



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

2nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME-YEAR A

15th January 2023

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-12.00noon

Tue 9.00-4.00pm Wed 9.00-5.30pm

Thu/Fri 9.00-4.00pm

Email: parishsecretary83@gmail.com

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

St Francis Catholic 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 16/1/2023-22/1/2023

MASS TIMES:

Monday 16/1	6.30pm
Tuesday 17/1	6.30pm
Wednesday 18/1	9.30am
Thursday 19/1	9.30am
Friday 20/1	9.30am

Rosary at 9.00am before 9.30am morning masses

Sunday Masses

Saturday 21/1	5.00pm
Sunday 22/1	8.30am & 10.30am

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

ST BERNARD'S BACCHUS MARSH 16/1/2023-22/1/2023

MASS TIMES:

Monday 16/1	No Mass
Tuesday 17/1 (No Holy Hour)	9.30am
Wednesday 18/1	9.30am
Thursday 19/1	9.30am
Friday 20/1	9.30am

Saturday 21/1 No 9.00 am Mass

Sunday Masses

Saturday 21/1	5.00pm
Sunday 22/1	8.30am & 10.30am

(Rosary in the Chapel 10.00am on Sundays)

Confession available 30 minutes prior to each Mass.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

KOROBET

MASS TIMES

VIGIL	21/1	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>

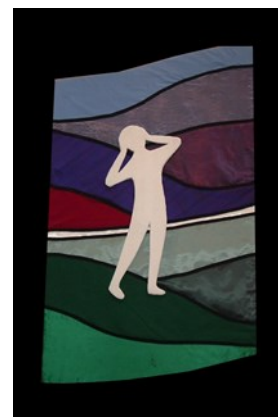
Please put your name and thanksgiving number if you know it as a reference.

REFLECTION 2ND SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME-Sr Mary Fermio

In today's world there seems to be much competition between schools, parents, which and who is the best, the best sportsperson, kind of car you own, the kind of job and wage you have. It often seems like "keeping up with the Joneses".

For John the Baptist there was no competition, for he knew he was "the voice crying in the desert" there to "prepare a way for the Lord". John was not seeking fame or recognition, not trying to outdo Jesus, so when Jesus appears on the scene he can easily say "There is the Lamb of God" directing his own disciples to Jesus. Having Baptised Jesus and witnessing the dove that hovered above him he knew Jesus was the one and that "he must increase, and I must decrease".

We have all received different gifts and my peace and happiness lies in living MY life, keeping true to the life God has given me, seeking only what God wants me to do. I need to ask myself:
What am I truly seeking? What will give me peace and happiness?



Uniting Church Traralgon-used with permission

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 resume 24th January 2023.

MEMORIAL MASS FOR POPE EMERITUS BENEDICT XVI-CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE

Please join us at St Patrick's Cathedral on the evening of Sunday 29th January 2023, when Archbishop Peter A Comensoli will celebrate a memorial Mass for Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI. The Mass will take place approximately one month after his death, providing an opportunity for the People of God in Melbourne to gather together and to remember and pray for Pope Benedict.

St Patrick's Cathedral 1 Cathedral Place, East Melbourne— Sunday 29th January at 6.30pm.

For all queries contact communications@cam.org.au

PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE SACRAMENTS FOR CHILDREN RECEIVING FIRST RECONCILIATION AND FIRST EUCHARIST IN 2023

Dear Parents, The Parishes of St Anthony's and St Bernard's continues to search for better ways to support you in your mission of bringing up your children in the Catholic faith, and help them in their journey with God in the best possible way.

Over the years we tried different processes according to the availability of our volunteers. Some years the classes were long, while others years were shorter. We tried our best to catechize the children in the faith, as well as prepare them for Sacraments at the same time. This year we will be splitting the Classes, Catechism classes in the First term and Sacrament preparation in the Second term.

Why Catechism?

Catechism is an essential way of teaching our children about God, the Trinity, Heaven, Angels, Saints, Prayer and other doctrine of the faith. Learning the catechism early in the intellectual and spiritual building material of a strong Christian life, and it is the best use of time on the part of both parents and their children.

Catechism is a proven method for fulfilling our calling as parents to instruct our children in the truth.

Term One Catechetical Classes begin 11th February 2023 and end 1st April 2023

Term Two Sacramental Classes—dates to be advised

NB: your child is required to attend **ALL Catechetical Classes** to be able to receive the Sacraments

Contact Sacramental Coordinator: Naim Chdid Email: enrol4sacraments@gmail.com

Or call the Parish Offices for further information.

ST ANTHONY'S

BINGO IS BACK -Bingo returns on Tuesday 17th January 2023.

Bingo is held every Tuesday night at 7pm in the Padua Hall, St Anthony's Parish. Canteen services available. Come along and enjoy a great night, and with a bit of luck you could be one of our lucky winners!

