



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 14th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME -YEAR B

7th 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 8/7/2024-14/7/2024

MASS TIMES:

Monday	8/7	6.30pm
Tuesday	9/7	9.30am & 6.30pm
Wednesday	10/7	9.30am
Thursday	11/7	9.30am
Friday	12/7	9.30am
Saturday	13/7	9.00am

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

Rosary **8.30am prior to Saturday mass**



Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil	13 /7	5.00pm
Sunday	14/7	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 8/7/2024-14/7/2024

MASS TIMES:

Monday	8/7	No Mass
Tuesday	9/7	9.30am
Holy Hour		7.00pm
Wednesday	10/7	9.30am
Thursday	11/7	9.30am
Friday	12/7	9.30am
Providence and Friends		11.00am
Saturday	13/7	9.00am

Sunday Mass

Saturday Vigil	13/7	5.00pm
Sunday	14/7	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 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 14th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME-YEAR B –Fr Alex Clemente, RCJ

In his song entitled Everything is beautiful, Ray Stevens popularized the proverb
"There is none so blind as he who will not see".

That was exactly true with the people of Nazareth in this Sunday's Gospel. Jesus' family origins were too familiar among the villagers. He was just one of them. So "how could anything good come out of Nazareth?" Since He was a native and a mere son of a carpenter, they thought He had nothing noble to offer. They knew Him too well to be able to recognize the divine and the presence of God in their village.

Sometimes, this too is our problem. We can easily turn our backs on the local prophet who may be a presence of God in our midst. In our search for God, we make the mistake of looking for Him in the far-off hills, obscure places or in something that is marvelous. We blithely ignore the Biblical truth, that God moves in subtle and mysterious ways! God is present to us in the ordinary bits and pieces of life and shows up more often than we think.

The trouble with us is that because we stand so close to each other, we only see the faults and flaws. We can easily overlook the great gifts of goodness that we all possess.

How can I recognize the prophets of God's goodness in my surroundings?

PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

PETER'S PENCE APPEAL

Last weekend we had a special collection for the Peter's Pence Appeal. St Anthony's collected \$726.40 and St Bernard's collected \$315.00. Thank you for your generosity.

PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH APPEAL-NEXT WEEKEND 13TH & 14TH JULY 2024

Next weekend we will have the Propagation of the Faith Appeal. The Catholic Mission invites you to extend your generosity to help enhance the vital services they provide. This year the Mission are focusing on the Church in Mongolia, and many other life-giving mission programs around the world. The Church in Mongolia is working hard to provide essential services to people in need.

Without shelter and food the homeless and poverty stricken face a real risk of freezing to death in the harsh winter.

Catholic Mission : Freecall 1800 257 296 or catholicmission.org.au/Mongolia Envelopes are also available in the Church foyer.

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

SOLDIERS OF CHRIST-CHILDREN'S CATECHISM

Children's Catechism sessions will be held every 1st Sunday of the month, beginning this 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.

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!

ST BERNARD'S

PROVIDENCE AND FRIENDS MASS

Parishioners are invited to our monthly Providence and Friends Mass on Friday 12th July at 11.00am. Please bring a plate for morning tea/lunch. If transport is needed please let the Parish Office know or call Margot Short 0419 507 438.

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.

KNIGHT'S OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS

The Knight's of the Southern Cross will hold the July meeting in the parish meeting room on Monday July 8, at 8pm.

MORNIGN TEA-SUNDAY 14th JULY

Morning tea will be held after the 8.30am and 10.30am Masses on Sunday July 14th. All welcome

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Observance

Sunday 7 July 2024

Pope Francis reminds us, we are called to be a Church that goes forth, embracing all cultures and peoples. Let us open our hearts to the wisdom and spirituality of our First Nations Peoples, recognizing the presence of Christ in our stories and traditions. May this celebration be a moment of grace, healing, and transformation for all of us.



Source: [2024 ATSI Sunday \(natsicc.org.au\)](http://2024.ATSI.Sunday(natsicc.org.au))



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: 13th & 14th 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: Rose Ma'ae & Alexandra Gunaratnam

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Gavin Pereira & Dolores Turcsan

8.30am: Geoff Sutton & Philip Anyayahan

10.30am: John Ma'ae & Elizabeth Underwood

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: Annonica & Godwin

ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 13th & 14th July

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

5.00pm: Sonia Smith

8.30am: Dominican Sisters

10.30am: Chloe Lindorff

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Vicki Benson

8.30am: Volunteer needed

10.30am: Vanina Isah

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

July: Josephite Companions

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

We pray for the recently deceased:

Anne Shanmugam

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

William Austin Ainsworth, Fonoti Sepellin Ma'ae, Charlie Magri, Bianca McCurry, Mabel McShane, Chantelle Medhurst, William Mullins, Clarrie Rietschel & Estanislao Sanchez.

