



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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT-YEAR A

11th December 2022

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Fabian Smith
ASSISTANT PRIESTS: Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint and Fr Samuel Kapani

ST ANTHONY'S PARISH

Parish Secretary: Lesley Morffew

Admin Assistant: Judy Johnson

Parish Office Hours: Mon 9.00am-12noon

Tue-9.00-4.00pm Wed 9.00-5.30pm

Thu/Fri 9.00-4.00pm

Email: meltonsouth@cam.org.au

Website: www.stanthonyofpadua.com.au

St Anthony's School **Principal:** Damien Schuster

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

Sacramental Coordinator/ Bookkeeper:

Naim Chdid

Parish Office Hours:

Tue 9.00am-11.30am Wed & Thu 9.00am-1.00pm

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

Catholic Regional College - Melton (Years 7-12)

Principal: Marlene Jorgensen **Phone:** 8099 6000

109-141 Bulmans Rd, West Melton, 3337 **Website:** www.crcmelton.com.au

If you need a Priest in the case of a genuine emergency please call 0403 435 471

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL COUNCIL

Naim Chid	0437 004 790
Lillian Christian - Vice Chair	0400 441 257
Stephen Fernandes	0439 743 533
Amy Honrade	0457 042 695
Natalie Howard - Chair	0492 947 201
Rose Ma'ae	0460 672 571

EX-OFFICIO: Fr Fabian Smith PP, Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint,
Fr Samuel Kapani, Damien Schuster and Bill Hill
Council Secretary: Judy Johnson

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL COUNCIL

Shane Cook -School Advisory Board	0419 999 052
Peter Farren	0418 594 501
Peter Kennedy - Secretary	0407 778 119
Moir Ross	0400 675 056
Aaron Russell - Chair	0401 927 502

EX-OFFICIO:

Fr Fabian Smith PP, Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint and Fr Samuel Kapani
Sr Mary Sarah Galbraith

SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Coordinator/Officer: Godwin Barton (0425 734 449) **Officers:** St Anthony's - Lorraine Tellis 0437 658 423 & Geetha Vincent 0478 112 996
St Bernard's - Margaret Love (0437 247 779) Evana Miesen & Ron Geurts

Items for the newsletter must be submitted by Tuesday 6.00pm. Please email judyparishnews@gmail.com or call 0414 007 009

Judy Johnson's office hours: Mon-Wed 9am-1pm

MASS AND DEVOTIONS

ST ANTHONY'S MELTON SOUTH 12/12/2022-18/12/2022

MASS TIMES:

Monday 12/12	6.30pm
Tuesday 13/12	9.30am & 6.30pm
Wednesday 14/12	7.30am & 9.30am
Thursday 15/12	9.30am
Friday 16/12	9.30am



Rosary 9.00am before 9.30am weekday Mass.

Sunday Masses

Saturday 17/12	5.00pm
Sunday 18/12	8.30am & 10.30am

Confession available 30 minutes prior to each Mass.
No Confession on Monday.

ST BERNARD'S BACCHUS MARSH 12/12/2022-18/12/2022

MASS TIMES:

Monday 12/12	No Mass
Tuesday 13/12	7.30am
Holy Hour	7.30pm
Wednesday 14/12	9.30am
Thursday 15/12	7.30am
Friday 16/12	7.30am
Saturday 17/12	9.00am

Sunday Masses

Saturday 17/12	5.00pm
Sunday 18/12	8.30am & 10.30am

Confession available 30 minutes prior to each Mass.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

KOROBET

VIGIL MASS	17/12	6.30pm
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PARISHIONER'S FIRST COLLECTION/SECOND COLLECTION

Parishioners who normally give cash each weekend for the collections, if they wish to donate, are now able to go to the link below and make their payments online.

The link to the St Anthony's Parish is: <https://bit.ly/CDFpayMeltonSouth>

The link to the St Bernard's Parish is: <https://bit.ly/CDFpayBacchusMarsh>

Please put your name and thanksgiving number if you know it as a reference.

