



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 24th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME -YEAR B

15th September 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 Acting Principal: Caitlyn Lalor

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, 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 16/9/2024-22/9/2024

MASS TIMES:

Monday	16/9	6.30pm
Tuesday	17/9	9.30am & 6.30pm
Wednesday	18/9	9.30am
Thursday	19/9	9.30am
Friday	20/9	9.30am
Saturday	21/9	9.00am

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

Rosary **8.30am prior to Saturday mass**

Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil	21/9	5.00pm
Sunday	22/9	8.30am & 10.30am

(Rosary 10.00am on Sundays)

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 16/9/2024-22/9/2024

MASS TIMES:

Monday	16/9	No Mass
Tuesday	17/9	7.30am
Holy Hour		7.00pm
Wednesday	18/9	9.30am
Thursday	19/9	7.30am
Friday	20/9	7.30am
Saturday	21/9	9.00am

Sunday Mass

Saturday Vigil	21/9	5.00pm
Sunday	22/9	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 KOROBET MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil	2nd & 3rd Saturdays of the month	5.00pm
	Saturday 14th & 21st September	

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://www.melbcatholic.org/s/donate?id=0012w00000LOj42AAD>

Please put your name and thanksgiving number if you know it as a reference. Thank you.

REFLECTION 24th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Mark 8:27-35-YEAR B-Fr Wilford Urmaza

YOU ARE THE CHRIST

Two significant elements highlight Mark's gospel today. First, Jesus' identity as Christ suggests a deeply rooted understanding of the two-fold nature of Jesus as both human and divine. Secondly, we examine the characteristics of a genuine disciple and the requirements for adhering to Jesus.

While walking about in the area of Caesarea Philippi, Jesus first asks his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" and then, more personally, "But who do you say that I am?". Peter's response, "You are the Christ," acknowledges Jesus as the Messiah, but this recognition is only the beginning. Jesus instructs them to tell no one about him, indicating that their understanding of his messianic role must evolve beyond popular expectations of a political savior to a deeper comprehension of his mission, which includes suffering and death.

Following Peter's confession, Jesus reveals the necessity of his suffering, rejection, and resurrection. He emphasizes that true discipleship involves taking up one's cross and following him. This call to self-denial and sacrifice challenges the disciples' understanding of greatness and success, which often aligns with worldly power and glory. Instead, Jesus presents a model of leadership rooted in service and humility, where losing one's life for his sake leads to the fullness of life.

While Peter is convinced about the true identity of Jesus, he falls short, however, in understanding the ultimate mission of Jesus as the savior. Rebuking Jesus of His anticipated fate, Peter poses as a stumbling block to Jesus and an indication of his apparent rejection of the cross, a total opposite of the nature of a disciple: "You are thinking not as God does, but as humans do."

This passage also highlights the struggle of the disciples to grasp the implications of Jesus' identity and mission.

In summary, this narrative serves as a profound reflection on the identity of Jesus as the suffering Messiah and the nature of discipleship. It invites believers to move beyond superficial understandings of faith and to embrace a deeper, more challenging commitment to follow Christ, which may involve personal sacrifice and a redefinition of what it means to live a life of faith. The conditions for taking the same way as Jesus are fundamental. Discipleship is not an easy journey to tread, especially in challenging moments. To be a disciple demands a radical change of heart and mind—metanoia.

PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

FAITH FORMATION

Sessions are held 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. **Week 4: Divine Revelation: The Word of God in Scripture, Tradition & Magisterium**

RECONCILIATION PREPARATION PROGRAM

Sessions will begin Saturday 5th October, for 8 weeks-Saturdays 3.00pm –6.00pm at St Anthony's Church.

ST ANTHONY'S

BINGO CALLER VOLUNTEER NEEDED

We need a caller for Bingo-urgently- Tuesdays 5.30pm-10.00pm. If you are able to help please speak to Rose Ma'ae 0460 672 571.

SPECIAL COLLECTION-NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED

VIRGIN MARY

On Saturday 7th September we had a special collection at the 9.00am mass for The Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We collected \$441.45, which will be used to support our feast celebrations. 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 you luck!

PRIME TIMERS

The Prime Timers September outing will be to Tabcorp Park, Tuesday 24th Sept at 12 o'clock in the Bistro. Seniors Menu available. RSVP by Friday 20th Sept.

