



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

33rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME-YEAR C

13th November 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-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

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

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

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
Maira 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 14/11/2022-20/11/2022

MASS TIMES:

Monday 14/11	6.30pm
Tuesday 15/11	9.30am & 6.30pm
Wednesday 16/11	7.30am & 9.30am
Thursday 17/11	9.30am
Friday 18/11	9.30am
Memorial Mass- see page 3 for details	7.00pm



Rosary 9.00am before 9.30am weekday Mass.

Sunday Masses

Saturday 19/11	5.00pm
Sunday 20/11	8.30am & 10.30am

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

ST BERNARD'S BACCHUS MARSH 14/11/2022-20/11/2022

MASS TIMES:

Monday 14/11	No Mass
Tuesday 15/11	7.30am
Holy Hour	7.30pm
Wednesday 16/11	9.30am
Thursday 17/11	7.30am
Friday 18/11	7.30am

Saturday 19/11	9.00am
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Sunday Masses

Saturday 19/11	5.00pm
Sunday 20/11	8.30am & 10.30am

Confession available 30 minutes prior to each Mass.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

KOROBET

VIGIL MASS	19/11	6.30pm
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If you need a Priest in the case of a genuine emergency please call 0403 435 471

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 33rd SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME-Sr Mary Fermio

Fear of flying on a long journey has always hindered me from going overseas. Fear can be a crippling emotion which can prevent us from seeking new horizons, knowledge and experiences. Many fears can do this – fear of travel, of illness, of COVID, of fire and floods, of death, even fear of marriage.

The Gospel today could fill us with fear, but we know all these events have happened, are happening and will continue to happen because of the world we live in. But as Christians we have no need to fear, as God walks with us. This is easier said than lived out. But Jesus tells us “every hair on our head is counted” a phrase that tells us we are precious to God who loves us unconditionally. To place ourselves completely in God's hands is not easy to do. We still try to do it all ourselves.

But trust should fill our lives – trust that at Mass, we humbly stretch out our hands and Jesus submits himself to us, is placed in our hands, gives himself unconditionally to nourish and strengthen us. If God can come to us, surely we can have no fear but place ourselves in God's hands. I have always found PS 23 helped me when facing a difficult situation in my life.



Prayer is not asking.
Prayer is putting oneself in
the hands of God, at His
disposition, and listening
to His voice in the depth
of our hearts.

EmillysQuotes.Com

~Mother Teresa

PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

FAITH FORMATION

For information call our Catechist Naim Chdid 0437 004 790. Sessions begin at 7.00pm every Tuesday at St Anthony's Church of Padua, 67-75 Exford Road, Melton South (Age 16+) **Topic this week: Divine Revelation:** 'God spoke to us.'

STEADFAST IN HOPE - RETREAT FOR YOUNG CATHOLICS (AGES 18-25)

9-11 December 2022 | Pallotti College, Millgrove Cost \$250 | Register at www.trybooking.com/CDQKH

'Be steadfast in hope, for God is faithful' (Heb 10:23). We live in challenging times. It's easy to become discouraged and lose confidence in God. At Steadfast in Hope we will go to Jesus to find 'great calm' (Mt 18:23-27). Join Sr Mary Helen OP, Brendan Elliston, Julie Diez, and Fr Marcus Goulding for a time of prayer, reflection, and friendship in the beautiful Yarra Valley.

CATHOLIC DEAF APPEAL-THIS WEEKEND

This weekend we will have special collection for the Catholic Deaf Appeal. Your donation will support the John Pierce Centre by providing support to Deaf Families through counselling, offering liturgies, visitation of the sick and sacramental preparation in Auslan and much more! Please give generously, thank you.

ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES- MAKE A DIFFERENCE OVERSEAS.

Do you require professional renewal, or are you seeking a retirement challenge? Communities abroad are asking for qualified and experienced Australians able to mentor their people in education, health, administration, trades, agriculture and more.