REFLECTION 3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A-Sr Mary Fermio

We understand that if something seems too good to be true, it possibly is. On reading today's Gospel, I wondered if John the Baptist thought all the stories he was hearing about Jesus were too good to be true. So did he send his disciples to check Jesus out, or to introduce Jesus to them!

Jesus' reply was to refer John to the scriptures in the Torah, the writings of Isaiah who prophesied the coming of the Messiah – the deaf would hear, the dumb speak...At the same time he was assuring John's disciples that he was the real thing, and, telling them to do the same with John.

Yet John, though the greatest of the prophets, was the 'least in the kingdom'. John would not live to see the Kingdom eventuate, whereas we see and experience what John longed for. We are living after the death and resurrection of Jesus. God's reign has begun, the Spirit has been given.

However, I can miss the miracle of God's presence, just as I can miss it within my own life, family, workplace, neighbourhood, parish. What do I see as sure signs of God's presence, or do I think these are too good to be true! Or am I too busy to take time to notice!



PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

FAITH FORMATION Sessions begin at 7.00pm every Tuesday at St Anthony's Church of Padua, 67-75 Exford Road, Melton South (Age 16+) Faith Formation talks coming up: **13th December**– Dr Gerard O'Shea– The Moral Action
20th December– Sr Mary Ruth– Moral Law

MONDAY EVENING ADVENT REFLECTION Next session **Monday 12th December** St. Anthony's in the MacKillop room from 7.00pm to 8.30pm. We will reflect and acquire more understanding on the Advent Sunday readings.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT-YEAR A - Is 7:10-14 Rom 1:1-7 Mt 1:18-24

WEDNESDAY EVENING ADVENT TALKS The Advent Talks are held on Wednesdays at St Anthony's in the MacKillop room from 6.00pm-7.15pm. **Wednesday 14th December**– The reign of the "Son of David" (Mk 10:47)

MELBOURNE OVERSEAS MISSION SPECIAL COLLECTION-

THIS WEEKEND This group is a volunteer based missionary organisation with focus on providing face to face assistance to disadvantaged communities. The programs are based on a Christian motivation of commitment to the poor with strong objectives to encourage self-help and self-reliance, respect human rights and enhance gender equality. Please give generously. Thank you.

ST ANTHONY'S

CHRISTMAS CAROLS 17th December-PADUA HALL

Be a part of our Christmas preparation. There will be.... Carolling & Nativity Scene performance by our children, games for children (for ages 4-7 & ages 8-12), a visit from Santa and goody-bags for children. Start time 6pm
FOR PURCHASE: Santa's Gift Shop and Food Stations
Get a gift from Santa's Gift Shop & pass it to Santa's elves. Santa will deliver this gift to your child on the evening.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

If you are spending Christmas alone this year we would like to invite you to join us in the Padua Hall for lunch on Christmas day. Time: 12.00 noon– 4.30pm. For more information contact Elizabeth 0422 882 562.



CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS

If you would like to contribute to the cost of the flowers for our Christmas services, please place your donation in the box provided on the sanctuary. Thank you.

BINGO- CHRISTMAS BREAK

Our last night for Bingo in 2022 will be Tuesday 20th December and we will return in 2023 on the Tuesday 17th January.

ST BERNARD'S

FUNDRAISING CHRISTMAS SOCIAL EVENT AND ADVENT PAGEANT -DECEMBER 18TH.

We are holding Cake Stalls after every Mass over the weekend of **17th/18th December**. Please bring a cake or cookies and then buy one! Please list ingredients on what you have baked. No cream, raw egg or custard allowed. There will be a beautiful Advent Pageant held in the hall after the 10.30am Mass with tea and coffee served, followed by the raffling of prizes, Fundraising BBQ, and then fun games and races for the children - and a visit from Santa. Please come and enjoy the Christmas spirit with our friendly community! (Cash preferred but eftpos available).

