



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 17th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME -YEAR B

28th 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 29/07/2024-4/8/2024

MASS TIMES:

Monday	29/7	6.30pm
Tuesday	30/7	9.30am & 6.30pm
Wednesday	31/7	9.30am
Thursday	1/8	9.30am
Friday	2/8	9.30am
First Friday Devotion		7.30pm
Saturday	3/8 First Saturday	9.00am

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

Rosary **8.30am prior to Saturday mass**

Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil	3/8	5.00pm
Sunday	4/8	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 29/7/2024-4/8/2024

MASS TIMES:

Monday	29/7	No Mass
Tuesday	30/7	7.30am
Holy Hour		7.00pm
Wednesday	31/7	9.30am
Thursday	1/8	7.30am
Friday	2/8	7.30am
Saturday	3/8	9.00am

Sunday Mass

Saturday Vigil	3/8	5.00pm
Sunday	4/8	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 commences.

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 17th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME-YEAR B - Sr Mary Fermio rsj

Each time we go to the supermarket we are confronted by bins of fruit and shelves for vegetables, bread etc.

From these we can pick and choose according to our health needs and taste. In hotels and cafes, plates of food can be left to be binned, and huge amounts of food are dumped each day.

In our Gospel today we have a huge number of people who are following Jesus, listening to his teaching, passing it on maybe from group to group. Jesus was always concerned with people and their needs, and he posed a question on how they were to feed this large number. Knowing they had not the monetary means to do so, the apostles offered a small boy's lunch – five loaves and two fish. Jesus took them, told the people to sit in groups, and gave bread and fish to the Apostles to pass around collecting – **no wastage to be dumped!** – twelve hampers full. Did others also have food they shared?

We need to be grateful that we live in a country that can produce food for us. But there is incredible wastefulness. What can I do about it? Did some only want to follow Jesus for a free meal? Where is my priority? How can I prevent wastage?



PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

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 and be baptised a Catholic. Please contact the parish office for enquiries.

TOGETHER WE CAN KEEP THE FAITH ALIVE - AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED (ACN)

Did you know that across the world tens of millions of Christian families are in exile following persecution because of their faith?

Aid to the Church in Need is a spiritual and pastoral charity which seeks to keep the flame of faith alive in those places where it is at risk of extinction. An ACN speaker who will share with us about the work of Aid to the Church in Need and how we can help our suffering and persecuted brothers and sisters, will speak at our weekend masses.

St Anthony's 3rd & 4th August and St Bernard's 10th & 11th August.

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 BERNARD'S

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.

HEATING PIPES UNDER PEWS

It has been noticed recently that a number of heating pipes under the pews have become dislodged. For safety reasons, please take care – do not touch or lean your feet against the pipes under the seats. Children should be supervised at all times. Thank you for your cooperation.

ST ANTHONY'S

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

CUPPA WEEKEND

Please join us after mass for a cuppa and a chat.

*Lord Jesus, you endured blasphemous slander and gruesome humiliation, even though you had done nothing wrong.
When I'm tempted to be overly protective of my honour, remind me of what you endured for my sake, so that I can regain a proper perspective on the slight I may suffer.*



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: 3rd & 4th August

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: Eva Caliguran & Amy Honrade
10.30am: Elizabeth Underwood & Niel Evangelista

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Dolores Turcsan & Aloysious Dacunha
8.30am: Philip Anyayahan & Geoff Sutton
10.30am: Doris Bonello & George 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: Lillian & Godwin
10.30am: Leonia & Godwin

ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 3rd & 4th August

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

5.00pm: Maureen Zahra
8.30am: Evana Miesen
10.30am: Rita Marshall

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: John Thorne
8.30am: John Wilson
10.30am: Vanina Isah

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Auguat: John Wilson

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

We pray for the recently deceased:

Tony Pace.

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

Angela Aquilina, Joseph Aquilina, Veronica Butler,
 Angelo Camilleri, Maria Camilleri, Rose DeBono,
 Michelle Ivey, Coral Mary Manuel, Patrick Portelli,
 Joseph Saliba, Jack Tolhurst, Michael Turcsan
 & Charlie Zammit

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**

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:

Mary Evans, Bill Griffith, Nadia Vescovi
 & Gerard Wheelahan.

Please pray for the Sick:

Aubrey, 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 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
 June Murray, Nancy Pace, Arthur Pape, Michael Paterson,
 Georgia Peacock, Robert Pope, 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: 3rd & 4th August

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

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

CHURCH FLOWERS

August: Rosabella

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 : 3rd & 4th August

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: 5.00pm: Dianne Shelly
Sunday: 8.30am: Marj Tung

CHURCH FLOWERS

August: 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@inet.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:	Paul & Sonia Zarb	0477 813 272
Group 2:	Gavin & Alison Pereira	0419 178 970
Group 3:	Rohini Selvanayagam	0425 868 967

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,

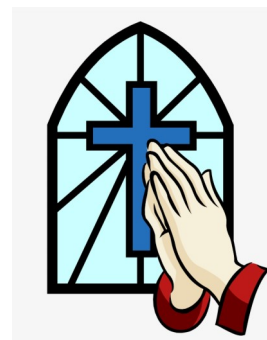
so that we may discern our journey

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

God is in his holy place,
God who unites those who dwell in his house;
he himself gives might and strength to his people.

