



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 25th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME -YEAR B

22nd 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 23/9/2024-29/9/2024

MASS TIMES:

Monday	23/9	6.30pm
Tuesday	24/9	9.30am & 6.30pm
Wednesday	25/9	9.30am
Thursday	26/9	9.30am
Friday	27/9	9.30am
Saturday	28/9	9.00am

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

Rosary **8.30am prior to Saturday mass**

Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil	28/9	5.00pm
Sunday	29/9	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 23/9/2024-29/9/2024

MASS TIMES:

Monday	23/9	No Mass
Tuesday	24/9	7.30am
Holy Hour		7.00pm
Wednesday	25/9	9.30am
Thursday	26/9	7.30am
Friday	27/9	7.30am
Saturday	28/9	9.00am

Sunday Mass

Saturday Vigil	28/9	5.00pm
Sunday	29/9	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 12th & 19th October	

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 25th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—Mary Fermio rsj

Most of us would remember the leader of Burma, Ang San Suu Kyi, returning to her home country, placing her freedom and life at risk, choosing to remain faithful to her vision. She could easily have remained away, safe with her family, rather than take the risk.

When Jesus tells his disciples he is going to be put to death, we are told they were afraid to ask him to explain clearly. Instead, there was an argument about who would then be the greatest. It seems their whole attention was on themselves, not how or why Jesus was going to die. And when questioned by Jesus they were too ashamed to tell him.

But Jesus was not afraid to face the consequences of his continuing mission, but with the simplicity of a child, continues trusting in the Father to be with him.

After the death of Jesus, the apostles must have felt failures. Would they have also thought Jesus was a failure? What was to happen to all his dreams! But failure does not stop one from being a faithful disciple. God loves me unconditionally and does not look on me as a failure.

Do I believe this?



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 5: The Creed, The attributes of God, The Most Holy Trinity, Creation, The Dignity of the Human Person**

RECONCILIATION PREPARATION PROGRAM Sessions will begin Saturday 5th Oct, for 8 weeks-Saturdays 3.00pm –6.00pm at St Anthony's.

PARISH OFFICES Parishioners please note that our parish offices will be closed on Friday 27th September for the Grand Final Public Holiday.

THE ANNUAL APPEAL TO SUPPORT THE FORMATION OF THE ROGATIONIST SEMINARIANS Next weekend we will have a special collection for the Father Di Francia Centre of Studies - (Rogationist Seminary)—the community in the Philippines that Fr Alex and Fr Wilford are from. This school year 2024-2025 the Rogationist Seminary are sending 21 religious students (11 Filipinos, 8 Vietnamese and 2 Indonesians) for their theological studies to the Don Bosco School of Theology, as part of their preparation in their future ministry. In this regard the Community are seeking our help and support in this noble mission. "The harvest is great, but the workers are few. Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest; to send more workers into his harvest" (Mt 9:37-38). Please find envelopes on the pews this weekend, we invite you to take them home and return them next weekend when the special collection will be taken up. Your generosity in supporting this appeal would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

ST ANTHONY'S

OFFERTORY GIVING CAMPAIGN

Dear Parishioners, in two weeks, we will commence our Offertory Giving Campaign in our parish community, which will run over a three-week period. Giving generously is a way to deepen our faith and is a vital part of our identity as Christian worshippers. You are encouraged to engage prayerfully with the content presented and provided over this time and we look forward to growing and going deeper in our relationship with Christ through this process.

CUPPA VOLUNTEERS-10.30AM MASS

We need more volunteers to help us with cuppa weekends after the 10.30am mass. Cuppa weekend is usually held on the fourth Sunday of each month. If you are able to help please put your name on the clipboard in the church foyer. Thank you.

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.



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

CCTV An announcement was made in regard to the installation of CCTV at the presbytery, church & parish centre on the weekend masses 8th & 9th September 2024. The cameras were activated on Tuesday 10th September 2024. The security cameras have been installed to protect clergy, mass goers, church staff, volunteers and our valuable church property. All equipment in relation to the cameras are kept in the Parish Priest's office and the Parish Secretary's office. With normal operation, the only ongoing access to footage is available to the Parish Priest and the Parish Secretary. The only time access to footage would be made available to law enforcement officers, legal personnel and CAM authorised safeguarding officers would be as part of official investigations into criminal activity.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK The list 'Prayer for the Sick' is to be removed next weekend and a refreshed list will be arranged. If you would like to add a name to the new list, please fill in a 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.

