



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 31st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME -YEAR B

3rd November 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 4/11/2024-10/11/2024

MASS TIMES:

Monday	4/11	6.30pm
Tuesday	5/11	9.30am
Novena Mass and Blessing of St Anthony's Bread		
Wednesday	6/11	9.30am
Thursday	7/11	9.30am
Friday	8/11	9.30am
Saturday	9/11	9.00am

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

Rosary **8.30am prior to Saturday mass**

Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil	9/11	5.00pm
Sunday	10/11	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 4/11/2024-10/11/2024

MASS TIMES:

Monday	4/11	Divine Mercy Chaplet – 3.00pm	No Mass
Tuesday	5/11		7.30am
Holy Hour			7.00pm
Wednesday	6/11		9.30am
Thursday	7/11		7.30am
Friday	8/11		7.30am
Saturday	9/11		9.00am

Sunday Mass

Saturday Vigil	9/11	5.00pm
Sunday	10/11	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 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 31st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—Sr Mary Fermio rsj

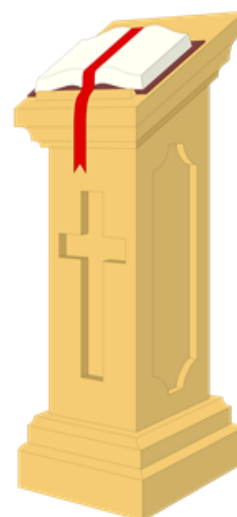
One sees many people these days with white ear plugs apparently listening to music or a podcast etc. But are they really listening or just having a noise to fill the silence. For I believe some people are afraid of silence and have never enjoyed listening to the silence, and it is amazing what sounds one can then hear.

The first word Jesus says to the Scribe is LISTEN! The commandment leads to loving God and loving others and if we love we LISTEN to that person. Not just a perfunctory love, but a total love of my heart, soul, mind and ALL my strength.

To Jesus, this is more important than a sacrifice or holocaust and will lead us to the Kingdom of God.

If I LISTEN intently during the readings and the homily, Jesus just may have a message for ME. Have I prayed in silence and LISTENED to what Jesus wants to say to me?

Think about it!



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 11: **The Holy Spirit: Images of the Holy Spirit-The Holy Spirit's Activity in Salvation History.**

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**

SAVE THE DATE-3rd DECEMBER 2024 - HOPE DOES NOT DISAPPOINT Please join us for a retreat night ushering Jubilee Year 2025 at St Anthony's Church- Melton South on Tuesday 3rd December 2024 7:15pm-9:30pm. Inspirational speaker: Deacon David Reaves. A night of reflection, prayer & songs on the real value of the sacrament of reconciliation during this 'Year of Hope'

PASTORAL CARE APPEAL 2024 Next weekend is CatholicCare Victoria's annual Pastoral Care Appeal in the Archdiocese of Melbourne. Each year a special collection is conducted in all parishes, so that the vital work of the Catholic Chaplains can continue. The Catholic Chaplains support thousands of Victorians every year in prisons, to help them journey towards a brighter future. Your gift can help people find comfort and hope as they go through some of their darkest times of their life. Please give generously. You can donate using the envelopes available or online at www.catholiccarevic.org.au or call (03) 9967 2515.

ST ANTHONY'S

OFFERTORY GIVING PROGRAM

Thank you for your involvement in the Parish Offertory Giving program. We hope this process allowed you to prayerfully discern your offering towards our community. It has been so encouraging to see such a large number of pledge cards being returned to our parish office. Thank you to everyone who handed in their cards. We are now in the follow up week where we will be seeking any pledges which haven't been returned. If you haven't already done so, We encourage you to carefully consider your offering and return your pledge cards to the parish office or into any of mass collections.

ANNOINTING MASS

An Anointing Mass will be held on **Thursday 14th November 2024 at 11.00am** at St Anthony's Church. We will have a cuppa after the service. Please bring a plate to share. Thank you.

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.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES

Copies of the minutes from the PPC meeting (8/8/2024) are available for collection in the holder at the PPC display board.

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-CUP DAY

Bingo will be held this Tuesday 5th November (Cup Day).

