



# 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 26th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME -YEAR B

29th 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
Moira 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    30/9/2024-6/10/2024**

**MASS TIMES:**

Monday	<b>30/9</b>	6.30pm
Tuesday	<b>1/10</b>	9.30am
Novena Mass and Blessing of St Anthony's Bread		6.30pm
Wednesday	<b>2/10</b>	9.30am
Thursday	<b>3/10</b>	9.30am
Friday	<b>4/10</b>	9.30am
First Friday Devotions		7.30pm
Saturday	<b>5/10</b> First Saturday	9.00am

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

Rosary **8.30am prior to Saturday mass**

Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil	<b>5/10</b>	5.00pm
Sunday	<b>6/10</b>	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    30/9/2024-6/10/2024**

**MASS TIMES:**

Monday	<b>30/9</b>	No Mass
Tuesday	<b>1/10</b>	9.30am
Holy Hour		7.00pm
Wednesday	<b>2/10</b>	9.30am
Thursday	<b>3/10</b>	9.30am
Friday	<b>4/10</b>	9.30am
Saturday	<b>5/10</b>	9.00am

Sunday Mass

Saturday Vigil	<b>5/10</b>	5.00pm
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Sunday	<b>6/10</b>	8.30am & 10.30am
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(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 26th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—Mary Fermio rsj**

Years ago, we read about a young hiker whose arm was caught in a boulder. As there was no hope of rescue, he chose to amputate his arm to free himself – he chose life, rather than death. Even that was a risk, the risk of bleeding to death.

Jesus in the later part of today's Gospel points out the seriousness of sin, that it is better to lose a limb etc than to lose one's life, either in this life or in the next. We have that choice when faced with a decision about a sinful action. No one can force us to commit sin. We were taught that sin is a free choice we make ourselves, knowingly and willingly.

Just as the Spirit was working in the man healing in Jesus's name, so the Spirit guides us to do good. So, we need to be open to the Spirit working in unexpected ways especially in wholeness and healing and assisting us to make right choices – to choose life.

How many choices have you made this last week?

How many times did you pray to the Holy Spirit for guidance in that choice?

The gifts you received at Confirmation are there to help you make the right choices – to choose what gives life. Use them!



## 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 6: The Fall, Salvation History, The Story of the People of God.**

#### RECONCILIATION PREPARATION PROGRAM

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

#### THE ANNUAL APPEAL TO SUPPORT THE FORMATION OF THE ROGATIONIST SEMINARIANS

This 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). You can use the envelopes provided or you can put your donation into the third/special collection directly. Your generosity in supporting this appeal would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

#### DAYLIGHT SAVINGS REMINDER

**Daylight Savings begins Sunday 6th October 2024.**

**Please remember to turn your clocks forward!!**

#### ST ANTHONY'S

#### OFFERTORY GIVING CAMPAIGN

Dear Parishioners, Next weekend, we will commence our Offertory Giving Campaign in our parish community, which will run over the next three weeks. Please pray for our community as we enter into this time of discernment.

Our offering is a powerful witness and a personal prayer.

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.

#### CUPPA WEEKEND

Please join us for a cuppa after mass this weekend.

#### 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!

Message for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2024  
-God walks with His people.

[Pope Francis' Message for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2024 - Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development](#)

#### ST BERNARD'S

#### SAFEGUARDING

We have two safeguarding officers from CAM conducting an information session in our St Bernard's Parish Centre on **Wednesday, 16th October from 6.30pm to 7.30pm**. This will give all parishioners the opportunity to have any queries, questions, clarifications and concerns addressed. We hope as many of our parishioners as possible can attend.

#### 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.

#### 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 0409 445 552

#### 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. For cash payments contact Madeleine on 0434 945 598

Adults (18+) - \$20 Youth (13-17) - \$10 12 and under - Free

#### 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!

#### DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

Divine Mercy Chaplet followed by prayers will be said in the St Bernard's Church EVERY MONDAY from 2.45pm - 3.45pm.