Imagine yourself re-engaging your vocational passion in Africa, Asia or the Pacific. Since 1961 Palms Australia has been recruiting Australians able to offer mentoring that will allow overseas counterparts opportunities otherwise unattainable. Sharing your skills will strengthen the capacity of workers overseas to serve their communities for generations to come, long after you return home.

Communities in American Samoa, Cambodia, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Zambia are seeking to fill a variety of roles. Enquire about those roles via www.palms.org.au or by calling 02 9560 533 or 0422 472 567.

ST ANTHONY'S

MEMORIAL MASS

A Memorial Mass will be held at St Anthony's on Friday 18th November at 7.00pm. The Mass will remember our deceased family members, especially those that have passed in the last 12 months. Please feel free to bring a photo of your loved one. A light supper will be served after Mass.

CHAPEL KEYS (FOBS)

We are currently experiencing long term issues in obtaining more Chapel keys (FOBS). If any Parishioner has a key they are not using and are willing to return it to the Parish Office it would be appreciated. We have had many enquiries about obtaining fobs for the Chapel. Please contact Lesley in the Parish Office.

ADVENT REFLECTION

Sessions will begin on Monday the 21st of November for five consecutive Mondays at 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. These sessions are open to everyone. Please enter your names on the clipboard provided in the foyer. For more information contact Stephen Fernandes on 0439 743 533.

SRI LANKAN FOOD STALL

The Sri Lanka community will be holding their food stall on the 27th November, after the 8.30am & 10.30am masses. All money raised will go towards the extension of the Padua Hall. Please support this fundraiser. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH HO! HO! HO!

Our November lunch will be at Back to Bacchus, 188 Main St Bacchus Marsh. Tuesday 29th November 2022 at 12 o'clock.

Normal menu will be available. RSVP by 22nd November to confirm numbers. Enquiries Ineke 0400120401 or ineke49@yahoo.com. Wear your Christmas bling.



ST BERNARD'S

MEMORIAL MASS

A memorial Mass will be held at St Bernard's on Friday 25th November at 6.00pm.

ST. BERNARD'S FUNDRAISING/SOCIAL GROUP

St. Bernard's Fundraising/Social group is organising an Event on **Sunday 18th December** for Advent/Christmas.

Keep the date free! Part of the Event will be the raffling of prizes. We are asking for quality donations over the next 3 weeks. Some examples are: Gift Cards, sweets, crackers, jams and preserves, a bottle of wine or some other alcohol, toys, games, Christmas stocking fillers. Please leave donations in the marked basket in the Foyer. Thank you!

ST VINCENT de PAUL CONFERENCE-

COME & SEE SESSION

An invitation is extended to anyone interested in joining our local Conference to our 'Come & See' Session on **Thursday 24th November 7pm** in the Parish Centre. Further enquiries Margot 0419 507 438

MORNING TEA-THIS WEEKEND

Please join us for the monthly morning tea after the 8.30am and 10.30am Masses today.

KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS

The Bacchus Marsh Knights of the Southern Cross meeting will be held in the parish centre on Monday, November 14 at 8pm.

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: 19th & 20th November
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: To be advised
 8.30am: Amy Honrade
 10.30am: Anastasia Mavaega

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm Vigil: Gavin Pereira
 8.30am: Ron Howard
 10.30am: Doris Bonello

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

MASS COORDINATORS

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

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Wanda Biechun, Michael Borg, May Boyce, Bryan Davies,
 Sylvia Ladson, Douglas Leslie, Robert Marley,
 Margery Montgomery, Gerald McDade, John McDade,
 Rose McDade, Tony Pollock, Tony Sciberras,

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, 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: Evana Miesen
 8.30am: Peter Lafranchi
 10.30am: Chloe Lindorf

MINISTERS OF THE WORD: 19th & 20th November

5.00pm: Maureen Zahra
 8.30am: Maggie Kratochvil
 10.30am: Dominic Van Der Linden

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

November: John Thorne

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Sheila Barratt, Eileen Closter, Jack Glasheen, Grace Green,
 Lorna Hives, Millie Thompson & Desmond Trask.

