



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 29th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME -YEAR B

20th October 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, Vicki 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 21/10/2024-27/10/2024

MASS TIMES:

Monday	21/10	6.30pm
Tuesday	22/10	9.30am 6.30pm
Wednesday	23/10	9.30am
Thursday	24/10	9.30am
Friday	25/10	9.30am
Saturday	26/10	9.00am

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

Rosary **8.30am prior to Saturday mass**

Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil	26/10	5.00pm
Sunday	27/10	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 21/10/2024-27/10/2024

MASS TIMES:

Monday	21/10	Divine Mercy Chaplet – 2:45pm	No Mass
Tuesday	22/10		7.30am
		Holy Hour	7.00pm
Wednesday	23/10		9.30am
Thursday	24/10		7.30am
Friday	25/10		7.30am
Saturday	26/10		9.00am

Sunday Mass

Saturday Vigil	26/10	5.00pm
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Sunday	27/10	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
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Saturday 9th & 16th November

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 : <https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/donate?id=0012w00000LOj5yAAD>

The link to the St Bernard's Parish is: <https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/donate?id=0012w00000LOj42AAD>

REFLECTION 29th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—Fr Wilford Urmaza RCJ

The Path to Greatness: Humble Service

The gospel today offers us a profound insight on the inversion of values: "Whoever wishes to be great must become a servant, and whoever wishes to be the first must become a slave of all."

The disciples, James and John, so desire to sit at the right hand and at the left hand of Jesus, Their request reflects a common human desire for status and recognition, a total opposite of Jesus' nature. He tells them that true greatness in His kingdom is not about being served but about serving others and offering one's life that others may live.

As followers, they must embrace a childlike heart, characterized by simplicity and humility. Humility is essential for authentic discipleship and for entering the Kingdom of God.

He underscores that the path to true authority in the Church is through selfless giving and authentic service, where the least, the lost, and the marginalized must be the first to be recognized, served, and cared for.

It's very tempting to aspire for greatness and power; however, treading the path of Jesus is not a walk in the park thing but necessitates radical transformation of one's inner being and the willingness to sacrifice for others, a language that Jesus pounded on to His disciples and even to contemporary believers.

Jesus exemplified the ultimate act of love through His passion and death and serves as a timeless reminder that in the Kingdom of God, the last shall be first, and the greatest shall be the servant of all.



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.

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

NOVEMBER, MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS MASS INTENTIONS

As we approach November, we have the opportunity to honour our departed loved ones in a special way. We are encouraged to use dedicated envelopes to inscribe the names of our cherished departed family and friends. These envelopes will be placed before the altar, where Masses will be offered for their souls throughout the entire month of November. The envelopes will be blessed with holy water, symbolizing our baptism and our connection to the Church.

We believe that the use of holy water is a powerful representation of our love for the Trinity and our commitment to living according to Christ's teachings. This tradition provides a beautiful way to honour our departed loved ones and deepen our connection to the Sacraments and to God. It's important to note that public announcement of the names in the envelopes is not necessary for the effectiveness of the prayers. The intention is a spiritual act, and its effectiveness is not influenced by public announcement.

Additionally, we kindly ask for your support in offering mass intentions with a donation, which will concretely show our participation in the celebration. This year, the proceeds of the donation through the November envelopes will go to the Rogationist Mission in Kigali, Rwanda for the construction of a school for underprivileged children in the countryside.

We understand that there may be special occasions during November, such as death anniversaries or birthdays of loved ones, and we will still accept separate mass intentions for them. These special occasions will be mentioned in the bulletin and prayers of the faithful. However, for all other intentions for our departed loved ones, we kindly request that they be channelled through the November envelopes.

Your participation and support in this meaningful initiative are greatly appreciated. Let us come together as a community to remember and honour our departed loved ones and to support a noble cause.