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

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.

ST BERNARD'S YOUNG ADULTS GROUP The next gathering of St Bernard's Young Adults group will be held on **Tuesday, 1st October**. Holy Hour will begin at 7:00pm followed by social activities and a formation talk in the hall. A meal will be provided at 6:00pm. For catering purposes, if you are coming for the meal, please text the number of those in your group to 0423 965 819. Include the words "Young adults' group" in the text.

DONATIONS FOR THE BUSH DANCE RAFFLE Please place donations for our Bush dance raffle in the basket in the church foyer before 10th October. Donations gratefully appreciated!

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 contact 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: 28th & 29th 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: Lisa Marshall & Liza Fernandes

8.30am: Mercy Seufatu & Eva Caliguran

10.30am: Rose Ma'ae & Anakin Anderson

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Dolores Turcsan & Leo Felix

8.30am: Ron Howard & Elizabeth Underwood

10.30am: George Bonello & Doris Bonello

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

MASS COORDINATORS

5.00pm: Annonica & Julie

8.30am: Josephine & Lillian

10.30am: Leonia & Lillian

ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 28th & 29th September

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

5.00pm: John Thorne

8.30am: Samantha Butler

10.30am: Rita Marshall

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Vicki Benson/Henry Gasior

8.30am: Tup Shea

10.30am: Cheryl Stevens

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

September: Paul Miesen & family

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

We pray for the recently deceased:

Francis Thawng Do Khup

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

Fay Blake, Angelo Borg, Christopher John Doyle, Leslie Butler, Emmanuel Carvana, Mavis Ferreira, John Galea & Darren Grech

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 Manicaro, 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.

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:

Francis McGlinchey, Leslie Scott, Gwen Tottle & Jack Walta.

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.**

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: 28th & 29th September PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: Dolores Turcsan

8.30am: Judy Johnson

10.30am: Lorette Soba

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 : 28th & 29th September PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: 5.00pm: Marj Tung

Sunday: 8.30am: Dianne Shelly

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:	Theresa Anderson	0420 820 118
Group 2:	Leonia Jessop	0450 419 654
Group 3:	Beth & Alex Labrador	0459 326 088



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,

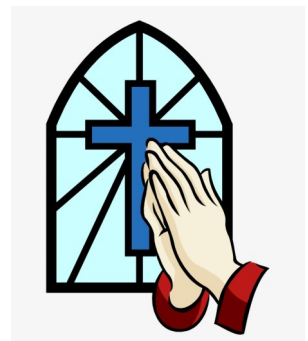
so that we may discern our journey

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

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord.
Should they cry to me in any distress,
I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

FIRST READING Wisdom 2:12, 17-20

The godless say to themselves,
'Let us lie in wait for the virtuous man, since he annoys us
and opposes our way of life,
reproaches us for our breaches of the law
and accuses us of playing false to our upbringing.
Let us see if what he says is true,
let us observe what kind of end he himself will have.
If the virtuous man is God's son, God will take his part
and rescue him from the clutches of his enemies.
Let us test him with cruelty and with torture,
and thus explore this gentleness of his
and put his endurance to the proof.
Let us condemn him to a shameful death
since he will be looked after - we have his word for it.'

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 53

Commentator: The Lord upholds my life.

All: The Lord upholds my life.

O God, save me by your name;
by your power, uphold my cause.
O God, hear my prayer;
listen to the words of my mouth.

For proud men have risen against me,
ruthless men seek my life.
They have no regard for God.

But I have God for my help.
The Lord upholds my life.
I will sacrifice to you with willing heart
and praise your name for it is good.

The Lord upholds my life.

NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS

26th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FIRST READING: Num 11:25-29
SECOND READING: James 5:1-6
GOSPEL: Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48



SECOND READING James 3:16 - 4:3

Wherever you find jealousy and ambition, you find disharmony, and wicked things of every kind being done; whereas the wisdom that comes down from above is essentially something pure; it also makes for peace, and is kindly and considerate; it is full of compassion and shows itself by doing good; nor is there any trace of partiality or hypocrisy in it. Peacemakers, when they work for peace, sow the seeds which will bear fruit in holiness. Where do these wars and battles between yourselves first start? Isn't it precisely in the desires fighting inside your own selves? You want something and you haven't got it; so you are prepared to kill. You have an ambition that you cannot satisfy; so you fight to get your way by force. Why you don't have what you want is because you don't pray for it; when you do pray and don't get it, it is because you have not prayed properly, you have prayed for something to indulge your own desires.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
God has called us with the gospel
to share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mark 9:30-37

After leaving the mountain Jesus and his disciples made their way through Galilee; and he did not want anyone to know, because he was instructing his disciples; he was telling them, 'The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of men; they will put him to death; and three days after he has been put to death he will rise again.' But they did not understand what he said and were afraid to ask him.