## 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: 5th & 6th October 2024**

**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:** Gavin Pereira & Michelle Tennakoon

**8.30am:** Geoff Sutton & Amy Honrade

**10.30am:** Ana Taunuu & Romeo Sacris

#### **EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS**

**5.00pm:** Dolores Turcsan & Leo Felix

**8.30am:** Ron Howard & Roa Seufatu

**10.30am:** Frank Carreon & Cita Carreon

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

#### **MASS COORDINATORS**

**5.00pm:** Julie & Annonica

**8.30am:** Olen & Lillian

**10.30am:** Leonia & Lillian

### ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

#### **NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 5th & 6th October 2024**

#### **MINISTERS OF THE WORD**

**5.00pm:** Jeremy Toledo

**8.30am:** Evana Miesen

**10.30am:** Rita Marshall

#### **EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS**

**5.00pm:** John Thorne & Jackie Tabone

**8.30am:** Colm Carragher

**10.30am:** Vanina Isah

#### **PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**

**October:** Greta/Grace Kratchotvil

### ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Joseph Aquilina, Archibald Arandez, Michael Azzopardi, Gerard Cochrane, Francis Cochrane, Phillip DeBrincat, Cambell Dodemaide, Madeline Giordmaina, Colleen O'Meara, Joseph Saliba, Dominic Santa Maria & Charlie Zammit.

**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.**

### ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

**We pray for the recently deceased:**

Lindsay Dally

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

Domenica Amato, Justin Callaway, Mark Densley, Brian Dobson, Brian Lewis, Kerry Mullane, Nova O'Shea, Patricia Pidoto, Les & Margaret Scott, Shirley Stone (nee Duncan) & Alma Trask.

**Please pray for the Sick:**

Brendan Coburn, Kathleen Dally, Frances, John & Patricia Kelly, Michael Larkin, Joanne Mumford, Rachel Nixon, and all those who have requested our prayers. **PLEASE LET US KNOW WHEN YOUR LOVED ONE IS NO LONGER REQUIRED ON THIS LIST.**

*If you would like to add a name to the 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.*

### 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: 5th & 6th October PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: Kim Barton  
8.30am: Edwina La Rose  
10.30am: Merla Veloso

#### CHURCH FLOWERS

October: Ana

#### CUPPA VOLUNTEERS 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> 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 : 5th & 6th October PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: 5.00pm: Jan & Colm  
Sunday: 8.30am: Jan Farmelo  
10.30am: Natalia Klenkowski

#### CHURCH FLOWERS

October: 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](mailto: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,

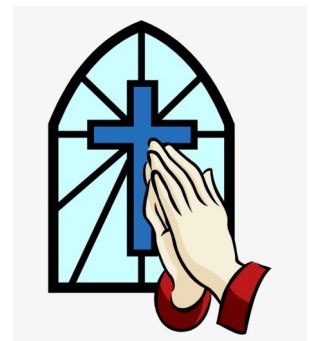
so that we may discern our journey

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**

All that you have done to us, O Lord,  
you have done with true judgement,  
for we have sinned against you  
and not obeyed your commandments.  
But give glory to your name  
and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.

### **FIRST READING** Numbers 11:25-29

The Lord came down in the Cloud. He spoke with Moses, but took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. When the spirit came on them they prophesied, but not again.

Two men had stayed back in the camp; one was called Eldad and the other Medad. The spirit came down on them; though they had not gone to the Tent, their names were enrolled among the rest. These began to prophesy in the camp. The young man ran to tell this to Moses, 'Look,' he said 'Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.'

Then said Joshua the son of Nun, who had served Moses from his youth, 'My Lord Moses, stop them!' Moses answered him, 'Are you jealous on my account? If only the whole people of the Lord were prophets, and the Lord gave his Spirit to them all!'

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM 18**

**Commentator:** The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.

**All:** The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.

The law of the Lord is perfect,  
it revives the soul.

The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,  
it gives wisdom to the simple.

The fear of the Lord is holy,  
abiding for ever.

The decrees of the Lord are truth  
and all of them just.

So in them your servant finds instruction;  
great reward is in their keeping.

But who can detect all his errors?  
From hidden faults acquit me.

From presumption restrain your servant  
and let it not rule me.

Then shall I be blameless,  
clean from grave sin.

The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.