With gratitude, Fr Alex Clemente RCJ

ST ANTHONY'S

OFFERTORY GIVING PROGRAM

Dear Parishioners, thank you to everyone who promptly collected their offertory giving envelopes last weekend. However, we kindly remind those who have yet to retrieve theirs to do so this weekend. Additionally, for those who wish to submit their filled-out pledge cards, you have several convenient options: you may place them in either the first or second collections during Mass, drop them off at the parish office, or deposit them into the designated box located in the foyer.

Thank you for your ongoing dedication and generosity.

MELBOURNE CUP FUNDRAISER DANCE

Date: Saturday 2nd November 6.30pm-11.30pm **Venue:** Padua Hall

Entry: \$20.00 **DJ:** Marez **\$6.00 Suppers**

3 Prizes for Best Dressed TICKETS ON SALE AT ALL WEEKEND MASSES

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are currently seeking volunteers especially for the 5pm and 10.30am weekend masses. Training will be provided.

If you can volunteer, please put your name on the clipboard in the church foyer, or please contact **Kim on 0425 770 618**. Thank you.

PRIME TIMERS: Our October outing will be to Stoney's, 59 Grant St. Bacchus Marsh, Tuesday 29th at 12 o'clock. Seniors menu available. Enquiries: Ineke 0400120401 or ineke49@yahoo.com.

BINGO CALLER VOLUNTEER NEEDED

We urgently need a caller for Bingo. This involves a commitment on Tuesdays 5.30pm-10.00pm. If you are able to help please speak to **Rose Ma'ae 0460 672 571**. Bingo financially supports our Parish so we are dependant on this for our financial well being.

SAVE THE DATE!! - Volunteers Appreciation Lunch, Sunday 24th November 2024 in Padua Hall.

ST BERNARD'S

APPOINTMENT OF NEW PARISH PRIEST FOR ST BERNARD'S AND OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

Father John Paul Mount has been appointed the new Parish Priest of St Bernard's and Our Lady Help of Christians effective first week of December 2024. Most of you will be familiar with Fr John Paul as he was an Assistant Priest at the Combined Parish for 3 years. Fr Lucas has graciously agreed to stay at the Parish to help with Masses until the end of November.

Thank you to everyone who attended the Bush Dance on Saturday 12th October.

The event was a roaring success, with \$1,400 raised for the support of the parish and future events. It was wonderful to see the parish come together for such a fun evening. A massive vote of gratitude to all those who volunteered their time and talents, as well as those who donated decorations and raffle items to make the night such a success. A thank you to the Bakery Hill Band who played on the night and donated half their fee back to the parish! Head over to their facebook page and give them a like and/or follow: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61554484065166>

The winner of the "Guess the Lolly Jar" was Miriam Campani

The Raffle Winners were:

Anne O'Shea	Jen Costin	The Kennedy Family	Kat Bergin
Elija Rasouoba	Monica Owen	Thomas Russell	
Nick Russell	Russell Parr	Daniel S.	Stuart Robertson

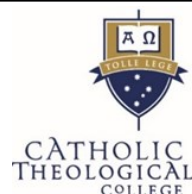
2024 Knox Public Lecture Thursday 7th November at 7.30 pm

"Connecting with Hope, Reconnecting with the Christian Vision of the Person"

Presented by Rev. Assoc. Prof. Jamie Calder SJ MAPS

Booking: Scan the QR code or go to trybooking.com/CVXGD

Enquiries: (: +613 9412 3333 8: vi.panganiban@ctc.edu.au ü: ctc.edu.au



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: 26th & 27th 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: Lisa Marshall & Michelle Tennakoon

8.30am: Amy Honrade & Eva Caliguran

10.30am: Anakin Anderson & Rosabella Tuala

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Gavin Pereira & Aloysious Dacunha

8.30am: Geoff Sutton & Philip Anyayahan

10.30am: Doris Bonello & George Bonello

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

MASS COORDINATORS

5.00pm: Annonica & Julie

8.30am: Josephine & Olen

10.30am: Leonia & Godwin

ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 26th & 27th October 2024

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

5.00pm: Sonia Smith

8.30am: Samantha Butler

10.30am: Beatrice Younger

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: John Thorne

8.30am: John Wilson

10.30am: Cheryl Stevens

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

October: Greta/Grace Kratchotvil

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

We pray for the recently deceased:

Kolotea Malia (Gloria) Lemana-Tuilaepa - (Memorial Mass to be advertised) & Sherine Pereira.

