



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 10th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME -YEAR B

9th 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 10/6/2024-16/6/2024

MASS TIMES:

Monday **10/6** 6.30pm
 Tuesday **11/6** No Morning Mass 6.30pm
 St Anthony's Novena **13th** Week-Adoration 6pm Novena 6.15pm
 Followed by Benediction & Mass

Wednesday **12/6** No Mass
 Thursday **13/6** Feast Day Mass 6.30pm
 Friday **14/6** No Mass

Saturday **15/6** 9.00am

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

Rosary **8.30am prior to Saturday mass**



Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil **15/6** 5.00pm
 Sunday **16/6** 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 10/6/2024-16/6/2024

MASS TIMES:

Monday **10/6** No Mass

Tuesday **11/6** No Mass
 No Holy Hour

Wednesday **12/6** No Mass

Thursday **13/6** No Mass

Friday **14/6** No Mass
 Providence and Friends **Communion Service** 11.00am

Saturday **15/6** 9.00am

Sunday Mass

Saturday Vigil **15/6** 5.00pm

Sunday **16/6** 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 KOROBEIT 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 10th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME-YEAR B- FR ALEX CLEMENTE

After series of solemnities in our liturgy, we are back to the ordinary Sunday celebration. The Gospel narrates the start of Jesus' mission. It has to meet various oppositions; his own relatives in Nazareth who envied his fruitful ministry among towns surrounding Galilean territory and the Scribes, whose practices were challenged by Jesus' preaching. They came with these accusations; He is out of his mind and He is possessed by an evil spirit.

It's unfortunate that when we pursue good works, we will have to battle with oppositions. And sadly, antagonisms can come not only from strangers but from our very own family and circle of friends. But like Jesus, we need to remain firm with our convictions and

persevering in our noble aspiration. When we participate in His mission, rejections and various forms of malicious accusations are inevitable. After all, he does not promise an easy and smooth life to those who intend to journey with His mission. In fact, there is only one promise; "Anyone who does the will of God, that person is my brother and sister and mother" (Mk 3:33). Jesus will stand at our side as a Big Brother.

What are the obstacles that I needed to overcome in doing God's work?

Where do I draw strength and inspiration to continuously participate in the mission of Jesus?

PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

WINTER APPEAL –ST VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY

Last weekend we had a special collection for St Vinnie's Winter Appeal. St Anthony's collected \$932.00 and the bake sale raised \$820.00. St Bernard's collected \$2525.00. Thank you for your generosity.

MELBOURNE ARCHDIOCESE -CLERGY CONFERENCE-10-14 JUNE

Dear Parishioners, please be advised Fr Alex, Fr Lucas and Fr Wilford will be attending the Clergy Conference 10-14 June. Please note the change in the mass time table (page 2). Please pray for all the priests from the Melbourne Archdiocese who will be attending this annual conference.

SAFEGUARDING COORDINATOR

We have had a change in our Safeguarding Committee, Godwin Barton has handed over the position of Safeguarding Coordinator to Aloysious Dacunha. We thank Godwin for all his hard work and dedication to this committee. We thank Aloysious for taking on the role of Safeguarding Coordinator. Please see the front page of the newsletter for a full list of officers and contact details for them.

You can also contact the group by email parish.safeguard@gmail.com.

ST ANTHONY'S

TRIVIA NIGHT

Thank you to all our parishioners who came along and supported our Trivia night on Saturday 1st June. Thank you to our Youth Group who worked very hard to make the night a great success.

We raised \$1115.00. The money raised on the night will go towards funding our Youth Group's activities.

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.



ST BERNARD'S

PROVIDENCE AND FRIENDS -COMMUNION SERVICE

Due to our Priests attending the Clergy Conference our Providence and Friends service this month will be a Communion Service.

Parishioners are invited to the Providence and Friends Communion Service on Friday 14th June at 11.00am. Please bring a plate for morning tea/lunch.

If transport is required, please let the Parish Office know or call Margot Short 0419 507 438.