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 Gagliardi, 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: 19th & 20th November

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

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

CUPPA VOLUNTEERS –26th & 27th November

5.00pm Vigil: Technica Sumarasinghe
8.30am: Scanlon & Agnes Faave
10.30am: Romeo & Maribel Sacres

CHURCH FLOWERS

October: Roperta



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 : 19th & 20th November

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: 5.00pm Dianne Shelly
Sunday: 8.30am Marj Tung
10.30am Dagmar Van Der Linden

CHURCH FLOWERS

November: Natalia Klenkowski



PRESBYTERY & CHURCH GROUNDS-MOWING

November: Stuart Robertson & Sean Giani

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@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

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: Theresa Anderson	0420 820 118
Group 2: Kim & Villy Nguyen	0403 751 343
Group 3: Santos & Liz Schembri	0466 854 476

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

The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction. You will call upon me, and I will answer you, and I will lead back your captives from every place.

FIRST READING Malachi 3:19-20

The day is coming now, burning like a furnace; and all the arrogant and the evil-doers will be like stubble. The day that is coming is going to burn them up, says the Lord of hosts, leaving them neither root nor stalk. But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness will shine out with healing in its rays.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 97

Commentator: The Lord comes to rule the earth with justice.

All: The Lord comes to rule the earth with justice.

Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp
with the sound of music.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn
acclaim the King, the Lord.

Let the sea and all within it, thunder;
the world, and all its peoples.
Let the rivers clap their hands
and the hills ring out their joy
at the presence of the Lord.

For the Lord comes,
he comes to rule the earth.
He will rule the world with justice
and the people with fairness.

The Lord comes to rule the earth with justice.

NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS-

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST KING OF THE UNIVERSE

First Reading: 2 Sam 5:1-3;

Second Reading: Col 1:12-20;

Gospel: Lk 23:35-43



SECOND READING 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12

You know how you are supposed to imitate us: now we were not idle when we were with you, nor did we ever have our meals at anyone's table without paying for them; no, we worked night and day, slaving and straining, so as not to be a burden on any of you. This was not because we had no right to be, but in order to make ourselves an example for you to follow.

We gave you a rule when we were with you; not to let anyone have any food if he refused to do any work. Now we hear that there are some of you who are living in idleness, doing no work themselves but interfering with everyone else's. In the Lord Jesus Christ, we order and call on people of this kind to go on quietly working and earning the food that they eat.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lift up your heads and see;
your redemption is near at hand.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 21:5-19

When some were talking about the Temple, remarking how it was adorned with fine stonework and votive offerings, Jesus said, 'All these things you are staring at now - the time will come when not a single stone will be left on another: everything will be destroyed.' And they put to him this question: 'Master,' they said 'when will this happen, then, and what sign will there be that this is about to take place?'

'Take care not to be deceived,' he said 'because many will come using my name and saying, "I am he" and, "The time is near at hand." Refuse to join them. And when you hear of wars and revolutions, do not be frightened, for this is something that must happen but the end is not so soon.' Then he said to them, 'Nation will fight against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be great earthquakes and plagues and famines here and there; there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven.

'But before all this happens, men will seize you and persecute you; they will hand you over to the synagogues and to imprisonment, and bring you before kings and governors because of my name - and that will be your opportunity to bear witness. Keep this carefully in mind: you are not to prepare your defence, because I myself shall give you an eloquence and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to resist or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relations and friends; and some of you will be put to death. You will be hated by all men on account of my name, but not a hair of your head will be lost. Your endurance will win you your lives.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

To be near God is my happiness,
to place my hope in God the Lord.

St Lawrence of Brindisi VI

The 'Woman Clothed with the Sun' according to St Lawrence (part 3)

Mary, as the Mother of Christ, participates in His glory, hence she is clothed with the sun.