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Volunteers are needed for this important ministry in the parish, particularly **5pm Saturday Vigil Mass**. If you can help, please contact the parish office.

ST VINCENT de PAUL BACCHUS MARSH

Bacchus Marsh Conference will be providing hampers to families we have assisted throughout the year. If you would like to make a contribution to the cost, please contact Margot Short 0419 507 438 or Peter Kennedy 0407 778 119. Cash donations can be placed in the StVdePaul Poor Box which is located on the end of the seat directly opposite the Church entrance.

MORNING TEA-THIS WEEKEND

Please join us this weekend after the 8.30am and 10.30am Masses for the monthly morning tea. All welcome.

HISTORY REQUEST 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF

ST BERNARD'S CHURCH Please see notice available for collection in the gathering space.

KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS

The Knights of the Southern Cross, will hold the monthly meeting in the Parish hall, at 8pm, on Monday Dec. 12.

RECONCILIATION

Reconciliation will be held at St Anthony's Church on **Tuesday 20th December 2022– 6.00pm-7.30pm**

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

CAROLS PRECEEDING ALL MASSES

Christmas Eve -	24th Dec	5.30pm Mass
Christmas Eve -	24th Dec	8.00pm Mass
Christmas Day -	25th Dec	Midnight Mass
Christmas Day-	25th Dec	8.30am Mass
Christmas Day-	25th Dec	10.30am Mass

RECONCILIATION

Reconciliation will be held at St Bernard's Church on **Wednesday 21st December 2022– 7.00pm-8.00pm**

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

CAROLS PRECEEDING ALL MASSES

Christmas Eve -	24th Dec	6.30pm Mass
Christmas Eve (Korobeit)		8.30pm Mass
Christmas Eve -	24th Dec	10.00pm Mass
Christmas Day-	25th Dec	8.30am Mass
Christmas Day-	25th Dec	10.30am Mass

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: 17th & 18th December
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 Vigil: Gavin Pereira
 8.30am: Amy Honrade
 10.30am: Susan Malinov

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm Vigil: To be advised
 8.30am: Philip Anyayahan
 10.30am: Doris Bonello

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

MASS COORDINATORS

5.00pm: Coleen & Godwin
 8.30am: Julie & Lillian
 10.30am: Lillian & Godwin

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Arthur Abela, Rita Christian, Alessandro Di Martino &
 Anthony Mercieca

Please pray for the Sick:

Hazel Michael, Nickolia & Klara Butkovic, Maria Caruana,
 Mary Caruana, Christabelle, Lydia De Vega, Melanie Fue,
 Bruce Hynes, Kotinis Cornelia Kani, Judy Layton,
 Peter Manicaro, Reg Marslen, Lisa Melia, Damien Michael,
 Tony Michael, Veronica Michael, Nickol, Ian Novak,
 Caleb O'Brien, John Osborne, Catherine Roberts,
 Peter Roberts, Pat Roberts, Samantha Smith, Charlie Spiteri,
 Janko Stojanovic, Christina Tuigamala, 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.**

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



ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

MINISTERS OF THE WORD : THIS WEEKEND

5.00pm: Vikki Benson
 8.30am: Gerard O'Shea
 10.30am: Charlotte Lindorff

MINISTERS OF THE WORD: 17th & 18th December

5.00pm: Vikki Benson
 8.30am: Dominican Sisters
 10.30am: Dudley Rodrigues

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

December: Jan Carragher

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

We pray for the recently deceased:

Kerry Lindsay

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

Sr Margaret Barry (Romuald) rsj, Damien McConnell,
 Myra O'Leary, Robert Taggart & Dorothy (Dot) Wilkie

Please pray for the Sick:

Sophie Allen (baby)
 Patricia Allison, Noah Barlow, Chaiel Balcombe,
 Michael Barrett, Peter Bennett, Steven Braszel, Tina Bower,
 Fred Capuano, Gary Ching, Chris, Josephine Cilia,
 Robyn Cola, Ted Cooling, Lindsay & Kathleen Dally,
 Judy Delahey, Theresa Dockter, Allison Evans,
 Helen Evans, George Farrell, Justin Fernandez,
 Pasquale Gagliarbi, Mario Galea, Cynthia Goodyear,
 Gwen Green, Joe Gristi, Adam Hillier, Leonie Kervin,
 Elle Hillman, Kiahni Holamotutama, Alicia Holborn,
 Chaiel Jackson, Matthew Jansen, David Kasprzak,
 Michael Larkin, Marie Maloney, Patricia Marechal,
 Brian Marshall, Debbie Marshall,
 Cathy-Sue Nuelist, Jordanis Mary Pauline McDonald, Ian
 McKechnie, Marcus Meno, Paul Mullin,
 Arthur Pape, Michael Paterson, Georgia Peacock,
 Mitchell Prendergast, Peter Roberts, Ken Shaw, Terry Sims,
 Marian Smith, Elizabeth Stehmann, Colin Taffe,
 Catherine Time, Susan Trist, Stephen Van Eede,
 John Van Orsouw, Angela Vicum, Louis Vogels,
 Barry Walsh, Cath Wheelahan, Jayne Wilkins,
 Patricia Yazbek, Betty Young and all those who have
 requested our prayers. **PLEASE LET US KNOW WHEN YOUR
 LOVED ONE IS NO LONGER REQUIRED ON THIS LIST.**

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: 17th & 18th December

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: Julie Sequiera
8.30am: Ineke Allen
10.30am: Elizabeth Underwood

CUPPA VOLUNTEERS

Cuppa Weekend will resume in 2023. Thank you to all our volunteers that helped put on our cuppa weekends in 2022.



CHURCH FLOWERS

December: Gloria

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Welfare Number: 1800 305 330
The Melton South Conference meet every 3rd Tuesday morning in the Meeting 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.
Address: 100 Coburn Road Melton South 9747 6811

God, strengthen and sustain all those who volunteer in our Churches; that with patience and understanding they may love and care for your people; and grant that together they may follow with Jesus Christ offering to you their gifts and talents.



ST BERNARD'S

WEEKEND VOLUNTEERS : 17th & 18th December

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: 5.00pm Marj Tung
Sunday: 8.30am Dianne Shelly
10.30am Natalia Klenkowski

CHURCH FLOWERS

December: Melinda Martin -Blooms



PRESBYTERY & CHURCH GROUNDS-MOWING

December: Colm Carragher & Ron Geurts

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY:

Welfare Number is 1800 305 330.
The Vinnies Store is now located at Shop 19, The Village, 164-190 Main Street Bacchus Marsh
The store is open 7 days a week. If you are able to volunteer and would like some more information, 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 \$1500 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@inet.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

FAITH FORMATION

ST ANTHONY'S AND ST BERNARD'S

BAPTISM PREPARATION PROGRAM– ST ANTHONY'S AND ST BERNARD'S

Dear Parishioners

Keeping in line with the Archbishop's vision for Mission, the Parishes of St Anthony's and St Bernard's have put together a new Baptism Preparation Program, for any parents who wish to have their child Baptised. Preparations for Baptisms will take place on Saturdays alternating between both Parishes. A welcome Mass must be attended prior to the Baptism. Baptisms will be held on Saturday mornings at 11.00am. Parents must attend two sessions. Sessions will run from 12.00pm-4.00pm. Godparents must attend the 2nd session. Bookings must be made to attend these sessions.

Please visit our website for a detailed description of the new program.

[Baptism of Infants | St Anthony of Padua Catholic Parish](#) [Baptism of Infants | St Bernard's Catholic Parish](#)
(stbernardsbacchusmarsh.com.au) If you have any questions please call the Parish Office.



ADULT PREPARATION Adult preparation for the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist or Confirmation are through the R.C.I.A Program. Please see Fr Fabian, Fr Samuel or Fr Lucas .