FLOWER ROSTER

We would like more volunteers to help with the Church flowers, if you would like to be added to the roster please contact Lesley -Parish Office 9747 9692

FEAST OF SAINT AGNES, MARTYR FEAST DAY – 21st JANUARY

Agnes of Rome is a virgin martyr, venerated as a saint in the Roman Catholic Church, and Eastern Orthodox Church. St. Agnes is one of several virgin martyrs commemorated by name in the Canon of the Mass. Saint Agnes' feast day is 21 January.

On the feast of Saint Agnes two lambs are traditionally brought from the Trappist abbey of Tre Fontane in Rome, to be blessed by the Pope. In summer the lambs are shorn, and the wool used to weave the pallia which the Pope gives on the feast of Saint Peter and Paul to newly appointed metropolitan archbishops as a sign of his jurisdiction and their union with the Pope. This tradition of the blessing of the lambs has been known since the 16th century.

Source: FEAST OF SAINT AGNES, MARTYR - 21st JANUARY - Prayers and Petitions

ST BERNARD'S

MORNING TEA

Morning teas after 8.30am and 10.30am Masses will resume in February.

FORMED

Just a reminder that we have a parish FORMED

Subscription FORMED is a Catholic streaming service. We have purchased a parish subscription that you can access for free at home. Please limit yourselves to one account per household.

To register under our subscription, follow these steps:

1. Visit <https://signup.formed.org/>
2. Input St Anthony's & St Bernard's Catholic Parishes in the "Find your Parish" box.
3. Input your name and email address.
4. Visit formed.org on your preferred device to begin watching.

If you enjoy using FORMED, consider making a donation to our parish to help us keep providing this service.



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: 21st & 22nd January

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: Stephen Fernandes

8.30am: Sefulu Seufatu

10.30am: Nikshita D'Souza

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Dolores Turcsan

8.30am: Philip Anyayahan

10.30am: Frank Carreon

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

MASS COORDINATORS

5.00pm: Annonica & Coleen

8.30am: Julie & Lillian

10.30am: Leonia & Godwin

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

We pray for the recently deceased:

Wanda Coleman

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

Molimau Asiata, Alfredo Ling Baoan, Emanuel Bonello, Joseph Buttigieg, Maria Cachia, Wilma Dacunha, Joseph Galea, Letizja Gatt, Krystyna Kwiatek, Toloa'l Malo Ma'ae, Patrick McCurry, Godfrey Pinto, Colin Prowd, Fred Sultana & Colin Thomson.

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, Kathleen Novak, Caleb O'Brien, John Osborne, Vaivasa Ruth Perez, 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: Dominic Van Der Linden

MINISTERS OF THE WORD: 21st & 22nd January

5.00pm: John Thorne

8.30am: Maggie Kratochvil

10.30am: Samantha Butler

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

January: Office Staff

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

We pray for the recently deceased:

Jaime Portelli

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

Kathleen Adair, Charlie Azzopardi, Steven Barnes, Lisa Closter, Frank Finn, Catherine Hynes, Pamela King-Eason, Maree Maitland, Gerald Shanahan, Coral Sharpe (Hardy), Leo Sizeland, Elka Timmins, Lorraine Turner, Rene Tyquin & Martin Vrbec.

Please pray for the Sick:

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, 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: 21st & 22nd January

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: Julie Sequiera
8.30am: Mercy Seufatu
10.30am: Elizabeth Underwood

CUPPA VOLUNTEERS—JANUARY 2023

5.00pm:
8.30am: To be advised
10.30am:

CHURCH FLOWERS

January: To be advised



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 : 21st & 22nd January

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

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

CHURCH FLOWERS

January: Tup Shea



PRESBYTERY & CHURCH GROUNDS-MOWING

January: Stephen Millington

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, the Parishes of St Anthony's and St Bernard's are updating their Baptism Preparation Program.

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.

Our websites will be updated shortly with all the information and the new Baptism application form. Please contact the Parish Offices for further information. 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 Fabian, Fr Samuel or Fr Lucas .

FATIMA STATUE—ST ANTHONY'S

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

Group 1:	Carmen Vella	0429 435 724
Group 2:	Sr Therese Dagge	0418 480 880
Group 3:	Tony & Stella Cochrane	9743 6340

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

All the earth shall bow down before you, O God,
and shall sing to you,
shall sing to your name, O Most High!

FIRST READING Isaiah 49:3, 5-6

The Lord said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel,
in whom I shall be glorified';
I was honoured in the eyes of the Lord,
my God was my strength.
And now the Lord has spoken,
he who formed me in the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him,
to gather Israel to him:
'It is not enough for you to be my servant,
to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back the survivors
of Israel;
I will make you the light of the nations
so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.'

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 39

Commentator: Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.

All: Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.

I waited, I waited for the Lord
and he stooped down to me;
he heard my cry.
He put a new song into my mouth,
praise of our God.

You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings,
but an open ear.
You do not ask for holocaust and victim.
Instead, here am I.

In the scroll of the book it stands written
that I should do your will.
My God, I delight in your law
in the depth of my heart.

