



# 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 27th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME -YEAR B

6th 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
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, 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 7/10/2024-13/10/2024**

**MASS TIMES:**

Monday	<b>7/10</b>	6.30pm
Tuesday	<b>8/10</b>	9.30am
Wednesday	<b>9/10</b>	9.30am
Thursday	<b>10/10</b>	9.30am
Friday	<b>11/10</b>	9.30am
Saturday	<b>12/10</b>	9.00am

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

Rosary **8.30am prior to Saturday mass**

Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil	<b>12/10</b>	5.00pm
Sunday	<b>13/10</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 7/10/2024-13/10/2024**

**MASS TIMES:**

Monday	<b>7/10</b>	Divine Mercy Chaplet – 2:45pm	No Mass
Tuesday	<b>8/10</b>		7.30am
		Holy Hour	7.00pm
Wednesday	<b>9/10</b>		9.30am
Thursday	<b>10/10</b>		7.30am
Friday	<b>11/10</b>		7.30am
		Providence and Friends Mass	11.00am
Saturday	<b>12/10</b>		9.00am

Sunday Mass

Saturday Vigil	<b>12/10</b>	5.00pm
Sunday	<b>13/10</b>	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	<b>2nd &amp; 3rd Saturdays of the month</b>	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 : <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 27th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—Mary Fermio rsj**

In all relationships there can be difficulties, but particularly in the intimate relationship between a husband and wife. I remember telling my Secondary students: Some of you may take nine months to decided who to marry; as Josephites we take nine years before final vows. And sometimes relationships fail because of haste and little knowledge of the other.

The Pharisees were trying to exonerate their divorce laws, when a man could just write a note to his wife and that was it. No legal meetings, no discussion etc. Jesus assures them that God meant the union of a man and woman to be permanent, because of the closeness that marriage brought. He redirects them to God's original design of man and woman as one, and could not be divided.

In contrast Jesus points out the innocence and acceptance of children, as a suitable attitude of those seeking the Kingdom of God. Children trust others, listen and show affection.

All relationships need to have trust in each other. A saying years ago was "The family that prays together, stays together!". Prayer can be the glue that binds a couple, brings understanding and tolerance and togetherness.



## 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 7: Jesus the Unexpected Messiah, Miracles: Proof of Christ's Claims, Jesus :The Way, The Truth and The Life](#)

**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**

Last weekend we had 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. St Anthony's collected \$2115.00 and St Bernard's collected \$970.00. Thank you for your generosity.

#### **MARCH FOR THE BABIES**

Come and show your support for the unborn Join the March for the Babies on Saturday, 12th October, 2024 at 12.30pm in the Treasury Gardens, Cnr Spring & Wellington Pde. Wear blue or pink. Catch the train to Parliament Station and walk down to the Treasury Gardens.

### ST ANTHONY'S

#### **OFFERTORY GIVING CAMPAIGN**

Dear Parishioners,

This weekend, we will commence the Offertory Giving program in our parish community which will run over the next three weeks. The call to generosity is God's invitation to us to deepen our faith and is a vital part of our identity as Christians. You are encouraged to prayerfully engage with this time. We look forward to growing deeper in our relationship with Christ through this process.

#### **THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY**

The Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary will be celebrated on **Monday, 7th of October 2024**. Rosary begins at 6pm before the Mass at 6.30pm. On this day, Blessed Virgin Mary will be enthroned with flowers and blessings of rosaries for give away. Join us for fellowship thereafter.

#### **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. Volunteers are rostered once a month to open/manage the Piety Stall after mass. Training will be provided.

If you can volunteer, please put your name on the clipboard in the church foyer, or please contact Kim on 0425770618. Thank you.

#### **ONLINE DONATIONS**

Dear Parishioner who donate via CDFpay please note that the link has changed. Please delete the old link as it will no longer work.

Thank you for your generosity it is greatly appreciated.

Please find new link on page 2 of the newsletter.

#### **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.

### ST BERNARD'S

#### **SOUL FOOD PROGRAM INC**

Soul Food Program Inc has seen a huge increase in our numbers of Guests over the last few years. Last year, we provided gifts for 78 children in need. Soul Food are once again looking for generous people to be a Sponsor for one of our children this Christmas. You will be given a first name and age, and asked to buy some presents for the child, to put into a gift bag (unwrapped) and deliver to Soul Food for distribution. The present will be handed to your child at our Christmas function, or to the parent for use on Christmas Day. For many of our children, these are the only gifts they will receive for Christmas. We would like to collect the presents by the end of November, so we can be organized early. If this is something you would like to do, please call Jenny on 0408 104 155, and you will be allocated a local child in need of a little help.

#### **SAFEGUARDING FORUM**

Dear Parishioners, as notified, we have two safeguarding officers from the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne (CAM) conducting an information session in our St Bernard's Parish Centre on Wednesday, 16th October from 6.30pm to 7.30pm. In order to give parishioners, the opportunity to have any clarifications addressed, please forward any clarification requests to [BacchusMarsh@cam.org.au](mailto:BacchusMarsh@cam.org.au) or drop these into the Parish office or mailbox by Friday 11th October. This will give the CAM staff time to provide accurate responses and therefore keep the meeting as concise as possible. We hope as many of our parishioners as possible can attend. Fr. Alex.

