



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 16th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME -YEAR B

21st July 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 22/07/2024-28/7/2024

MASS TIMES:

Monday	22/7	6.30pm
Tuesday	23/7	9.30am & 6.30pm
Wednesday	24/7	9.30am
Thursday	25/7	9.30am
Friday	26/7	9.30am
Saturday	27/7	9.00am

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

Rosary **8.30am prior to Saturday mass**



Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil	27/7	5.00pm
Sunday	28/7	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 22/7/2024-28/7/2024

MASS TIMES:

Monday	22/7	No Mass
Tuesday	23/7	7.30am
Holy Hour		7.00pm
Wednesday	24/7	9.30am
Thursday	25/7	7.30am
Friday	26/7	7.30am
Saturday	27/7	9.00am

Sunday Mass

Saturday Vigil	27/7	5.00pm
Sunday	28/7	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 10th & 17th August

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 16th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME-YEAR B Mk 6:30-34- Fr Wilford Urmaza

The Shepherd's Heart

When Jesus chose his disciples at the onset of His ministry, He already had in mind that they would become His emissaries and collaborators to undertake the mission for which He was deigned to accomplish. Jesus bestowed upon them the ability and authority to preach, to teach, to cast out demons, to repent, and do a host of other things.

The people who were sent to carry out Jesus' mission returned to report on their deeds and teachings, according to today's gospel. Jesus, aware of their situation, urged them to leave the crowd so they might rest and eat to satisfy their necessities and hunger, but a large number of people continued to come to them.

What drove these people to follow Jesus and His apostles despite their attempt to move away from the crowd must be their experience of healing, forgiveness, and the knowledge of the truth about Jesus and the Kingdom of God. His compassion and care for the people were evident, as He was moved with pity when He saw their persistence in seeing Him and his companions. He aptly described them as like sheep without a shepherd.

Jesus' genuine concern for the people is in stark contrast with the story from the book of the prophet Jeremiah in the 1st reading, where God laments the shepherds of Israel for not taking care of their sheep and for abandoning them. God takes upon Himself to shepherd His people. "I myself will gather the remnant of my flock, and those who forsook them will be punished." Punishment is God's justice for those who do evil deeds.

God promised to appoint shepherds to care for them so that they would not fear and tremble when adversities came, and none would be missing from them. Moreover, He proclaims He would raise up a righteous shoot to David, a king who will reign and govern wisely and who will only do what is right and just. As the Psalmist says, people will not be in want, for the Lord is their shepherd.

Essentially, Jesus, the Lord, the shepherd of Israel, is the fulfillment of Jeremiah's prophecy that a righteous shoot from the Davidic line will reign and save His people Israel. A shepherd who is not only just but full of mercy and compassion.

PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH APPEAL

Last weekend we had a special collection for the Propagation of the Faith Appeal. The St Anthony's Parish collected \$844.50 and the St Bernard's Parish collected \$470.00. Thank you for your generosity.

FAITH FORMATION

Sessions will begin **27th August** every **Tuesday at 7.15pm** in the Mackillop meeting room at St Anthony's church. Everyone is encouraged to attend especially those who seek to deepen their faith or learn about the catholic faith or want to receive the Sacraments of the Catholic Church. Please contact the parish office for enquiries.

YEAR 7 2026 ENROLMENTS NOW OPEN

ST FRANCIS CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Enrolment applications for Year 7 2026 at St Francis Catholic College are now open. You can apply online at

www.sfcc.vic.edu.au/joinus/enrolment

We welcome you to join one of our college tours.

Reserve your place at

www.sfcc.vic.edu.au/joinus/college-tour

Applications close on Friday 16 August 2024.

ST ANTHONY'S

THANK YOU —BRENDAN BOYLE

St Anthony's Parish would like to thank Brendan Boyle for his many years of volunteer work in our Parish. Brendan has given his time with the upkeep of the garden beds and general odd jobs around the parish grounds, to keep our church grounds looking neat and tidy.

Brendan will still be a regular at our 8.30am Sunday masses. Thank you Brendan!

ST ANTHONY'S COLLECTION BOX

We will be blessing and distributing St Anthony's Bread on the First Tuesday of each month during the evening service. If you would like to help with the costs associated with this you can contribute by putting your donation into the wooden collection box on the right hand side of the wall next to the St Anthony's statue.

The box is labelled 'St Anthony's Bread.' Thank you.

BINGO

Bingo is held every Tuesday evening at 7.00pm, in the Padua Hall. Bingo books can be purchased from 6.00pm. We have a great canteen with delicious food available and we have complimentary tea and coffee.

Come along and try your luck!