PARISH OFFICE The Parish Office will be closed Tuesday 5th November for the Melbourne Cup Day public holiday.

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.

FR LUCAS-SPECIAL COLLECTION

A special collection will be taken up this weekend Nov 2-3 as a farewell gift for Fr Lucas who is leaving us at the end of the month. The farewell function details will be advertised next week.

PROVIDENCE AND FRIENDS MASS

Parishioners are invited to our monthly Providence and Friends Mass on Friday 8th November 2024 at 11.00am. Please bring a plate for morning tea/lunch. If transport is required, please let the Parish Office know or call Margot Short 0419 507 438.

PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office will be closed Tuesday 5th November for the Melbourne Cup Day public holiday.

***Lord Jesus, the more I know you, the more I love you,
and the more I love you, the more I want to be like you,
so that I can be united with you in sharing the very life
of God.***

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: 9th & 10th 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: Aloysious Dacunha & Liza Fernandes

8.30am: Amy Honrade & Geoff Sutton

10.30am: Rose Ma'ae & To be advised

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Dolores Turcsan & Leo Felix

8.30am: Ron Howard & 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: Josephine & Julie

8.30am: Josephine & Lillian

10.30am: Annonica & Lillian

ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 9th & 10th Nov 2024

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

5.00pm: Jeremy Toledo

8.30am: Samantha Butler

10.30am: Rita Marshall

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Vicki Benson

8.30am: Peter McPhan

10.30am: Vanina Isah

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

November: John Thorne

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

We pray for the recently deceased:

Wayne Muller

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

Donald Abela, Francisco Alatrasta, Robert G Coleman, Francis Thawng Do Khup, Muriel Kratochvil, Karen Micallef, Joy Nicholls, Leo Noonan, Keith Rowe, Joe Stellini, Lilly Wakefield, & Patrick Wakefield.

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:

Doris Sammut

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

Eileen Closter, Jeanette Clow, Janet Henderson, Mario Kovacevic, Ray Marshall, Patricia May, James Tellis, Millie Thompson, Desmond Trask, Mary Walsh, & 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.



Prayer for All Faithful Departed

God our Father, Your power brings us to birth, Your providence guides our lives, and by Your command, we return to dust.

Lord, those who die still live in Your presence, their lives change but do not end.

We pray in hope for our families, relatives and friends, and for all the dead known to You alone.

In company with Christ, Who died and now lives, may they rejoice in Your kingdom, where all our tears are wiped away.

Unite us together again to sing Your praise in the company of Your elect, forever and ever.

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: 9th & 10th November

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: Liza Chdid
8.30am: Pat Chiles
10.30am: Geetha Vincent

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 : 9th & 10th November PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: 5.00pm: Jackie Tabone
Sunday: 8.30am: Lyn Shea

CHURCH FLOWERS

November: 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:	Shane & Dolly Barrow	0424 080 822
Group 2:	To be advised	
Group 3:	Josephine German	0478 288 761



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,

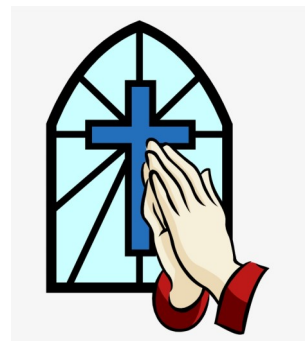
so that we may discern our journey

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

Forsake me not, O Lord, my God;
be not far from me!
Make haste and come to my help,
O Lord, my strong salvation!

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 6:2-6

Moses said to the people: 'If you fear the Lord your God all the days of your life and if you keep all his laws and commandments which I lay on you, you will have a long life, you and your son and your grandson. Listen then, Israel, keep and observe what will make you prosper and give you great increase, as the Lord God of your fathers has promised you, giving you a land where milk and honey flow. 'Listen, Israel: The Lord our God is the one Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength. Let these words I urge on you today be written on your heart.'

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 17

Commentator: I love you, Lord, my strength.

All: I love you, Lord, my strength.