#### **PROVIDENCE AND FRIENDS MASS**

Parishioners are invited to our monthly Providence and Friend Mass on Friday 11th October 2024 at 11.00am. Please bring a plate for morning tea/lunch. If transport is required, please contact the Parish Office or call Margot Short 0419 507 438.

#### **MORNING TEA**

There will be no morning tea after Masses on Sunday October 13th.

Our next morning tea will be on Sunday November 10th.

#### **ST BERNARD'S PARISH BUSH DANCE**

Join us on Saturday 12 October, 6pm to 10pm at the primary school hall. Please bring a plate to share for supper and gold coins to join in the games. Tickets are available via the QR code.

Contact Madeleine on 0434 945 598.

Adult (18+) - \$20 Youth (13-17) - \$10

12 and under - Free

**BUSHDANCE TICKETS AND RAFFLE TICKETS SOLD AFTER ALL MASSES THIS WEEKEND.**

#### **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!



*"If God is the centre of your life, no words are necessary.  
Your mere presence will touch hearts." ~ Vincent de Paul*

St Vincent de Paul Observance – 6th October 2024

## 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: 12th & 13th 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:** Aloysious Dacunha & Marian Muller  
**8.30am:** Leonia Jessop & Eva Caliguran  
**10.30am:** Rose Ma'ae & Alexandra Gunaratnam

#### EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

**5.00pm:** Dolores Turcsan & Gavin Pereira  
**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 & Josephine  
**8.30am:** Natalie & Ron  
**10.30am:** Leonia & Lillian

### ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

#### NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 12th & 13th October 2024

#### MINISTERS OF THE WORD

**5.00pm:** Maureen Zahra  
**8.30am:** Margaret Love & Peter Kennedy  
**10.30am:** Beatrice Younger

#### EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

**5.00pm:** Vicki Benson  
**8.30am:** Tup Shea  
**10.30am:** Cheryl Stevens

#### PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

**October:** Greta/Grace Kratchotvil

### ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

#### **We pray for the recently deceased:**

Patricia Davidson & Cristilita (Thelly) Mc ilvena

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

Francisco Alatrasta, Avelino Asube Jr, Rick Galanti,  
Fr Peter James, William Kelly, Michael Portelli &  
Keith Harry Williams

#### **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 those whose death anniversaries occur at this time:**

Carmen Farrugia, Fr John Nagle, Ida Suban, John Trask,  
& Betty Williams.

#### **Please pray for the Sick:**

Brendan Coburn, Kathleen Dally, Frances,  
Caleb Silas Ginger (baby), John & Patricia Kelly,  
Michael Larkin, Joanne Mumford,  
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:** 12th & 13th October

#### PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

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

#### 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 :** 12th & 13th October  
**PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS**

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

#### 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 to \$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:	Barry & Rosanna Melder	9743 5063
Group 2:	George & Doris Bonello	0431 459 668
Group 3:	Santos & Liz Schembri	0466 854 476



### 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**

Within your will, O Lord, all things are established,  
and there is none that can resist your will.  
For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth,  
and all that is held within the circle of heaven;  
you are the Lord of all.

### **FIRST READING** Genesis 2:18-24

The Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone. I will make him a helpmate.' So from the soil the Lord God fashioned all the wild beasts and all the birds of heaven. These he brought to the man to see what he would call them; each one was to bear the name the man would give it. The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of heaven and all the wild beasts. But no helpmate suitable for man was found for him. So the Lord God made the man fall into a deep sleep. And while he slept, he took one of his ribs and enclosed it in flesh. The Lord God built the rib he had taken from the man into a woman, and brought her to the man. The man exclaimed:

'This at last is bone from my bones  
and flesh from my flesh!

This is to be called woman,  
for this was taken from man.'

This is why a man leaves his father and mother and joins himself to his wife, and they become one body.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 127

**Commentator:** May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives.

**All:** May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives.

O blessed are those who fear the Lord  
and walk in his ways!  
by the labour of your hands you shall eat.  
You will be happy and prosper.

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine  
in the heart of your house;  
your children like shoots of the olive,  
around your table.

Indeed thus shall be blessed  
the man who fears the Lord.  
May the Lord bless you from Zion  
in a happy Jerusalem  
all the days of your life!  
May you see your children's children.  
On Israel, peace!

May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives.

### **SECOND READING** Hebrews 2:9-11

We see in Jesus one who was for a short while made lower than the angels and is now crowned with glory and splendour because he submitted to death; by God's grace he had to experience death for all mankind.

As it was his purpose to bring a great many of his sons into glory, it was appropriate that God, for whom everything exists and through whom everything exists, should make perfect, through suffering, the leader who would take them to their salvation. For the one who sanctifies, and the ones who are sanctified, are of the same stock; that is why he openly calls them brothers.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

If we love one another,  
God will live in us in perfect love.  
Alleluia!