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

Peter Biechun, Kevin Francis Doyle, Paul & Hazel Hardy, Laura May Leslie and Louise Pereira.

Please pray for the Sick:

Teresita Arrozal, Nickolia & Klara Butkovic, Maria Caruana, Mary Caruana, Christabelle, Lydia De Vega, Melanie Fue, Bruce Hynes, Estella James, Kotinis Cornelia Kani, Judy Layton, Faamu Leiatua, 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:

Chris Lawrence and Neil Burton

We pray for those whose death anniversaries occur at this time: Kath Doran, Teresa Laszcz, Veronica McGregor, Ingrid Middlemast, Joan Pickin, Carmela Provenzano, John Schifferle, Patricia Shanahan (nee Vallence) and James Wilkie.

Please pray for the Sick:

Brendan Coburn, Kathleen Dally, Dean Elms, Frances, Caleb Silas Ginger (baby), Michael Johnston, John & Patricia Kelly, Michael Larkin, Joanne Mumford, Peter Roberts, Liz Shelly and all those who have requested our prayers.

PLEASE LET US KNOW WHEN YOUR LOVED ONE IS NO LONGER REQUIRED ON THIS LIST.

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: 26th & 27th October

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: Dolores Turcsan
8.30am: Mercy Seufatu
10.30am: Josephine Doretty

CHURCH FLOWERS

October: Ana

CUPPA VOLUNTEERS

To be advised.

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 : 26th & 27th October

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

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

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

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:	Willy & Regima Ogumdama	0469 715 690
Group 2:	Angelo & Rita Harinos	9746 6752
Group 3:	Michael & Monica Kratochvil	0439 837 252
	0466 854 476	



DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

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,

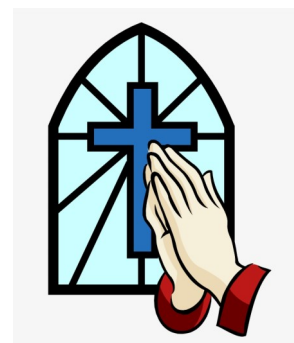
so that we may discern our journey

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

To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God;
turn your ear to me; hear my words.
Guard me as the apple of your eye;
in the shadow of your wings protect me.

FIRST READING: IS 53:10-11

The Lord has been pleased to crush his servant with suffering. If he offers his life in atonement, he shall see his heirs, he shall have a long life and through him what the Lord wishes will be done.

His soul's anguish over
he shall see the light and be content.
By his sufferings shall my servant justify many,
taking their faults on himself.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 32:

COMMENTATOR: Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.

ALL: Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.

The word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love.

The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine.

Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
The Lord is our help and our shield.
May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you.

NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS

30th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FIRST READING: Jer 31:7-9

SECOND READING: Heb 5:1-6

GOSPEL: Mk 10:46-52



SECOND READING Hebrews 4:14-16

Since in Jesus, the Son of God, we have the supreme high priest who has gone through to the highest heaven, we must never let go of the faith that we have professed. For it is not as if we had a high priest who was incapable of feeling our weaknesses with us; but we have one who has been tempted in every way that we are, though he is without sin. Let us be confident, then, in approaching the throne of grace, that we shall have mercy from him and find grace when we are in need of help.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Son of Man came to serve
and to give his life as a ransom for all.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mark 10:35-45

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, approached Jesus. 'Master,' they said to him 'we want you to do us a favour.' He said to them, 'What is it you want me to do for you?' They said to him, 'Allow us to sit one at your right hand and the other at your left in your glory.' 'You do not know what you are asking' Jesus said to them. 'Can you drink the cup that I must drink, or be baptised with the baptism with which I must be baptised?' They replied, 'We can.' Jesus said to them, 'The cup that I must drink you shall drink, and with the baptism with which I must be baptised you shall be baptised, but as for seats at my right hand or my left, these are not mine to grant; they belong to those to whom they have been allotted.'

