



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 30th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME -YEAR B

27th 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 28/10/2024-3/11/2024

MASS TIMES:

Monday	28/10	6.30pm
Tuesday	29/10	9.30am & 6.30pm
Wednesday	30/10	9.30am
Thursday	31/10	9.30am
Friday	1/11 All Saints Day	9.30am
First Friday Devotions		7.30pm
Saturday	2/11 First Saturday /All Souls Day	9.00am

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

Rosary **8.30am prior to Saturday mass**

Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil	2/11	5.00pm
Sunday	3/11	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 28/10/2024-3/11/2024

MASS TIMES:

Monday	28/10 Divine Mercy Chaplet – 2:45pm	No Mass
Tuesday	29/10	7.30am
Holy Hour		7.00pm
Wednesday	30/10	9.30am
Thursday	31/10	7.30am
Friday	1/11 All Saints Day	7.30am
Saturday	2/11 All Souls Day	9.00am

Sunday Mass

Saturday Vigil	2/11	5.00pm
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Sunday	3/11	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 KOROBEIT MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil	2nd & 3rd Saturdays of the month	5.00pm
	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>

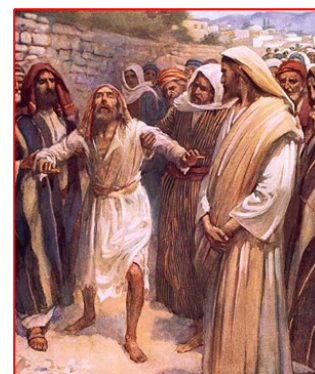
REFLECTION 30th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—Sr Mary Fermio rsj

There are many types of blindness e.g., the people of Germany were blind to the wiles of Hitler; or walking past homeless people on the street without noticing them; refuse to see because of fear of speaking up about some wrong. But to lose one's eyesight is a different type of blindness and must lead to great difficulty.

Jesus was approached by Bartimaeus who wanted to see 'again'. So, he must be able to remember how he once saw the beauty of the world and wanted to see again. He believed Jesus could do this, hence his plea. But though he made the first move by calling out, he needed the assistance of others to meet Jesus. Bartimaeus' sight was restored, and he responded by following Jesus.

We also need help to remove our blindness to enable us to see Jesus more clearly and in a deeper relationship. Like Bartimaeus, we need to **ask** Jesus to do this, or ask someone else to help us, to remove any blindness we may be experiencing, so that we may live a fully Christian life.

Let us not be afraid to pray for 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. Topic Week 10: **Death Has No Victory**.

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,

This weekend will conclude our parish offertory giving process.

For those of you who have returned your pledge cards, thank you very much for doing so. For those who haven't returned your pledge cards as yet, you can return them in the offertory collections at Mass, at the designated boxes in the foyers of the Churches or to the parish office. There will also be generic pledge cards on the pews this weekend that can be filled out and returned straight away.

Thank you for your faithful participation in our parish offertory process over the past few weeks. Each offering, no matter the amount, is an expression of love and gratitude to God. It is a testament to your faith and trust in His provision.

ROSARY MONTH CONCLUSION ACTIVITY

Wednesday 30th October at 7pm there will be Rosary Recital in front of Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto to conclude the Rosary Month in honour of Our Lady. All are welcomed to join and there will be cuppa after the Rosary recital.

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

SOLDIERS OF CHRIST-CHILDREN'S CATECHISM

Children's Catechism sessions will be held on Sunday **3rd November**. Suitable for children aged 5-12 years of age. After the 10.30am mass, in the Mackillop Meeting Room. The sessions will include games, Catechism activities and fun! We will be celebrating All Saints Day, please dress up as your favourite Saint.

VOLUNTEERS APPRECIATION LUNCH

Sunday the 24th November 2024

St Anthony's Parish Padua Hall 12pm- 2pm

Please add your name to the clip board in the foyer if you are attending for catering purposes.

Your Ministry is very much appreciated. Thank you.

THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES

Thanksgiving envelopes are available for collection in the foyer for ongoing contributors. Thank you.

ST BERNARD'S

ST BERNARD'S YOUNG ADULTS GROUP.

The next gathering of St Bernard's Young Adults group will be held on **Tuesday, 12th November**.

Holy Hour will begin at 7:00pm and this will be followed by social activities and a formation talk in the hall. A meal will be provided at 6:00pm for those interested. 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.

Divine Mercy Chaplet
Every Monday at 2:45pm
St Bernard's Church



Lord Jesus, teach me to withhold judgement about those things that are hidden to me.

Give me grace to forgive those who have made rash judgements about me, knowing that you see what's in my heart and you alone are my Judge.

Source: *A Year With The Saints*— Paul Thigpen

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: 2nd & 3rd Nov 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: Marian Muller & Gavin Pereira
8.30am: Leonia Jessop & Mercy Seufatu
10.30am: Ana Taunuu & Rhys Tuala

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: Annonica & Julie
8.30am: Natalie & Ron
10.30am: Lillian & Leonia

ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 2nd & 3rd Nov 2024

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

5.00pm: John Thorne
8.30am: Nathan Costin
10.30am: Rita Marshall

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Vicki Benson & Maria Tunogbanua
8.30am: Colm Carragher
10.30am: Jenny Kearney

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

November: John Thorne

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Ooi Mooi Lee, John & Angelina Micallef, Neil G Rowley & Nicola Rizzi

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 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:

Kevin Cummins

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

Mark Henry, Maree Larkin, Patricia Shanahan, William Vallence & Paul Wheelahan

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.

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: 2nd & 3rd November

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: Kim Barton
8.30am: Judy Johnson
10.30am: Merla Veloso

CHURCH FLOWERS

November: Rosabella

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 : 2nd & 3rd November PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

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

CHURCH FLOWERS

Novmeber: 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



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,

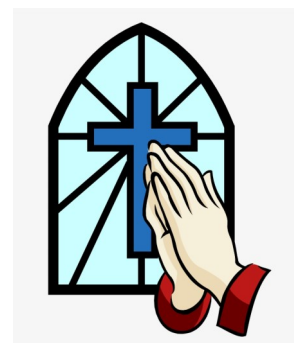
so that we may discern our journey

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

Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice;
turn to the Lord and his strength;
constantly seek his face.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:7-9

The Lord says this:
Shout with joy for Jacob!
Hail the chief of nations!
Proclaim! Praise! Shout!
'The Lord has saved his people,
the remnant of Israel!'
See, I will bring them back
from the land of the North
and gather them from the far ends of earth;
all of them: the blind and the lame,
women with child, women in labour:
a great company returning here.
They had left in tears,
I will comfort them as I lead them back;
I will guide them to streams of water,
by a smooth path where they will not stumble.
For I am a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my first-born son.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 125

Commentator: The Lord has done great things for us;
we are filled with joy.

All: The Lord has done great things for us;
we are filled with joy.

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage,
it seemed like a dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
on our lips there were songs.

The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels
the Lord worked for them!'
What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad.

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage
as streams in dry land.
Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap.

They go out, they go out, full of tears,
carrying seed for the sowing:
they come back, they come back, full of song,
carrying their sheaves.

The Lord has done great things for us;
we are filled with joy.

SECOND READING Hebrews 5:1-6

Every high priest has been taken out of mankind and is appointed to act for men in their relations with God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins; and so he can sympathise with those who are ignorant or uncertain because he too lives in the limitations of weakness. That is why he has to make sin offerings for himself as well as for the people. No one takes this honour on himself, but each one is called by God, as Aaron was. Nor did Christ give himself the glory of becoming high priest, but he had it from the one who said to him: You are my son, today I have become your father, and in another text: You are a priest of the order of Melchizedek, and for ever.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Our Saviour Jesus Christ has done away with death,
and brought us life through his gospel.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mark 10:46-52