I love you, Lord, my strength,
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.
My God is the rock where I take refuge;
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.
The Lord is worthy of all praise:
when I call I am saved from my foes.

Long life to the Lord, my rock!
Praised be the God who saves me.
He has given great victories to his king
and shown his love for his anointed.

I love you, Lord, my strength.

NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS

32nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FIRST READING: 1Kg 17:10-16

SECOND READING: Heb 9:24-28

GOSPEL: Mk 12:38-44



SECOND READING Hebrews 7:23-28

There used to be a great number of priests under the former covenant, because death put an end to each one of them; but this one, Christ, because he remains for ever, can never lose his priesthood. It follows then, that his power to save is utterly certain, since he is living for ever to intercede for all who come to God through him.

To suit us, the ideal high priest would have to be holy, innocent and uncontaminated, beyond the influence of sinners, and raised up above the heavens; one who would not need to offer sacrifices every day, as the other high priests do for their own sins and then for those of the people, because he has done this once and for all by offering himself. The Law appoints high priests who are men subject to weakness; but the promise on oath, which came after the Law, appointed the Son who is made perfect for ever.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we will come to them.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mark 12:28-34

One of the scribes came up to Jesus and put a question to him, 'Which is the first of all the commandments?' Jesus replied, 'This is the first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.' The scribe said to him, 'Well spoken, master; what you have said is true: that he is one and there is no other. To love with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength and to love your neighbour as yourself, this is far more important than any holocaust or sacrifice.' Jesus, seeing how wisely he had spoken said, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' And after that no one dared to question him any more.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence, O Lord.

The Blessed Virgin Mary 25

The Visitation (10)

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

If what was expected from God's definitive intervention in history was a visible, social change, history has taught us that this was not to be the case, where then did this reversal take place (because it *did* take place)? It took place in the faith!

The kingdom of God manifested itself by bringing about a silent but radical revolution. It is as if something had suddenly been discovered which caused an unexpected devaluation. The rich are like those who have amassed great wealth but who, on waking one morning, find themselves miserably poor because a 100 per cent devaluation of their currency had taken place overnight.

On the contrary, the poor and the hungry are favoured because they are ready to accept this new situation and do not fear the change it will bring about: their hearts are ready.

As I have mentioned, the reversal of things that Mary sings of is similar to that proclaimed by Jesus in the Beatitudes and in the parable of the rich man. Mary speaks of richness and poverty starting from God; once again she speaks *coram Deo*; God, not man, is her measure. She establishes the "definitive" eschatological principle.

To say therefore that we are dealing with a reversal in "faith" does not mean that it is any the less real and radical, or serious; rather it is infinitely more so. This is not a pattern created by the waves on the sand that the next wave will wash away. It is an eternal richness and an equally eternal poverty.

The Magnificat,

School of Evangelisation

Commenting on the Annunciation, St Irenaeus says that "Mary, full of exultation, prophetically exclaimed in the name of the Church: *My soul magnifies the Lord.*" Mary is like the soloist who starts a tune that must then be taken up by the choir.

Cardinal Raniero Cantalamessa, *aleteia.org*

This explains the expression "Mary, model of the Church" (*typus Ecclesiae*), used by the Fathers and acknowledged by Vatican Council II (*Lumen Gentium* 63).

To say that Mary is "the model of the Church" means that she is the personification of the Church, the perceptible representation of a spiritual reality; it means that she is the model of the Church in the sense that the idea of the Church is perfectly realised first of all in her person and at the same time she is its principal member, its root and its heart.

But what meaning does the word "Church" have here; and in the place of which Church does Irenaeus say that Mary sang the Magnificat? Not in the place of the nominal Church, but of the real Church; that is, not of the Church in abstract, but of the actual Church, of the persons and souls who make up the Church.

The Magnificat is not only to be recited but to be lived. Each one of us should make it our own; it is "our" canticle. When we say: "My soul magnifies the Lord," the "my" should have a direct reference.

St Ambrose wrote: "May Mary's soul be in you to exult in God. ... If it is true that one only is the Mother of Christ according to the flesh, all souls generate Christ in the faith because each believer accepts in himself the Word of God."

To be continued