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

PARISH OFFICE– 17th-20th September

The Parish Office hours next week are:

Tuesday 9.30am-1.30pm

Wednesday 9.30am-1.30pm

Thursday 9.30am-4.30pm

Friday 9.30am-4.30pm

SOCIAL SERVICES SUNDAY

Sunday 15 September 2024 marks Social Services Sunday within the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne. On this day we give thanks for the dedicated work of the thousands of staff and volunteers who stand with and serve the poor, disadvantaged and marginalised.

We acknowledge with gratitude all of Catholic Social Services Victoria's 40 member organisations, their 7,000+ staff and 15,000+ volunteers and the important work that they do to serve over 300,000 people.

At this challenging time of a cost of living and housing affordability crisis, the Gospel message of love, care and welcome is needed more than ever. We can all play a role in building a more just and compassionate society.

ST BERNARD'S

ATTENTION SENIOR PARISHIONERS

Are you a senior parishioner, or know someone, who is considering needing in-home help and doesn't know how to navigate the government funded My Aged Care packages? You and your family members are invited to attend a meeting in the Parish centre on Sunday 6th October, after the 10.30am mass. A representative from Pearl - Home Care will be able to answer any questions you may have and assist you in acquiring an Aged Care Package that suits your needs. Lunch and refreshments will be provided and there will also be some games and a raffle. Everyone attending will receive an information package.

For any enquiries, please call Natalia on 0409445552

DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

Divine Mercy Chaplet followed by prayers will be said in the church EVERY MONDAY from 2.45pm - 3.45pm. Everyone welcome.

ACCESS TO THE CHAPEL

For security reasons, the code box outside the chapel will be removed.

If you would like to access the chapel and do not have a key, please contact the Parish office to arrange collection of one.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

The list 'Prayer for the Sick' is to be removed as from the 29th September and a refreshed list will be arranged. If you would like to add a name to the new list you are asked to fill in a request slip, which can be found on the Liturgy board in the Gathering space, and return the slip via the collection at mass. Please ensure you have the permission of the person or their family to add their name. Thank you.

PARISH BUSH DANCE

Join us on Saturday 12th October for our first ever parish bush dance at St Bernard's Primary School Hall. Enjoy traditional Australian bush tunes and guided dances led by the Bakery Hill Band.

No skills needed. Bring your family, invite your friends!

Please bring a plate to share for supper.

Tickets are available via the QR code below.

For cash payments please get in touch with

Madeleine on 0434 945 598

Adults (18+) - \$20

Youth (13-17) - \$10

12 and under - Free



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: 21st & 22nd September

Please present yourself to the Mass Coordinator

15 minutes before the scheduled Mass time or a replacement will be found. Thank you.

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

5.00pm: Michelle Tennakoon & Gavin Pereira

8.30am: Leonia Jessop & Amy Honrade

10.30am: Rosabella Tuala & Susan Malinov

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Dolores Turcsan & Leo Felix

8.30am: Philip Anyayahan & Geoff Sutton

10.30am: Frank Carreon & Cita Carreon

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

MASS COORDINATORS

5.00pm: Natalie & Ron

8.30am: Josephine & Ron

10.30am: Leonia & Josephine

ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 21st & 22nd September

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

5.00pm: Sonia Smith

8.30am: Margaret Love

10.30am: Volunteer needed

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: John Thorne

8.30am: Colm Carragher

10.30am: Vanina Isah

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

September: Paul Miesen & family

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Sam Bonello, Christopher Burge, Edith Carag,
David Consiglio, Joe Debrincat, Cyril D'Silva & Rita Pereira

Please pray for the Sick:

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, Gregory McCutcheon, Pam Meier, 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.

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

We pray for the recently deceased:

Gerard Condon

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

Elaine Brook, Frank Doyle, Nellie Hosemans, Joe O'Brien
Peg Shanahan, Edna Thorne & Jim White.