NO BINGO ON THE 6th AUGUST

ST BERNARD'S

MINISTERS

Training sessions for Ministers of the Word, Extraordinary Ministers and Servers will be held in August and September. More volunteers are needed for all ministries. Please consider if you can assist. There will be an opportunity for anyone able to serve our Parish community in these important ministries via sign up method in the coming weeks.

All current ministers will be contacted to attend updated training sessions once dates and times have been finalised.

Thank you, the St Bernard's Liturgy committee.

THE LITURGY COMMITTEE-DISPLAY BOARD

You are invited to view the contents of the Liturgy display board in the Gathering space. It will be updated each month.

The minutes of meetings held by the Liturgy committee are in the pocket for you to peruse. The contents of this pocket will be updated after each meeting of the Liturgy committee. There will be no meeting in July as Father Wilford is on leave. The next meeting is scheduled for August 14th. If you have any items for the meeting agenda, please see one of the liturgy committee members or email the Parish office.

Thank you, St Bernard's Liturgy committee.



2024 St. Bernard's Bacchus Marsh

Trivia Night

Saturday 3rd August

Scan QR code for details



Thomas Halloran – 0431 504 402

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: 27th & 28th July

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: Mercy Seufatu & Geoff Sutton

10.30am: Anakin Anderson & Rosabella Tuala

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Dolores Turcsan & Gavin Pereira

8.30am: Roa Seufatu & Ron Howard

10.30am: Frank Carreon & Cita Carreon

If you are unavailable for these dates please contact Lesley at the Parish Office Thank you

MASS COORDINATORS

5.00pm: Julie & Olen

8.30am: Josephine & Godwin

10.30am: Leonia & Godwin

ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 27th & 28th July

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

5.00pm: Jeremy Toledo

8.30am: Margaret Love

10.30am: Beatrice Younger

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: John Thorne

8.30am: Volunteer needed

10.30am: Cheryl Stevens

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

July: Josephite Companions

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Marjorie Barker, Marie Dove, Wayne Dunn, Doris Farrugia, Michelle Ivey, Dr Marshall Leon Pereira, Fortunato Portelli & Francis Vella

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, 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:

Tony Dickinson, Bill Fanning, John Farrugia, Bronwyn Kays & Ted Shelly

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, Allison Evans, Helen Evans, Evelyn, George Farrell, Yvonne Felicieux, Justin Fernandez, Pasquale Gagiarbi, 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: 27th & 28th July

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

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

CHURCH FLOWERS

July: Ana

CUPPA VOLUNTEERS 27th & 28th July

5.00pm: Julie Sequiera, Jojo Dimapilis,
Isabelle Dawn Jusayan, Jan Edward Dela Cruz
8.30am: Raymond Sumayed, Remie Peroy,
Raquel Barrameda, Mary Saliba
10.30am: Kathleen McCurry, Maryanne McCullagh,
Melissa Battaglia, Daniella Spiteri,
Anna and Niko Taumu

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 : 27th & 28th July

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: 5.00pm: Carmel Shea
Sunday: 8.30am: Margot Short
10.30am: Natalia Klenkowski

CHURCH FLOWERS

July: 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.

Please note that there are no baptisms at St Bernard's Church on Saturday 10th August 2024

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:	Joe & Jacqueline Spiteri	0402 512 841
Group 2:	Carolyn Cruz	0401 875 410
Group 3:	Indika & Mangala Silva	0410 677 692

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,

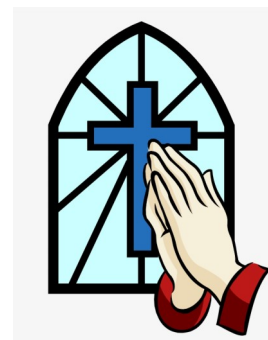
so that we may discern our journey

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

See, I have God for my help.
The Lord sustains my soul.
I will sacrifice to you with willing heart,
and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

FIRST READING Jeremiah 23:1-6

'Doom for the shepherds who allow the flock of my pasture to be destroyed and scattered - it is the Lord who speaks! This, therefore, is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says about the shepherds in charge of my people: You have let my flock be scattered and go wandering and have not taken care of them. Right, I will take care of you for your misdeeds - it is the Lord who speaks! But the remnant of my flock I myself will gather from all the countries where I have dispersed them, and will bring them back to their pastures: they shall be fruitful and increase in numbers. I will raise up shepherds to look after them and pasture them; no fear, no terror for them any more; not one shall be lost - it is the Lord who speaks!

'See the days are coming - it is the Lord who speaks - when I will raise a virtuous Branch for David, who will reign as true king and be wise, practising honesty and integrity in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel dwell in confidence. and this is the name he will be called: The Lord-our-integrity.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 22

Commentator: The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.