### **NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS**

**27th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**FIRST READING:** Gen 2:18-24

**SECOND READING:** Heb 2:9-11

**GOSPEL:** Mk 10:2-16



### **SECOND READING** James 5:1-6

An answer for the rich. Start crying, weep for the miseries that are coming to you. Your wealth is all rotting, your clothes are all eaten up by moths. All your gold and your silver are corroding away, and the same corrosion will be your own sentence, and eat into your body. It was a burning fire that you stored up as your treasure for the last days. Labourers mowed your fields, and you cheated them - listen to the wages that you kept back, calling out; realise that the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. On earth you have had a life of comfort and luxury; in the time of slaughter you went on eating to your heart's content. It was you who condemned the innocent and killed them; they offered you no resistance.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Your word, O Lord, is truth:  
make us holy in the truth.

Alleluia!

### **GOSPEL** Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

John said to Jesus, 'Master, we saw a man who is not one of us casting out devils in your name; and because he was not one of us we tried to stop him.' But Jesus said, 'You must not stop him: no one who works a miracle in my name is likely to speak evil of me. Anyone who is not against us is for us.'

'If anyone gives you a cup of water to drink just because you belong to Christ, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.'

'But anyone who is an obstacle to bring down one of these little ones who have faith, would be better thrown into the sea with a great millstone round his neck. And if your hand should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life crippled, than to have two hands and go to hell, into the fire that cannot be put out. And if your foot should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life lame, than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. And if your eye should cause you to sin, tear it out; it is better for you to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell where their worm does not die nor their fire go out.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### **COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

Remember your word to your servant, O Lord,  
by which you have given me hope.

This is my comfort when I am brought low.

# The Blessed Virgin Mary 20

## The Visitation (5)

Many Catholics are worried about troubling signs in the faith. Mary has the answer, as she so often does. One worrying sign since the end of covid lockdowns has been a fall in numbers of faithful turning up for Mass.

There has been much hand-wringing over this drop: Whose fault is it? And whose job is it to fix it? Who can possibly reach so many people that need to be reached?

The answer is there in the Visitation: Every single one of us, that's who!

The Blessed Virgin Mary became the first Christian in history when the Angel Gabriel came to her and gave her the opportunity to be the Mother of Jesus.

That means that the first thing a Christian ever did was say: "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be done to me according to thy word." That was Mary's *fiat*, her great acceptance of God's will in her life.

The second thing a Christian ever did is the very next line in the Gospel: "Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country", to visit her pregnant cousin, Elizabeth, the wife of Zechariah, the priest.

The distinction is often made between the "vertical" dimension of our Christian life — our praise and worship of God — and the "horizontal" dimension — our service to neighbour.

Mary saw the two commandments as inextricably linked. Her son would later apply her approach to all of us by saying: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it, You shall love your neighbour as yourself."

You can't do the one without the other.

Mary didn't complain that the Jewish leaders of the time weren't helping her. She didn't worry that she was being sent to the house of a priest who had been struck dumb because he wouldn't follow God's will.

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Mary didn't assume that someone who lived closer to Elizabeth would be helping her. She didn't decide: "She lives in the mountains; I can't be expected to go all the way there."

Mary didn't say: "I have just been given a great task, to be the mother of the holy son of God. I shouldn't risk myself on serving someone with a lesser calling."

She didn't decide to simply pray for Elizabeth or send her a letter.

Mary "went in haste" to her, despite all the obstacles. And Mary didn't just serve Elizabeth's needs. She taught her about the power of God and prayed with her, in the great prayer called The Magnificat.

Her son would later apply this course of action to each of us also, saying: "I was a stranger and you welcomed me ... I was sick and you visited me ... as you did it to one of the least of my brethren, you did it to me."

Imagine how the culture would change if we each did what Mary did.

Imagine what would happen if each of us followed what St Paul counsels in one of the readings on the Feast of the Visitation:

"Love one another with mutual affection; anticipate one another in showing honour. Do not grow slack in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the holy ones, exercise hospitality. Bless those who persecute you, bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Have the same regard for one another; do not be haughty but associate with the lowly; do not be wise in your own estimation."

If each of us visited just one fallen-away Catholic, and committed to sharing their joys and sorrows, serving their needs, answering their questions, and praying with them, we know what would happen, because the story is there in the Early Church, and in every age since. The crisis of faith would be over and the culture would be transformed.