Your justice I have proclaimed
in the great assembly.
My lips I have not sealed;
you know it, O Lord.

Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

I, Paul, appointed by God to be an apostle, together with
brother Sosthenes, send greetings to the church of God in
Corinth, to the holy people of Jesus Christ, who are called
to take their place among all the saints everywhere who
pray to our Lord Jesus Christ; for he is their Lord no less
than ours. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ
send you grace and peace.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us.
He enabled those who accepted him
to become the children of God.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 1:29-34

Seeing Jesus coming towards him, John said, 'Look, there
is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world.
This is the one I spoke of when I said: A man is coming
after me who ranks before me because he existed before
me. I did not know him myself, and yet it was to reveal him
to Israel that I came baptising with water.' John also de-
clared, 'I saw the Spirit coming down on him from heaven
like a dove and resting on him. I did not know him myself,
but he who sent me to baptise with water had said to me,
"The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and rest
is the one who is going to baptise with the Holy Spirit."
Yes, I have seen and I am the witness that he is the
Chosen One of God.'

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

You have prepared a table before me,
and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.

NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS

3rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME- YEAR A

First Reading: Is 8:23-9:3
Second Reading: 1 Cor 1:10-13,17
Gospel: Mt 4:12-23



The Psalms XII

Psalm 110

From Pope Benedict XVI's Wednesday catechesis, November 16, 2011 (Part One of three parts)

Today I would like to meditate on one of the most famous of the "royal Psalms", a Psalm that Jesus himself cited and that the New Testament authors referred to extensively and interpreted as referring to the Messiah, to Christ. It is Psalm 110, a Psalm very dear to the ancient Church and to believers of all times.

This prayer may at first have been linked to the enthronement of a Davidic king; yet its meaning exceeds the specific contingency of an historic event, opening to broader dimensions and thereby becoming a celebration of the victorious Messiah, glorified at God's right hand.

The Psalm begins with a solemn declaration: "The Lord says to my lord: 'Sit at my right hand, till I make your enemies your footstool.'"

God himself enthrones the king in glory, seating him at his right, a sign of very great honour and of absolute privilege. The king is thus admitted to sharing in the divine kingship, of which he is mediator to the people.

The king's kingship is also brought into being in the victory over his adversaries, whom God himself places at his feet. The victory over his enemies is the Lord's, but the king is enabled to share in it and his triumph becomes a sign and testimony of divine power.

The royal glorification expressed at the beginning of the Psalm was adopted by the New Testament as a messianic prophecy. For this reason the verse is among those most frequently used by New Testament authors, either as an explicit quotation or as an allusion. With regard to the Messiah, Jesus himself mentioned this verse in order to show that the Messiah was greater than David, that he was David's Lord (Matthew 22:41-45; Mark 12:35-37; Luke 20:41-44).

And Peter returned to it in his discourse at Pentecost, proclaiming that this enthronement of the king was brought about in the Resurrection of Christ and that Christ was henceforth seated at the right hand of the Father, sharing in God's kingship over the world (Acts 2:29-35).

Indeed, Christ is the enthroned Lord, the Son of Man seated at the right hand of God and coming on the clouds of heaven, as Jesus described himself

during the trial before the Sanhedrin (Matthew 26:63-64; Mark 14:61-62; also Luke 22:66-69).

He is the true King who, with the Resurrection, entered into glory at the right hand of the Father, was made superior to angels, and seated in heaven above every power with every adversary at his feet, until the time when the last enemy, death, will be defeated by him once and for all.

And we immediately understand that this king, seated at the right hand of God, who shares in his kingship, is not one of those who succeeded David, but is actually the new David, the Son of God, who triumphed over death and truly shares in God's glory. He is our king, who also gives us eternal life.

Hence an indissoluble relationship exists between the king celebrated by our Psalm and God. The two of them govern together as one, so that the Psalmist can say that it is God himself who extends the sovereign's sceptre, giving him the task of ruling over his adversaries as verse 2 says: "The Lord sends forth from Zion your mighty sceptre. Rule in the midst of your foes!"

The exercise of power is an office that the king receives directly from the Lord, a responsibility that he must exercise in dependence and obedience, thereby becoming a sign, within the people, of God's powerful and provident presence.

Dominion over his foes, glory and victory are gifts received that make the sovereign a mediator of the Lord's triumph over evil. He subjugates his enemies, transforming them, he wins them over with his love.

For this reason the king's greatness is celebrated in the following verse. In fact, the interpretation of verse 3 presents some difficulty.

In the original Hebrew text, a reference was made to the mustering of the army to which the people generously responded, gathering round their sovereign on the day of his coronation.

The Greek translation of the Septuagint that dates back to between the second and third centuries BC, refers, however, to the divine sonship of the king, to his birth or begetting on the part of the Lord. This is the interpretation that has been chosen by the Church, which is why the verse reads like this: "Yours is princely power in the day of your birth, in holy splendour; before the daystar, like the dew, I have begotten you".

To be continued

By Pope Benedict XVI, www.vatican.va