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.**

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

MORNING TEA

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

*Father, grant that I may always address you
with simplicity and sincerity, so that I may
praise your name in all its glory.*

Source: A Year with the Church Fathers-Mike Aquilina

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: 15th & 16th 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: Mary Felix & Marian Muller
8.30am: Leonia Jessop & Geoff Sutton
10.30am: Rose Ma'ae & Ana Taunuu

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Leo Felix & Gavin Pereira
8.30am: Roa Seufatu & 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: Natalie & Ron
8.30am: Godwin & Lillian
10.30am: Annonica & Lillian

ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 15th & 16th June

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

6.30pm: John Thorne
8.30am: Margaret Love
10.30am: Beatrice Younger

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

6.30pm: Colin Remedios
8.30am: Colm Carragher
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:

Josephine Antony, Emmanuel Bonnice, Mary Assunta Borg, Emmanuel & Jane DeBrincat, Felicity Galea, Losa McAlpine Tuala & Joan Ungerdorben.

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 those whose death anniversaries occur at this time:

Kathleen Cox, Bill Dudley, Kevin Monagle, Peter Mullins, John Nabbs, Sophia Parsons & Catherine Wheelahan.

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, 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: 15th & 16th June

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: Julie Sequeira
8.30am: Ineke Allen
10.30am: Gilles Maitre

CHURCH FLOWERS

June: Gloria

CUPPA VOLUNTEERS

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 : 15th & 16th June

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: 6.30pm: Jan Farmelo
Sunday: 8.30am: Jan & Colm
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:	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,

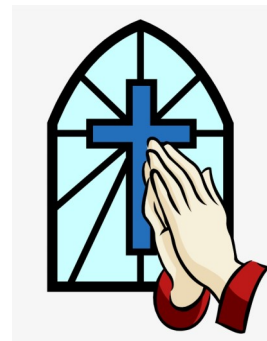
so that we may discern our journey

with compassionate and humble hearts

and come to know your Holy Spirit

Moving within and amongst us,

And so be transformed Amen.



LITURGY OF THE WORD

ENTRANCE PROCESSION

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life; whom should I dread?
When those who do evil draw near, they stumble and fall.

FIRST READING Genesis 3:9-15

The Lord God called to the man after he had eaten of the tree. 'Where are you?' he asked. 'I heard the sound of you in the garden,' he replied 'I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid.' 'Who told you that you were naked?' he asked. 'Have you been eating of the tree I forbade you to eat?' The man replied, 'It was the woman you put with me; she gave me the fruit, and I ate it.' Then the Lord God asked the woman, 'What is this you have done?' The woman replied, 'The serpent tempted me and I ate.'

Then the Lord God said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this, 'Be accursed beyond all cattle, all wild beasts.

You shall crawl on your belly and eat dust every day of your life.

I will make you enemies of each other:

you and the woman,
your offspring and her offspring.
It will crush your head
and you will strike its heel.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 129

Commentator: With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

All: With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,
Lord, hear my voice!

O let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleading.

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,
Lord, who would survive?

But with you is found forgiveness:
for this we revere you.

My soul is waiting for the Lord,
I count on his word.

My soul is longing for the Lord
more than watchman for daybreak.

Because with the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem
from all its iniquity.

With the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption.

NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS

11th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FIRST READING: Ezek 17:22-24

SECOND READING: 2 Cor 5:6-10

GOSPEL: Mk 4:26-34



SECOND READING 2 Corinthians 4:13 - 5:1

As we have the same spirit of faith that is mentioned in scripture I believed, therefore I spoke - we too believe and therefore we too speak, knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus to life will raise us with Jesus in our turn, and put us by his side and you with us. You see, all this is for your benefit, so that the more grace is multiplied among people, the more thanksgiving there will be, to the glory of God.

That is why there is no weakening on our part, and instead, though this outer man of ours may be falling into decay, the inner man is renewed day by day. Yes, the troubles which are soon over, though they weigh little, train us for the carrying of a weight of eternal glory which is out of all proportion to them. And so we have no eyes for things that are visible, but only for things that are invisible; for visible things last only for a time, and the invisible things are eternal.

For we know that when the tent that we live in on earth is folded up, there is a house built by God for us, an everlasting home not made by human hands, in the heavens.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The prince of this world will now be cast out,
and when I am lifted up from the earth
I will draw all to myself, says the Lord.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mark 3:20-35

Jesus went home, and such a crowd collected that they could not even have a meal. When his relatives heard of this, they set out to take charge of him, convinced he was out of his mind.

The scribes who had come down from Jerusalem were saying: 'Beelzebul is in him' and, 'It is through the prince of devils that he casts devils out.' So Jesus called them to him and spoke to them in parables, 'How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom can not last. And if a household is divided against itself, that household can never stand. Now if Satan has rebelled against himself and is divided, he can not stand either - it is the end of him. But no one can make his way into a strong man's house and burgle his property unless he has tied up the strong man first. Only then can he burgle his house.