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:

Spiro Abela, Thomas Blood, Bill Cameron, Damian Condon, Alice Cook, Eileen Finn, Leo Flanagan, Mary Glenane, Dorrie Kenny, Pat Ragan, Rita Scott, Edward Skinner, John Spice. & Patricia Wittick.

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 Delahay, 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: 13th & 14th July

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: Liza Chdid
8.30am: Pat Chiles
10.30am: Gilles Maitre

CHURCH FLOWERS

July: Ana

CUPPA VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm:
8.30am: To be advised
10.30am:

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Welfare Number: 1800 305 330
The Melton South Conference meet every 1st Tuesday of the month in the Mackillop Room 10.30am.
New members most welcome, training provided.
Non perishable items within the use by date can be left in the 'drop box' in the Church foyer.
We cannot accept re-packaged food.

COMBINED CHURCHES CARING MELTON INC

We're here to support City of Melton residents get ahead through access to our foodbank and other community programs. It's never just about the food or the budget help, it's about recognising the beauty that is in the person and bringing it out so they can be their best.
100 Coburn's Road Melton South 9747 6811

*The Harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few;
Pray therefore (**Rogate Ergo...**) to the Lord of the Harvest that He may send Good workers into His vast vineyard. (Mt. 9:37-38).*

Prayer is the answer to the perennial problem of the lack of good evangelical workers. It is a command and not just a simple request or an invitation. The Church needs holy workers. She needs committed, faithful, and zealous ministers of the Gospel. But if we will not beg the Lord, we will never be blessed with Good and Holy Vocations.

St. Hannibal Ma. Di Francia, the Patron of Vocations said; Vocations come from on High, if we do not pray, vocations will not come. Let us therefore implore the Master of the Harvest with this short prayer:

Send, O Lord, Holy Apostles into Your Church!

ST BERNARD'S

WEEKEND VOLUNTEERS : 13th & 14th July

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: 5.00pm: Jan Farmelo
Sunday: 8.30am: Jan & Colm
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@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:	Robert & Angela Lacono	0424 801 928
Group 2:	Maria & Juan Dumandan	0402 177 623
Group 3:	Godwin & Kim Barton	0425 734 449

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,

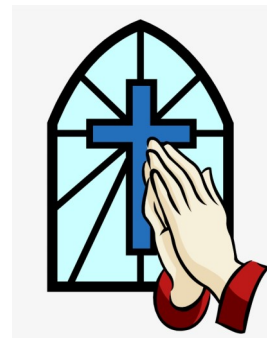
so that we may discern our journey

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

Your merciful love, O God,
we have received in the midst of your temple.
Your praise, O God, like your name,
reaches the ends of the earth;
your right hand is filled with saving justice.

FIRST READING Ezekiel 2:2-5

The spirit came into me and made me stand up, and I heard the Lord speaking to me. He said, 'Son of man, I am sending you up to the Israelites, to the rebels who have turned against me. Till now they and their ancestors have been in revolt against me. The sons are defiant and obstinate; I am sending you to them, to say, "The Lord says this." Whether they listen or not, this set of rebels shall know there is a prophet among them.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 122

Commentator: Our eyes are fixed on the Lord,
pleading for his mercy.

All: Our eyes are fixed on the Lord,
pleading for his mercy.

To you have I lifted up my eyes,
you who dwell in the heavens:
my eyes, like the eyes of slaves
on the hand of their lords.

Like the eyes of a servant
on the hand of his mistress,
so our eyes are on the Lord our God
till he shows us his mercy.

Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.
We are filled with contempt.
Indeed all too full is our soul
with the scorn of the rich,
with the proud man's disdain.

Our eyes are fixed on the Lord,
pleading for his mercy.



NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS

15th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FIRST READING: Amos 7:12-15

SECOND READING: Eph 1:3-14

GOSPEL: Mk 6:7-13

SECOND READING 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

In view of the extraordinary nature of these revelations, to stop me from getting too proud I was given a thorn in the flesh, an angel of Satan to beat me and stop me from getting too proud! About this thing, I have pleaded with the Lord three times for it to leave me, but he has said, 'My grace is enough for you: my power is at its best in weakness.' So I shall be very happy to make my weaknesses my special boast so that the power of Christ may stay over me, and that is why I am quite content with my weaknesses, and with insults, hardships, persecutions, and the agonies I go through for Christ's sake. For it is when I am weak that I am strong.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mark 6:1-6

Jesus went to his home town and his disciples accompanied him. With the coming of the sabbath he began teaching in the synagogue and most of them were astonished when they heard him. They said, 'Where did the man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been granted him, and these miracles that are worked through him? This is the carpenter, surely, the son of Mary, the brother of James and Joset and Jude and Simon? His sisters, too, are they not here with us?' And they would not accept him. And Jesus said to them, 'A prophet is only despised in his own country among his own relations and in his own house'; and he could work no miracle there, though he cured a few sick people by laying his hands on them. He was amazed at their lack of faith.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Taste and see that the Lord is good;
blessed the man who seeks refuge in him.

