Tim O'Leary, former parishioner and altar server who is now Executive Director Stewardship for the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

At the conclusion of the Mass, Archbishop Comensoli will bless the new installation in our Gathering Space of the Foundation Stone of St Laurence O'Toole Chapel, the first Catholic Church in this parish.

Parishioners and visitors are then invited to gather in the Parish Centre for the launching, by Pat O'Leary, of the book *Peopling Our Parish*. Those who have ordered books will be able to collect their copies after the launch. Refreshments will then be served. Those attending will receive a bookmark commemorating the occasion and will be able to view the commemorative pavers laid near the Shanny Thompson seat.

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: 22nd & 23rd 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: Michelle Tennakoon & Gavin Pereira
8.30am: Leonia Jessop & Amy Honrade
10.30am: Alexandra Gunaratnam & Susan Malinov

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Dolores Turcsan & Aloysious Dacunha
8.30am: Philip Anyayahan & Geoff Sutton
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: 22nd & 23rd June

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

5.00pm: Jeremy Toledo
11.00am: 150th Anniversary Mass

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Volunteer needed
11.00am: 150th Anniversary Mass

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

June: Margaret Love

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

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

John Ian Church, Frank Consiglio, Phyllis Gilder, Margherita Grech, Salvina Pace, Sergio Robert Pin, James Plant & Lucia Savona.

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 Manicaró, 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.

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:

Kevin Lafranchi & John Tung
Requiem Mass for the Repose of the Soul of the late Mr. John Thomas Tung will be offered at St Bernard's Church. Tuesday 18th June 11.00am. Following Mass, John will be laid to rest at the Ballan Cemetery.

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

Dorothy Elmer, Anna Falzon, Joseph Grech, Henry Hocking, Jack O'Donohue.

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 Gagliardi, 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, 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: 22nd & 23rd June

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: Dolores Turcsan
8.30am: Mercy Seufatu
10.30am: Elizabeth Underwood

CHURCH FLOWERS

June: Gloria

CUPPA VOLUNTEERS 22nd & 23rd June

5.00pm Vigil: Julie Sequiera, Isabella Dawn
Jusayan, Marian Muller
8.30am: Remie Peroy, Catherine Perez,
Cecil Perez, Raquel Barrameda
10.30am: Kathleen McCurry, Maryanne
McCullagh, Melissa Battaglia,
Doris & Emily Bonello

Thank you for your 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 : 22nd & 23rd June

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: 5.00pm: Jackie Tabone
Sunday: 11.00am: 150th Anniversary Mass

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:	Anna Samy	0435 258 230
Group 2:	Pat Fernandes	0416 191 766
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,

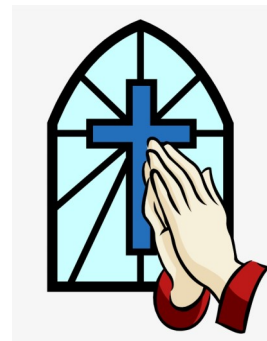
so that we may discern our journey

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

O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you; be my help.
Do not abandon or forsake me, O God, my Saviour!

FIRST READING Ezekiel 17:22-24

The Lord says this:

'From the top of the cedar,
from the highest branch I will take a shoot
and plant it myself on a very high mountain.
I will plant it on the high mountain of Israel.
It will sprout branches and bear fruit,
and become a noble cedar.
Every kind of bird will live beneath it,
every winged creature rest in the shade of its branches.
And every tree of the field will learn that I, the Lord, am the
one who stunts tall trees and makes the low ones grow,
who withers green trees and makes the withered green.
I, the Lord, have spoken, and I will do it.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 91

Commentator: Lord it is good to give thanks to you.

All: Lord it is good to give thanks to you.

It is good to give thanks to the Lord
to make music to your name, O Most High,
to proclaim your love in the morning
and your truth in the watches of the night.

The just will flourish like the palm-tree
and grow like a Lebanon cedar.

Planted in the house of the Lord
they will flourish in the courts of our God,
still bearing fruit when they are old,
still full of sap, still green,
to proclaim that the Lord is just.
In him, my rock, there is no wrong.

Lord it is good to give thanks to you.

NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS

12th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FIRST READING: Job 38:1, 8-11

SECOND READING: 2 Cor 5:14-17

GOSPEL: Mk 4:35-41



SECOND READING 2 Corinthians 5:6-10

We are always full of confidence when we remember that
to live in the body means to be exiled from the Lord, going
as we do by faith and not by sight - we are full of
confidence, I say, and actually want to be exiled from the
body and make our home with the Lord. Whether we are
living in the body or exiled from it, we are intent on pleasing
him. For all the truth about us will be brought out in the law
court of Christ, and each of us will get what he deserves for
the things he did in the body, good or bad.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower;
all who come to him will live for ever.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mark 4:26-34

Jesus said to the crowd, 'This is what the kingdom of God
is like. A man throws seed on the land. Night and day,
while he sleeps, when he is awake, the seed is sprouting
and growing; how, he does not know. Of its own accord the
land produces first the shoot, then the ear, then the full
grain in the ear. And when the crop is ready, he loses no
time; he starts to reap because the harvest has come.'

He also said, 'What can we say the kingdom of God is like?
What parable can we find for it? It is like a mustard seed
which at the time of its sowing in the soil is the smallest of
all the seeds on earth; yet once it is sown it grows into the
biggest shrub of them all and puts out big branches so that
the birds of the air can shelter in its shade.'

Using many parables like these, he spoke the word to
them, so far as they were capable of understanding it. He
would not speak to them except in parables, but he ex-
plained everything to his disciples when they were alone.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

There is one thing I ask of the Lord, only this do I seek:
to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

The Blessed Virgin Mary 5

The Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary

In the litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary are phrases like Tower of David, House of Gold, Ark of the Covenant, Tower of Ivory, Mystical Rose, Morning Star, and Star of the Sea. What do they mean?

We find these terms in the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary (specifically the Loreto version), which was composed in the mid-16th century. Early Dutch Jesuit St Peter Canisius popularised the litany in 1558 when he published it to foster devotion to our Blessed Mother in response to the Protestant “Reformers” who had attacked such devotion.

The litany represents a compilation of titles praising our Blessed Mother that were used at services at the Shrine of Loreto in Italy since the 13th century.

Most of the titles in the litany are associated with the prophecies and symbolism of the Old Testament which foreshadow the role our Blessed Mother played in the mystery of salvation. Several of these centre on her sanctity and maternity.

For instance, the “Tower of David” stood prominently and strongly on the highest summit of the mountains surrounding Jerusalem. Such a tower was part of the defence mechanism of the city. From it, warnings would be given of approaching enemies.

Mary is compared to the Tower of David because of her holiness, being recognised as full of grace and having been conceived free of original sin. By her prayers and example, she is part of God’s “defence mechanism” by which the Kingdom of God will stand undefeated and sin will always be conquered. (Cf. Song of Songs, 4:4)

Similarly, Mary is also called the “Tower of Ivory”. This term is also used in the Song of Songs (7:5) to describe the beloved bride. (A similar term, “Ivory Palace” is mentioned in

Psalm 45, verse 9, for the same reason.) Both instances foreshadow the nuptial relationship between Christ and his bride, the Church, as conveyed in St Paul’s Letter to the Ephesians.

Here, though, we remember, as Vatican II taught, that Mary is a “type of the Church”: She conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and through her, our Saviour entered into this world.

As such, “The Church indeed contemplating [Mary’s] hidden sanctity, imitating her charity, and faithfully fulfilling the Father’s will by receiving the Word of God in faith becomes a mother” (*Lumen Gentium*, No. 64).

The role of mother is particularly clear in the term “Ark of the Covenant”. Remember in the Old Testament the Ark of the Covenant housed the Ten Commandments, the Law of God. As the Israelites journeyed to the Promised Land, a cloud, signifying the presence of God, would descend upon or “overshadow” the tent where the Ark was kept.

Jesus came to fulfil the covenant and the law. In the Annunciation story, the Archangel Gabriel says to Mary: “The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you” (Luke 1:35). This conveys the same notion. Therefore, Mary “houses” Jesus in the womb; she is the new “Ark”, and mother of the author of the perfect and everlasting covenant.

From this foundation flow the other titles: Jeremiah predicted that the Messiah would be named, “The Lord our Justice” (23:6); Mary is the “Mirror of Justice” because no one better reflected the love and devotion to our Lord in her life than Mary.

Because of her pure, rich love and because she “housed” Jesus, she is called “House of Gold”. Jesus is the Wisdom of God, “the Word who became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14); therefore, Mary, who bore our Lord, is called “Seat of Wisdom”.

To be continued