'I tell you solemnly, all men's sins will be forgiven, and all their blasphemies: but let anyone blaspheme against the Holy Spirit and he will never have forgiveness: he is guilty of an eternal sin.' This was because they were saying, 'An unclean spirit is in him.'

The mother and brothers of Jesus arrived and, standing outside, sent in a message asking for him. A crowd was sitting round him at the time the message was passed to him, 'Your mother and brothers and sisters are outside asking for you.' He replied, 'Who are my mother and brothers?' And looking round at those sitting in a circle about him, he said, 'Here are my mother and my brothers. Anyone who does the will of God, that person is my brother and sister and mother.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer;
my God is my saving strength.

The Blessed Virgin Mary 4

Mary, the Mother of God

To understand the title, “Mother of God”, we must first clearly understand Mary’s role as mother of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

As Catholics, we firmly believe in the incarnation of our Lord: Mary conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit (see Luke 1:26-38 and Matthew 1:18-25). Through her, Jesus Christ — second person of the Holy Trinity, one in being (consubstantial) with the Father, and true God from true God — entered this world, taking on human flesh and a human soul.

Jesus is true God and true man. In His person are united both a divine nature and a human nature. Mary did not create the divine person of Jesus, who existed with the Father from all eternity: “In fact, the One whom she conceived as man by the Holy Spirit, who truly became her Son according to the flesh, was none other than the Father’s eternal Son, the second person of the Holy Trinity. Hence the Church confesses that Mary is truly ‘Mother of God’ (*Theotokos*) (Catechism, No. 495).

As St John wrote: “The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us, and we have seen His glory: The glory of an only Son coming from the Father filled with enduring love” (John 1:14).

For this reason, early in the history of the Church, our Blessed Mother was given the title “Mother of God”. St John Chrysostom (died 407 AD), for example, composed in his Eucharistic Prayer for the Mass an anthem in honour of her: “It is truly just to proclaim you blessed, O Mother of God, who are most blessed, all pure and Mother of our God.

“We magnify you who are more honourable than the Cherubim and incomparably more glorious than the Seraphim. You who, without losing your virginity, gave birth to the Word of God. You who are truly the Mother of God.”

However, objection to the title “Mother of God” arose in the fifth century due to confusion concerning the mystery of the incarnation.

Nestorius, Bishop of Constantinople (428-431), incited a major controversy. He stated that Mary gave birth to Jesus Christ, a regular human person, period. To this human person was united the person of the Word of God (the divine Jesus).

By William Saunders, catholiceducation.org

This union of two persons — the human Christ and the divine Word — was “sublime and unique” but merely accidental. The divine person dwelt in the human person “as in a temple”.

Nestorius asserted that the human Jesus died on the cross, not the divine Jesus. As such, Mary is not “Mother of God”, but simply “Mother of Christ”, the human Jesus. Sound confusing? It is, but the result is the splitting of Christ into two persons and the denial of the incarnation.

St Cyril, Bishop of Alexandria (died 440 AD), refuted Nestorius, asserting: “It was not that an ordinary man was born first of the Holy Virgin, on whom afterwards the Word descended; what we say is that being united with the flesh from the womb, [the Word] has undergone birth in the flesh, making the birth in the flesh His own.” This statement affirms the belief asserted in the first paragraph.

On June 22, 431 AD, the Council of Ephesus convened to settle this argument. The Council declared: “If anyone does not confess that the Emmanuel is truly God and therefore that the holy Virgin is the Mother of God (*Theotokos*) (since she begot according to the flesh the Word of God made flesh), *anathema sit*.”

Therefore, the Council officially recognised that Jesus is one person, with two natures — human and divine — united in a true union. Second, Ephesus affirmed that our Blessed Mother can rightfully be called the Mother of God: Mary is not Mother of God the Father, or Mother of God the Holy Spirit; rather, she is Mother of God the Son, Jesus Christ. The Council of Ephesus declared Nestorius a heretic, and Emperor Theodosius ordered him deposed and exiled.

The incarnation is indeed a profound mystery. The Church uses very precise albeit philosophical language to prevent confusion and error. Nevertheless, we must ponder this great mystery of how our divine Saviour entered this world, taking on human flesh to free us from sin.

We must also ponder and emulate the great example of our Blessed Mother, who said: “I am the handmaid of the Lord; be it done unto me according to thy word.” May we turn to her always as our own Mother, pleading: “Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen”.