The Blessed Virgin Mary 8

The Immaculate Conception

(Continued)

Again: “Eve being a Virgin, and incorrupt, bore disobedience and death, but Mary the Virgin, receiving faith and joy, when Gabriel the Angel evangelised her, answered, ‘Be it unto me’.”

Again, “What Eve failed in believing, Mary by believing *hath* blotted out.”

Now, can we refuse to see that, according to these Fathers, who are earliest of the early, Mary was a *typical woman* like Eve, that both were endued with special gifts of grace, and that Mary succeeded where Eve failed?

Moreover, what light they cast upon St Alfonso’s doctrine, of which a talk is sometimes made, of the two ladders? You see, according to these most early Fathers, Mary *undoes* what Eve had done; mankind is *saved through* a Virgin; the *obedience* of Mary becomes the *cause of salvation to all mankind*.

Moreover, the distinct way in which Mary does this is pointed out when she is called by the early Fathers an *Advocate*. The word is used of our Lord and the Holy Ghost — of our Lord, as interceding for us in His own Person; of the Holy Ghost, as interceding in the Saints. This is the *white* way, as our Lord’s own special way is the *red* way, that is, of atoning Sacrifice.

Further still, what light these passages cast on two texts of Scripture. *Our* reading is: “*She shall bruise thy head.*”

Now, this fact alone of our reading, “*She shall bruise,*” has some weight, for *why* should not, perhaps, our reading be the right one? But take the comparison of Scripture with Scripture, and see how the whole hangs together as we interpret it. A war between a woman and the serpent is spoken of in Genesis.

Who is the serpent? Scripture nowhere says till the 12th chapter of the Apocalypse. There at last, for the first time, the “Serpent” is interpreted to mean the Evil Spirit. Now, *how* is he introduced? Why, by the vision *again* of a Woman, his enemy — and just as in the first vision in Genesis, the Woman has a “seed”, so here a “Child”.

Can we help saying, then, that the Woman is Mary in the third of Genesis? And if so, and our reading is right, the first prophecy ever given contrasts the Second Woman with the First — Mary with Eve, just as St Justin, St Irenaeus, and Tertullian do.

Moreover, see the direct bearing of this upon the Immaculate Conception. There was *war* between the woman and the Serpent. This is most emphatically fulfilled if she had nothing to do with sin — for, so far as any one sins, he has an alliance with the Evil One.

By St John Henry Newman, thecatholicthing.org

Now I wish it observed *why* I thus adduce the Fathers and Scripture. *Not* to *prove* the doctrine, but to rid it of any such monstrous improbability as would make a person *scruple* to accept it *when* the Church declares it. A Protestant is apt to say: “Oh, I really never, never can accept such a doctrine from the hands of the Church, and I had a thousand thousand times rather determine that the Church spoke falsely, than that so terrible a doctrine was true.”

Now, my good man, WHY? Do not go off in such a wonderful agitation, like a horse shying at he does not know what. Consider what I have said. Is it, after all, *certainly* irrational? Is it *certainly* against Scripture? Is it *certainly* against the primitive Fathers? is it *certainly* idolatrous?

I cannot help smiling as I put the questions. Rather, may not *something* be said for it from reason, from piety, from antiquity, from the inspired text? You may see no reason at all to believe the voice of the Church; you may not yet have attained to faith in it. But what on earth this doctrine has to do with *shaking* your faith in her, if you have faith, or in sending you to the rightabout if you are beginning to think she *may* be from God, is more than my mind can comprehend.

Many, many doctrines are far harder than the Immaculate Conception. The doctrine of Original Sin is indefinitely harder. Mary just has *not* this difficulty. It is *no* difficulty to believe that a soul is united to the flesh *without* original sin; the great mystery is that any, that millions on millions, are born with it. Our teaching about Mary has just one difficulty less than our teaching about the state of mankind generally ...

Who can estimate the holiness and perfection of her, who was chosen to be the Mother of Christ? If to him that hath, more is given, and holiness and divine favour go together (and this we are expressly told), what must have been the transcendent purity of her, whom the Creator Spirit condescended to overshadow with His miraculous presence? What must have been her gifts, who was chosen to be the only near earthly relative of the Son of God, the only one whom He was bound by nature to revere and look up to; the one appointed to train and educate Him, to instruct Him day by day, as He grew in wisdom and stature?

This contemplation runs to a higher subject, did we dare to follow it; for what, think you, was the sanctified state of that human nature, of which God formed His sinless Son; knowing, as we do, that “that which is born of the flesh is flesh” and that “none can bring a clean thing out of an unclean”.

Nothing is so calculated to impress on our minds that Christ is really partaker of our nature, and in all respects man, save sin only, as to associate Him with the thought of her, by whose ministration He became our Brother.