### **GOSPEL** Mark 10:2-16

Some Pharisees approached Jesus and asked, 'Is it against the law for a man to divorce his wife?' They were testing him. He answered them, 'What did Moses command you?' 'Moses allowed us' they said 'to draw up a writ of dismissal and so to divorce.' Then Jesus said to them, 'It was because you were so unteachable that he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation God made them male and female. This is why a man must leave father and mother, and the two become one body. They are no longer two, therefore, but one body. So then, what God has united, man must not divide.' Back in the house the disciples questioned him again about this, and he said to them. 'The man who divorces his wife and marries another is guilty of adultery against her. And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another she is guilty of adultery too.' People were bringing little children to him, for him to touch them. The disciples turned them away, but when Jesus saw this he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. I tell you solemnly, anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.' Then he put his arms round them, laid his hands on them and gave them his blessing.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

### **COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

The Lord is good to those who hope in him,  
to the soul that seeks him.

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

#### **28th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**FIRST READING:** Wis 7:7-11

**SECOND READING:** Heb 4:12-13

**GOSPEL:** Mk 10:17-27



# The Blessed Virgin Mary 21

## The Visitation (6)

I've always been amazed by the little old ladies praying the Rosary before Mass, clinging to their beads like they hadn't meditated on the same mysteries twice a week for their whole lives. How much more can there be to contemplate? But the Rosary is essentially a Bible study, and the Bible is inexhaustible.

It's a river, "broad and deep", says St Gregory the Great, "shallow enough here for the lamb to go wading, but deep enough there for the elephant to swim".

You could pray the same mysteries every day for 80 years and the Spirit could still give you new insights. And he does.

The Visitation is one mystery through which God has spoken to me in so many ways. I vividly remember walking the quarter mile from my parking spot in high school, thinking about how my girlfriends Abby and Adele were Elizabeth to me, thanking God for their support.

A few years later, after I read Scott Hahn's *Hail, Holy Queen*, this mystery always evoked the image of Mary as Ark of the Covenant. Once I read Frank Sheed's inimitable *To Know Christ Jesus*, I couldn't help but see Mary as the Warrior Queen, greeted as "blessed among women" as Judith and Jael were (Judith 13:18, Judges 5:24).

But the last six years on the road as a hobo missionary have coloured the way I see the Visitation now. Mary was tired and apprehensive, travelling up into the hill country after receiving the joyful but jarring news that she would be the mother of the Messiah, the mother of God.

Her knowledge of the Scriptures had begun to show her that her Son would suffer and die at the hands of his people, for the sins of his people. She was on her way to see the only person in the world who might understand: her cousin Elizabeth, who had miraculously conceived a child as well.

Even this might have made Mary nervous. After all, Elizabeth lived near Jerusalem, was the wife of a priest and was significantly older than her young country cousin. Elizabeth outranked Mary in every way, and Mary must have wondered what sort of reception she would be given. But Elizabeth was old and in need of help, and Mary was young and in need of guidance. So

Meg Hunter-Kilmer, aleleia.org

off she went, hopeful that Elizabeth would believe her story about the angel, hopeful that she would find a friend.

Mary went to Elizabeth out of generosity, but also out of need. She needed someone to walk this road with her, at least for a bit. But when Elizabeth cried out to her young cousin, calling her "the Mother of my Lord", a title reserved to the Queen Mother and not heard in Israel for centuries, Mary began to realise that her need for companionship was given her so that she would bring Jesus to Elizabeth and to John.

John leaped in his mother's womb because he was encountering Jesus. Elizabeth praised God through the Holy Spirit. And Mary spoke words so beautiful that they are recited every day by millions of people. Mary had brought Jesus to her cousins, but in doing so she had been touched by God as well. In her need she had been generous; in her generosity, she had been fed.

This is the Christian life. We who serve are also being served, sometimes by the very people who feel themselves indebted to us. We who have complicated needs are also being Christ to those who make sacrifices for us. We bring Jesus to each other, but only when we're willing to be needy and messy, to move out of the framework that separates people based on economics or race or spirituality.

Today, you will have the opportunity to be Mary to somebody, to bring somebody Jesus. It might seem that you're just dropping off a meal or chatting in the parking lot or even tipping the pizza delivery guy, but every encounter that we have with another human being is a chance to bring Jesus to her, even if just by the way we love her.

Today, you will have the opportunity to be Elizabeth. You can let somebody be Jesus to you. You can speak God's truth to him, that he is loved and wanted.

If we frame every encounter as though it's the Visitation, if we recognise that every person we interact with needs Jesus, we can be Mary to her. If we allow ourselves to be served, we can be Elizabeth. Mary's time with Elizabeth could just have been an unremarkable encounter between cousins who felt slightly uncomfortable around each other, but these women went in with their hearts open and the world was forever changed. Let's have relationships like that.