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, 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 June Murray, 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.**

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



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: 21st & 22nd September PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: Julie Sequiera
8.30am: Mercy Seufatu
10.30am: Elizabeth Underwood

CHURCH FLOWERS

September: Gloria

CUPPA VOLUNTEERS 28th & 29th September

5.00pm Mass: Julie Sequiera, Jojo Dimapilis
Crystal D' Sousa & Marian Muller
8.30 am Mass: Catherine Perez, Cecil Perez,
Remie Peroy & Mary Saliba
10.30 am Mass: Marianne McCullagh & Melissa Battaglia,
Thank you for the 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 : 21st & 22nd September PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

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

CHURCH FLOWERS

September: 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

All use of the Parish Centre must be authorised by either the
parish office or by contacting Marie Casey.
Mass coordinators will unlock & lock the Parish centre before
& after masses so that the toilets can be accessed.

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](#)

[Baptism of Infants | St Bernard's Catholic Parish \(stbernardsbacchusmarsh.com.au\)](#)

click on 'Faith Formation' and then 'Baptism of Infants' for all the information and the application form.

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:	Ben & Joan Antony	9743 8154
Group 2:	Maria Peter	0450 052 327
Group 3:	Philip & Cristina Anyayahan	0403 171 918



DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

1st Sunday of the month 3pm.

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,

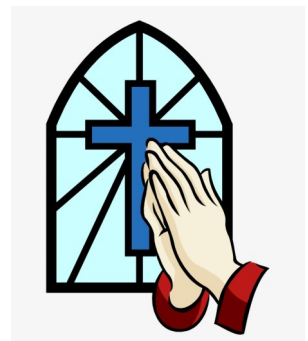
so that we may discern our journey

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

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you,
that your prophets be found true.
Hear the prayers of your servant,
and of your people Israel.

FIRST READING Isaiah 50:5-9

The Lord has opened my ear.
For my part, I made no resistance,
neither did I turn away.
I offered my back to those who struck me,
my cheeks to those who tore at my beard;
I did not cover my face
against insult and spittle.
The Lord comes to my help,
so that I am untouched by the insults.
So, too, I set my face like flint;
I know I shall not be shamed.
My vindicator is here at hand.
Does anyone start proceedings against me?
Then let us go to court together.
Who thinks he has a case against me?
Let him approach me.
The Lord is coming to my help,
who dare condemn me?

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 114

Commentator: I will walk in the presence of the Lord,
in the land of the living.

All: I will walk in the presence of the Lord,
in the land of the living.

I love the Lord for he has heard
the cry of my appeal;
for he turned his ear to me
in the day when I called him.

They surrounded me, the snares of death,
with anguish of the tomb;
they caught me, sorrow and distress.
I called on the Lord's name.
O Lord my God, deliver me!

How gracious is the Lord, and just;
our God has compassion.
The Lord protects the simple hearts;
I was helpless so he saved me!

He has kept my soul from death,
my eyes from tears
and my feet from stumbling.
I will walk in the presence of the Lord
in the land of the living.

I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living.

SECOND READING James 2:14-18

Take the case, my brothers, of someone who has never
done a single good act but claims that he has faith.
Will that faith save him? If one of the brothers or one of the
sisters is in need of clothes and has not enough food to live
on, and one of you says to them, 'I wish you well; keep
yourself warm and eat plenty,' without giving them these
bare necessities of life, then what good is that? Faith is like
that: if good works do not go with it, it is quite dead.
This is the way to talk to people of that kind: 'You say you
have faith and I have good deeds; I will prove to you that I
have faith by showing you my good deeds - now you prove
to me that you have faith without any good deeds to show.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

My only glory is the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,
which crucifies the world to me and me to the world.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mark 8:27-35

Jesus and his disciples left for the villages round Caesarea
Philippi. On the way he put this question to his disciples,
'Who do people say I am?' And they told him. 'John the
Baptist,' they said, 'others Elijah; others again, one of the
prophets.' 'But you,' he asked, 'who do you say I am?'
Peter spoke up and said to him, 'You are the Christ.' And
he gave them strict orders not to tell anyone about him.
And he began to teach them that the Son of Man was
destined to suffer grievously, to be rejected by the elders
and the chief priests and the scribes, and to be put to
death, and after three days to rise again; and he said all
this quite openly. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to
remonstrate with him. But, turning and seeing his disciples,
he rebuked Peter and said to him, 'Get behind me, Satan!
Because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'
He called the people and his disciples to him and said, 'If
anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce
himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone
who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses
his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will
save it.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

How precious is your mercy, O God!

The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.

NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS

25th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FIRST READING: Wis 2:12, 17-20

SECOND READING: James 3:16-4:3

GOSPEL: Mk 9:30-37



The Blessed Virgin Mary 18

The Visitation (3)

The Magnificat

The Magnificat, taken from Luke's Gospel (1:46-55), is the Blessed Virgin Mary's hymn of praise to the Lord.

Although the Magnificat has had numerous musical settings from such composers as Palestrina, Bach and Mozart, it can be recited as well as sung. Its name comes from the first line of its text in Latin ("Magnificat anima mea Dominum"), translated in the first line below. Mary proclaims the Lord's greatness with characteristic humility and grace here.

My soul magnifies the Lord
And my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour;
He regards the lowliness of His handmaid;
Henceforth all ages shall call me blessed.

The Almighty has done great things for me,
Holy is His name;
His mercy is from age to age
On those who fear Him.

He puts forth His arm with might
And scatters the proud hearted.
He puts down the mighty from their thrones
And exalts the lowly.

He fills the hungry with good things,
Sends the rich away empty.

He has given help to Israel, his servant,
Mindful of His mercy
Even as he spoke to our fathers,
To Abraham and to his sons forever.

The Magnificat provides great material for meditation on the Visitation, the second Joyful Mystery of the Rosary. When the angel Gabriel informs Mary that she is to be the Mother of God, he also tells her of her relative Elizabeth's pregnancy with John the Baptist.

After Mary gives her famous consent to becoming the Mother of God — "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it done to me according to thy word" (Luke 1:38) — she goes "with haste" (1:39) to help Elizabeth, who is delighted to see her. Our Lady then expresses her joy in the Magnificat.

We can admire Mary's devotion (as well as her stamina!) in setting out on what must have been an arduous journey to go from Nazareth, where she lived, to a town in Judah where her cousin lived, about 100 kilometres away. (Remember, this was in an era when she couldn't just hop in a car or a bus to get there!)

Clearly Mary, in hastening to help her cousin, is focused on service to others. In this way she glorifies the Lord in reflecting (and "magnifying") His goodness and love. And, of course by becoming the Mother of God she will help Him redeem us for our salvation in His Passion!

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Speaking of magnifying, Archbishop Fulton Sheen once referred to our Blessed Mother as being like "a magnifying glass that intensifies our love of her Son".

Note that Mary's joyful claim that "all generations shall call me blessed" in no way takes away from her humility. If she seems to boast here, it is much as Saint Paul does later on in Scripture when he says that "whoever boasts, should boast in the Lord" (2 Corinthians 10:17), that is to say, *in God's work being done through us*.

In this regard, the Magnificat is more than a prayer of praise. It also reminds us about the essential link between humility and holiness. Just as God has "regarded the lowliness of his handmaid" and "has done great things" for Mary in making her the Mother of his Son, so too "he has put down the mighty from their thrones (with his own might!) and has exalted the lowly".

(Note also our Blessed Mother's humility in referring to herself in this prayer, as she does in giving her consent to Gabriel mentioned earlier, as the Lord's handmaid, his servant!)

As her Divine Son later stressed "Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled, and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted" (Matthew 23:12, also in slightly different words in Luke 18:14 and Luke 14:11).

Jesus was not saying anything new here, either! We read similar thoughts throughout the Old Testament, such as in the Psalms and in this example from the book of Sirach: "Humble yourself the more, the greater you are, and you will find favour with God." (Sirach 3:19)

The line about God filling "the hungry with good things" resonates later in the Gospels as well, when our Lord says: "Blessed are they who hunger and thirst after righteousness for they will be filled" (Matthew 5:7). This serves as a good reminder for us to "stay hungry" for God's graces in praying and in reading His word in Scripture.

And as for the rich being sent away empty? This line refers to those who live for wealth and power and feel that they have everything figured out. These people in effect wish to be Gods rather than God's. How can our Lord fill those who are already full – *of themselves*?

How about you? Does your soul magnify the Lord? We may never be able to approach Him from Mary's level of sanctity as the Mother of God. Still, we are all called to be saints nonetheless.

Your good example, like our Blessed Mother's, can help others in their spiritual growth. Do people see Christ's love and goodness in you? Are you letting God work within you to accomplish His will? Let Mary help give you the graces you need to follow her Son and His Church in praying the Magnificat.