FIRST READING 2 Kings 4:42-44

A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing Elisha, the man of God, bread from the first-fruits, twenty barley loaves and fresh grain in the ear. 'Give it to the people to eat,' Elisha said. But his servant replied, 'How can I serve this to a hundred men?' 'Give it to the people to eat' he insisted for the Lord says this, "They will eat and have some over." He served them; they ate and had some over, as the Lord had said.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 144

Commentator: The hand of the Lord feeds us;
he answers all our needs.

All: The hand of the Lord feeds us;
he answers all our needs.

All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,
and your friends shall repeat their blessing.
They shall speak of the glory of your reign
and declare your might, O God.

The eyes of all creatures look to you
and you give them their food in due time.
You open wide your hand,
grant the desires of all who live.

The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him,
who call on him from their hearts.

The hand of the Lord feeds us;
he answers all our needs.



NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS

18th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FIRST READING: Ex 16:2-4, 12-15

SECOND READING: Eph 4:17, 20-24

GOSPEL: Jn 6:24-35

SECOND READING Ephesians 4:1-6

I, the prisoner in the Lord, implore you to lead a life worthy of your vocation. Bear with one another charitably, in complete selflessness, gentleness and patience. Do all you can to preserve the unity of the Spirit by the peace that binds you together. There is one Body, one Spirit, just as you were all called into one and the same hope when you were called. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God who is Father of all, through all and within all.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

A great prophet has appeared among us;
God has visited his people.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 6:1-15

Jesus went off to the other side of the Sea of Galilee - or of Tiberias - and a large crowd followed him, impressed by the signs he gave by curing the sick. Jesus climbed the hillside, and sat down there with his disciples. It was shortly before the Jewish feast of Passover.

Looking up, Jesus saw the crowds approaching and said to Philip, 'Where can we buy some bread for these people to eat?' He only said this to test Philip; he himself knew exactly what he was going to do. Philip answered, 'Two hundred denarii would only buy enough to give them a small piece each.' One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said, 'There is a small boy here with five barley loaves and two fish; but what is that between so many?' Jesus said to them, 'Make the people sit down.' There was plenty of grass there, and as many as five thousand men sat down. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks and gave them out to all who were sitting ready; he then did the same with the fish, giving out as much as was wanted. When they had eaten enough he said to the disciples, 'Pick up the pieces left over, so that nothing gets wasted.' So they picked them up, and filled twelve hampers with scraps left over from the meal of five barley loaves. The people, seeing this sign that he had given, said, 'This really is the prophet who is to come into the world.' Jesus, who could see they were about to come and take him by force and make him king, escaped back to the hills by himself.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and never forget all his benefits.

The Blessed Virgin Mary 11

The Annunciation (1)

The Annunciation takes its name from the happy tidings brought by the angel Gabriel to the Blessed Virgin Mary, concerning the incarnation of the Son of God.

It commemorates the most important embassy that was ever known: an embassy sent by the King of kings, performed by one of the chief princes of his heavenly court; directed, not to the kings or emperors of the earth, but to a poor, unknown, retired virgin, who, being endowed with the most angelic purity of soul and body, being withal perfectly humble and devoted to God, was greater in his eyes than all the sceptres in the world could make a universal monarch.

Indeed God, by the choice which he is pleased to make of a poor virgin, for the accomplishment of the greatest of all mysteries and graces, clearly demonstrates that earthly diadems, dignities, and treasures are of no consideration with him; and that perfect humility and sanctity alone constitute true greatness.

God, who is almighty, can do all things by himself, without making use of the concurrence of creatures. Nevertheless he vouchsafes, in his exterior works, most frequently to use their cooperation. If he reveals his will and speaks to men, it is by the intervention of his prophets, and these he often enlightens by the ministry of angels.

Many of the ancient Patriarchs were honoured by God with the most sublime commissions. By Moses, he delivered his people from the Egyptian slavery, by him he gave them his law, and he appointed him mediator in his alliance with them. When the Son of God became man, he could have taken upon him our nature without the cooperation of any creature; but was pleased to be born of a woman.

In the choice of her whom he raised to this most sublime of all dignities to which any pure creature could be exalted, he pitched upon her who, by the riches of his grace and virtues, was of all others the most holy and the most perfect.

By Rev. Alban Butler, ewtn.com

The design of this embassy of the archangel is as extraordinary as the persons concerned in it. It is to give a Saviour to the world, a victim of propitiation to the sinner, a model to the just, a son to this Virgin, remaining still a virgin, and a new nature to the Son of God, the nature of man, capable of suffering pain and anguish in order to satisfy God's justice for our transgressions.

And the Son of God, being to take a human body formed of her substance, the Holy Spirit, who, by a power all-divine, was to her in place of a spouse, was not content to render her body capable of giving life to a Man-God, but likewise enriched her soul with a fullness of grace, that there might be a sort of proportion between the cause and the effect, and she the better qualified to cooperate towards this mystery of sanctity.

This is not the first time that angels have appeared to women: but we find not that they were ever treated with that respect which the angel Gabriel shows to Mary. Sarah and Hagar were visited by these celestial spirits, but not with an honour like that wherewith the angel on this occasion addresses the Blessed Virgin, saying, "Hail! full of grace".

He considers her as the greatest object among creatures of God's favour, affection, and complacency. He admires in her those wonderful effects of the divine liberality, those magnificent gifts and graces, those exalted virtues, which have placed the very foundation of her spiritual edifice on the holy mountains, in a degree of perfection surpassing that of all pure creatures.

He admires that perfect gratitude with which she always received God's grace, and her perfect fidelity in corresponding with it, and advancing in sanctity, by the help thereof, with a solicitude answerable to her love and gratitude, for the preservation and increase of so inestimable a treasure.

To be continued