FATIMA STATUE—ST ANTHONY'S

These families are praying together for the mission of the Parish:

Group 1: Shane & Dolly Barrow	0439 386 130
Group 2: Kalolaine & Sam Forma	0432 295 121
Group 3: Josephine German	0478 288 761

DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

1st Sunday of the Month-3.00pm



PRAYER TO ST MICHAEL

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle,
be our protection against the wickedness
and snares of the Devil; may God rebuke him,
we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the
heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan,
and all the evil spirits, who prowl
through the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.



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

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.

FIRST READING Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,
let it rejoice and sing for joy.
The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;
they shall see the glory of the Lord,
the splendour of our God.
Strengthen all weary hands,
steady all trembling knees
and say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid.
'Look your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you.'
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy,
for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.
They will come to Zion shouting for joy,
everlasting joy on their faces;
joy and gladness will go with them
and sorrow and lament be ended.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 145

Commentator: Lord, come and save us.

All: Lord, come and save us.

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free.

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan.

It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age.

Lord, come and save us.

SECOND READING James 5:7-10

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 11:2-11

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'
As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.
Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS-

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT-YEAR A

First Reading: Is 7:10-14;

Second Reading: Rom 1:1-7;

Gospel: Mt 1:18-24



Advent 2022 Week III

Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)

“Rejoice: the Lord is nigh.”

As Christmas draws near, the Church emphasises the joy which should be in our hearts over all that the birth of our Saviour means for us. The great joy of Christians is to see the day drawing nigh when the Lord will come again in His glory to lead them into His kingdom.

The oft-repeated *Veni* (“Come”) of Advent is an echo not only of the prophets but also of the conclusion of the Apocalypse of St John, “Come, Lord Jesus”, the last words of the New Testament.

Today is known as “Gaudete Sunday”. The term *Gaudete* refers to the first word of the Entrance Antiphon, “Rejoice”. The priest wears rose vestments at Mass to emphasise our joy that Christmas is near, and we also light the rose candle on our Advent wreath.

Christ even now on the way to Bethlehem

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrata, who are little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. (Micah 5:2)

Evidently, in the mind of holy Church, neither the prophecy concerning Bethlehem Ephrata nor its fulfillment in the day of Caesar Augustus is to be considered merely a glorious divine disposition and achievement.

No, the prophecy of Micah is still being verified every day, but predominantly during the annual Advent season; for the self-same incarnate eternal Son of God who journeyed to Bethlehem to be born there physically, now to the end of time comes to human souls as to spiritual Bethlehems, there to be born anew, again and again.

But be sure to picture these merciful spiritual journeyings of Christ to the Bethlehem of souls as all too often sadly realistic spiritual repetitions of His first long journey over the rugged road from Nazareth to Bethlehem.

catholicculture.org

Meditate long on the wanton and malicious opposition He encounters on His way to them from souls that leave their senses and heart and mind to be ruled by earthly vanities, and their whole selves to be willing victims of the sensual and selfish illusions and witcheries of the seven capital vices.

Can you still fail to see why Isaiah and John the Baptist compare the hardships of the way of the world’s Messiah-King to souls with a rough, crooked, and almost impassable road? Up steep hills and down precipitous valleys and through dangerous mountain passes?

Do you wonder that these prophets of His coming insist so strongly that merely sentimental longings and routine prayers, however multiplied, cannot prepare us worthily for the entrance He must expect and the welcome He craves?

Pray very honestly, therefore, that you may begin to see the practical reasons for the Church’s crying out in the desert world, and even into your own interior soul and heart:

Prepare ye the way of the Lord: Make straight in the wilderness His paths; Every valley shall be exalted; Every mountain and hill shall be made low; And the crooked shall be made straight; And the rough ways plain. (Isaiah 40:3,4)

Then shall you see the salvation of God!

—Excerpted from *Our Way to the Father*,
by Rev. Leo M. Krenz, SJ



Make straight in the wilderness His paths.