"Mary also possessed Christ most perfectly as her only and beloved Son. How was it possible for the Virgin not to shine with sun-like splendour when she carried Christ, the Sun of infinite light, in her virginal womb?

"If God enclosed the sun in an immense crystal vase, would not that vase seem to be clothed with the very sun? In this way the sun clothes and adorns with its brilliant rays the pure substance of heaven, which it surrounds and engulfs. Just as the sun, glowing within the crystal on every side with its light, so the heavenly Virgin is clothed with Christ, the Sun of justice and glory.

"This divine vision signifies that, as bride and mother, the most holy Virgin shares in the glory of Christ and God to a high degree, so that no greater sharing or participation can be thought of."

"And the moon was under her feet." The exaltation of Mary above every creature is displayed here by the Capuchin Friar.

"If the sun signifies God, what does the moon signify if not everything under God? ...

"If the moon symbolises everything under God, what is the significance of the moon under Mary's feet? Is it not that every creature under God lies beneath Mary's feet? It is written of Christ: *Thou hast crowned him with glory and honour, and hast set him over the works of thy hands. Thou has subjected all things under his feet.* This passage may also be accommodated to Mary. By this divine mystery, therefore, is portrayed the Virgin's wonderful exaltation above every creature."

The moon is also an emblem of imperfection and hence is beneath Mary. For Mary the least desire of the Heart of Christ is the desire of her heart.

"I see still another mystery contained in this passage. Among the philosophers, the moon sometimes symbolises the light of our human reason and mind. To have the moon under one's feet, therefore, signifies to hold one's intellect captive in submission to Christ."

"Upon her head a crown of twelve stars." Saint Lawrence expands on the Mother of God's power, exaltation, and ineffable dignity.

"As Joshua ordered the sun and moon to cease their course, Elijah bade fire to fall from

heaven and closed and opened heaven itself, so Mary can command all things to all creatures. O most exalted, O most divine Queen! *Upon her head a crown of 12 stars.* Christ rebuked the winds and the sea and they, to the great astonishment of men, obeyed Him: *What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?* He spoke to the dead, and instantly they arose.

Mary enjoys a similar dominion, for she has been invested with divine sovereignty and power and crowned goddess of the universe. As God said to Moses: *I have appointed thee the God of Pharaoh*, that is, to exercise the same power over Pharaoh that God has over his kingdom, so God has set Mary over the works of His hands. She is the Goddess of Heaven, the Queen of the universe, the true Spouse of the omnipotent God, the true Mother of the almighty Christ. She stands at the right hand of God as heaven's exalted Queen: *The queen stood on thy right hand in gilded clothing.* Queen to whom neither angels nor men can give adequate praise! Could ever a man with fitting words give voice to the boundless and singular glory of this incomparable, this divine Queen? *A Woman clothed with the sun ... and upon her head a crown of 12 stars.*"

Lawrence next tells us who it is that endowed her with such majesty.

"It was from the Child in her womb that Mary received all her glory. He clothed her with the sun, rolled the moon beneath her feet, and set upon her head a crown of 12 stars. The Virgin Mother of God had this glory not from herself, but from God, the Creator of heaven, Who had made the sun, the moon, and the stars, She had her glory from Christ, her Son, through Whom all things, even Mary herself, have been made. Christ was not only a son to Mary, but also a father who had created her, and adorned her with every virtue and blessing. ...

"The noble soul of Mary, therefore, found infinite motives and objects of love in Christ. It is written of Christ: *He is all lovely*, or, as it is in Hebrew: *He is entirely desires*, or *He is all desires*, that is, everything desirable is found abundantly in Him. Christ was wholly desirable, infinitely lovable; Mary loved Him and worshipped Him with all her heart."

For Saint Lawrence, as we have stated, the woman clothed with the sun, raised above the moon, and crowned with 12 stars is without doubt the Virgin Mother of Christ. From this unique and marvellous vision, then, the seer of Brindisi gives us profound insights into the esteem of God and Christ for her, her return of love, and the tender and personal loving care she gives her devoted children.