As Jesus left Jericho with his disciples and a large crowd, Bartimaeus (that is, the son of Timaeus), a blind beggar, was sitting at the side of the road. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout and to say, 'Son of David, Jesus, have pity on me.' And many of them scolded him and told him to keep quiet, but he only shouted all the louder, 'Son of David, have pity on me.' Jesus stopped and said, 'Call him here.' So they called the blind man. 'Courage,' they said 'get up; he is calling you.' So throwing off his cloak, he jumped up and went to Jesus. Then Jesus spoke, 'What do you want me to do for you?' 'Rabbuni,' the blind man said to him 'Master, let me see again.' Jesus said to him, 'Go; your faith has saved you.' And immediately his sight returned and he followed him along the road.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

We will ring out our joy at your saving help
and exult in the name of our God.

NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS

31st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FIRST READING: Deut 6:2-6

SECOND READING: Heb 7:23-28

GOSPEL: Mk 12:28-34



The Blessed Virgin Mary 24

The Visitation (9)

On Mary's Magnificat, and ours (cont.)

From this acknowledgment of God, of herself and of the truth, spring joy and exultation: "My spirit rejoices ..." the joy of truth bursting forth, joy for the divine work, a joy of pure and gratuitous praise. Mary magnifies God for himself, even if she magnifies him for what he has done in her; she magnifies him for her own personal experience, as do all the great biblical worshippers.

Mary's jubilation is an eschatological jubilation for God's decisive action and it is the jubilation of the created being for being creatures loved by their Creator, at the service of the Holy One, of love, of beauty, of eternity. It is the fullness of joy.

St Bonaventure who personally experienced the transforming effects on a soul visited by God, speaks of the coming of the Holy Spirit on Mary at the moment of the Annunciation as a fire which inflamed all of her.

"The Holy Spirit came upon her," he wrote, "like a divine fire which inflamed her mind and sanctified her flesh, conferring on her a most perfect purity. ... Oh, if only you were able to feel in some measure how great was the fire that descended from heaven and how wonderful it was, what freshness it brought. ... If you could only hear the Virgin's jubilant hymn."

Even the strictest and most exacting scientific exegesis is aware that we are dealing with words that cannot be comprehended through the normal means of philological analysis and admits that: "Whoever reads these lines is called to share in the jubilation; only the celebrating community of those who believe in Christ and those faithful to him are able to comprehend these texts."

It is speaking "in the Spirit" and cannot be understood if not in the Spirit.

Cardinal Raniero Cantalamessa, aleteia.org

A new look at the world

As I said, the *Magnificat* is made up of two parts. What changes between the first and the second parts is not the language used, nor the tone. From this point of view, the canticle is an uninterrupted flow with no breaks. Only the background of God's action has changed; from what he did "in her" we pass to what he did for the world and for history. The effects of the definitive manifestation of God and how it reflects on humanity and history are dealt with.

Here we have a second characteristic of evangelical wisdom, that of uniting sobriety in the way of looking at the world to the inebriation that contact with God gives, in conciliating the greatest rapture and abandonment to God with the greatest critical realism towards history and man.

From verse 51 on, Mary describes a pulling down and a radical reversal of men's positions: he pulled down—he raised; he filled—he sent empty away. An unexpected and irreversible turn of things because it is God's work and God never changes or goes back on his word as man does. In this changeover two different groups emerge; on the one hand the proud-powerful-rich, on the other the humble-hungry. It is important to understand this reversal and where it started if we are not to misunderstand the whole canticle and with it the evangelical beatitudes which are anticipated here.

Let us look at history: what actually happened when the event Mary sang of started to be fulfilled? Was there perhaps an external social revolution through which the rich were suddenly impoverished and the hungry filled with good things? No. Were the powerful really pulled down from their thrones and the humble raised high? No. Herod continued to be called "the Great" and Mary and Joseph had to flee into Egypt because of him.

To be continued