They came to Capernaum, and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the road?' They said nothing because they had been arguing which of them was the greatest. So he sat down, called the Twelve to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all.' He then took a little child, set him in front of them, put his arms round him, and said to them, 'Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name, welcomes me; and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept;
may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.

The Blessed Virgin Mary 19

The Visitation (4)

Virgin sweet, with love o'erflowing,
To the hills in haste she fares;
On a kindred heart bestowing
Blessing from the joy she bears;
Waiting while with mystic showing
Time the sacred birth prepares."

*From the 15th-century hymn,
"Portal of the World's Salvation"*

Plato, the renowned philosopher of ancient Greece, was perhaps the first to articulate that goodness, by its nature, is diffusive of itself. Goodness, in anything which is really good, is shared, never hoarded. Think of how difficult it is to keep good news a secret. It bubbles up, practically spilling out of us. Good things must be shared.

"During those days Mary set out and travelled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

"When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, 'Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.'" (Luke 1:39-45)

The mystery of Christ's own incarnation, "the Word made flesh and splendour of the Father", is the greatest good the world had seen. When the original harmony of creation was shattered by sin, and humanity reduced to a fallen state, God worked an even greater act still. This Good News cannot be kept under a bushel.

The Virgin Mary is filled with God. She carries the Incarnate Word in her womb and the grace of the Holy Spirit in her heart, putting her life at the service of the Father's plan.

Venerable Bede writes:

"She alone was chosen, and she burned with spiritual love for the son she so joyously conceived. Above all other saints, she alone could truly rejoice in Jesus, her saviour, for she knew that he who was the source of eternal salvation would be born in time in her body, in one person both her own son and her Lord."

The Spirit of the Lord descended upon her and she bore in her body the Lord.

The glory of heaven begins a new journey on Earth. Just as David danced before the Ark of old, John the Baptist leaps before the New Ark of the Covenant. The

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promises of the Father are now being spoken of, carried out, and shared. Those who follow the commands of the Lord, allowing their lives to follow the direction of Christ, to be led to new horizons, can rejoice as Mary did.

Praying the Rosary makes present the Visitation. The Virgin, who first shared the news of the Annunciation visits our souls. There, in the depths of our hearts — in the place where she is united to us as she once was to Elizabeth — we who belong to this sacred family of faith can join in her exultant hymn of praise.

The Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth was the first Eucharistic procession. The Blessed Virgin Mary was the first "tabernacle" of Jesus and, when she visited Elizabeth, she brought with her the real presence of her Son.

Pope Saint John Paul II named Mary the "Woman of the Eucharist" in his last Encyclical, *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*. Beginning with her inner disposition: from the Annunciation, when she offered herself for the Incarnation of the Word of God, to the Cross and to the Resurrection; "Woman of the Eucharist" in the period subsequent to Pentecost, when she received in the Sacrament that Body which she had conceived and carried in her womb.

In this connection, there is a tradition in some places of housing the Eucharist in tabernacles that are within statues of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Father Stefano Manelli, in his book, *Jesus Our Eucharistic Love*, briefly explains this tradition:

"In some of the churches in France, the tabernacle used to be encased in a statue of Our Lady of the Assumption. The significance is quite clear: it is always the Blessed Virgin Mary who gives us Jesus, who is the blessed Fruit of Her virginal womb and the Heart of her Immaculate Heart."

Pope Benedict XVI goes a step further and takes all of this symbolism and ties it to the Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth:

"We pause to meditate on the mystery of the Visitation of the Virgin to St Elizabeth ... In a certain way we can say that her journey was ... the first 'Eucharistic procession' in history. Mary, living Tabernacle of God made flesh, is the Ark of the Covenant in whom the Lord visited and redeemed his people. Jesus' presence filled her with the Holy Spirit."

It is to be hoped that any Eucharistic procession we participate in may have the same spirit of joy. We hope and pray when we process through the streets that others will recognise Jesus and be filled with the Holy Spirit, just as Elizabeth was when Mary visited her.