When the other ten heard this they began to feel indignant with James and John, so Jesus called them to him and said to them, 'You know that among the pagans their so-called rulers lord it over them, and their great men make their authority felt. This is not to happen among you. No; anyone who wants to become great among you must be your servant, and anyone who wants to be first among you must be slave to all. For the Son of Man himself did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Behold, the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, who hope in his merciful love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine.

The Blessed Virgin Mary 23

The Visitation (8)

On Mary's Magnificat, and ours

In this meditation we go with Mary "into a hill country" and enter into the house of Elizabeth. Mary speaks to us personally with her canticle of praise, the Magnificat.

To understand the place and the meaning of the canticle of Mary we need to say something about the canticles in general. In the Gospels of the infancy of Jesus, these canticles – Benedictus, Magnificat, Nunc dimittis – are there to explain what came about in a spiritual way, that is, to enhance the meaning of the events – the Annunciation, the Visitation, Christmas – making them a form of confession of faith and praise.

They are an integral part of the historic narration and not just interludes or separate passages, because every historic event is made up of two factors: the event and the meaning of the event. These canticles contain the Christmas liturgy in an embryonic stage. They are the fulfilment of the essential element of the liturgy, which is a joyful celebration of belief in the event of salvation.

Mary's canticle is a new way of seeing God and the world. In the first part (Luke 1:46-50) following what has come about in her, Mary's glance is turned towards God; in the second part, (verses 51-55), her glance is turned towards the world and history.

A new look at God

The first movement in the Magnificat is towards God; God has absolute primacy over everything else. Mary doesn't delay in answering Elizabeth's greeting, she doesn't either enter into discourse with man, but with God. She recollects herself and immerses herself in the infinite God.

An incomparable experience of God has been "fixed" in the Magnificat for all time. It is the most sublime example of so-called "numinous" language.

Cardinal Raniero Cantalamessa, aleteia.org

It has been observed that when the divine reality is manifested to a soul it usually produces two opposing sentiments: fear and love, awe and attraction. God shows himself as a "tremendous and fascinating mystery": tremendous in his majesty, fascinating in his goodness.

When God's light first shone on him, St Augustine confessed, "I trembled with love and terror". And even later on, contact with God made him "shudder and burn" at the same time.

We find something similar in Mary's canticle, expressed biblically, through the titles used. God is seen as *Adonai* ("Lord"), as "God", as "Powerful" and above all as *Qadosh* ("Holy"): "Holy is his name!"

At the same time, however, this holy and powerful God is all trusting, seen as "my Saviour", as being indulgent and lovable, one's "own" God, a God for his creature.

Above all, it is the insistence on God's mercy that brings to light his benevolence and closeness to mankind. "His mercy from generation to generation": these words suggest the idea of God's mercy as a mighty river flowing throughout all human history.

Knowledge of God provokes, as a reaction and contrast, a new and true perception and knowledge of oneself and one's own being. The self is only grasped in front of God: *coram Deo*. This is what happens in the Magnificat. Mary feels "looked" upon by God; she herself enters into that look and sees herself as God sees her.

And how does she see herself in this divine light? As being "small" (here "humility" means real smallness and lowness). She sees herself as a "servant". She sees herself as a nothing that God has deigned to look upon. Mary doesn't attribute the divine election to her virtue of humility, but to God's grace. To think otherwise would destroy Mary's humility. This virtue has something special about it: whoever thinks he does not have it, has it; whoever thinks he has it, doesn't have it.

To be continued