All: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit.

He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort.

You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing.

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever.

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

SECOND READING Ephesians 2:13-18

In Christ Jesus, you that used to be so far from us have been brought very close, by the blood of Christ. For he is the peace between us, and has made the two into one and broken down the barrier which used to keep them apart, actually destroying in his own person the hostility caused by the rules and decrees of the Law. This was to create one single New Man in himself out of the two of them and by restoring peace through the cross, to unite them both in a single Body and reconcile them with God. In his own person he killed the hostility. Later he came to bring the good news of peace, peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near at hand. Through him, both of us have in the one Spirit our way to come to the Father.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord;
I know them, and they follow me.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mark 6:30-34

The apostles rejoined Jesus and told him all they had done and taught. Then he said to them, 'You must come away to some lonely place all by yourselves and rest for a while'; for there were so many coming and going that the apostles had no time even to eat. So they went off in a boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves.

But people saw them going, and many could guess where; and from every town they all hurried to the place on foot and reached it before them. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he set himself to teach them at some length.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord, the gracious, the merciful,
has made a memorial of his wonders;
he gives food to those who fear him.

NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS

17th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FIRST READING: 2Kg 4:42-44

SECOND READING: Eph 4:1-6

GOSPEL: Jn 6:1-15



The Blessed Virgin Mary 10

The Immaculate Conception

Eight things you need to know about the Immaculate Conception (Continued)

5. How does this make Mary a parallel of Eve?

Adam and Eve were both created immaculate, without original sin or its stain. They fell from grace, and through them mankind was bound to sin.

Christ and Mary were also conceived immaculate. They remained faithful, and through them mankind was redeemed from sin.

Christ is thus the New Adam, and Mary is the New Eve.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church notes: "As St Irenaeus says: 'Being obedient she became the cause of salvation for herself and for the whole human race.' Hence not a few of the early Fathers gladly assert: 'The knot of Eve's disobedience was untied by Mary's obedience: what the virgin Eve bound through her disbelief, Mary loosened by her faith.'"

"Comparing her with Eve, they call Mary 'the Mother of the living' and frequently claim: 'Death through Eve, life through Mary'." (No. 494)

6. How does this make Mary an icon of our own destiny?

Those who die in God's friendship and thus go to heaven will be freed from all sin and stain of sin. We will thus all be rendered "immaculate" (Latin, *immaculatus* = "stainless") if we remain faithful to God.

Even in this life, God purifies us and trains us in holiness and, if we die in his friendship but imperfectly purified, he will purify us in purgatory and render us immaculate.

By giving Mary this grace from the first moment of her conception, God showed us an image of our own destiny. He shows us that this is possible for humans by his grace.

John Paul II noted: "In contemplating this mystery in a Marian perspective, we can say that 'Mary, at the side of her Son, is the most perfect image of freedom and of the liberation of humanity and of the universe. It is to her as Mother and Model that the Church must look in

By Jimmy Akin, ewtn.co.uk

order to understand in its completeness the meaning of her own mission'" (Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, *Libertatis Conscientia*, March 22, 1986, n. 97; cf. *Redemptoris Mater*).

"Let us fix our gaze, then, on Mary, the icon of the pilgrim Church in the wilderness of history but on her way to the glorious destination of the heavenly Jerusalem, where she [the Church] will shine as the Bride of the Lamb, Christ the Lord" [General Audience, March 14, 2001].

7. Was it necessary for God to make Mary immaculate at her conception so that she could be Jesus' mother?

No. The Church only speaks of the Immaculate Conception as something that was "fitting", something that made Mary a "fit habitation" (that is, suitable dwelling) for the Son of God, not something that was necessary.

Thus in preparing to define the dogma, Pope Pius IX stated: "And hence they [the Church Fathers] affirmed that the Blessed Virgin was, through grace, entirely free from every stain of sin, and from all corruption of body, soul and mind; that she was always united with God and joined to him by an eternal covenant; that she was never in darkness but always in light; and that, therefore, she was entirely a fit habitation for Christ, not because of the state of her body, but because of her original grace ...

"For it was certainly not fitting that this vessel of election should be wounded by the common injuries, since she, differing so much from the others, had only nature in common with them, not sin. In fact, it was quite fitting that, as the Only-Begotten has a Father in heaven, whom the Seraphim extol as thrice holy, so He should have a Mother on earth who would never be without the splendour of holiness." (*Ineffabilis Deus*)

8. How do we celebrate the Immaculate Conception today?

In the Latin rite of the Catholic Church, December 8 is the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. Although it is no longer a holy day of obligation in Australia as it once was, it is still a day we can celebrate by making a special effort to get to Mass.