



St Anthony's Parish

67-75 EXFORD ROAD, MELTON SOUTH, 3338.
P.O BOX 2152 MELTON SOUTH 3338
TEL: 9747 9692 FAX: 9746 0422



St Bernard's Parish

61 LERDERBERG STREET, BACCHUS MARSH 3340
TEL: 5367 2069
OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS, KOROBET
309 MYRNIONG-KOROBET ROAD 3341

4th Sunday of Advent– Year B

20th December 2020

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Fabian Smith
ASSISTANT PRIESTS: Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint /Father Marcus Goulding

ST ANTHONY'S PARISH

Parish Secretary: Lesley Morffew
Admin Assistant: Judy Johnson
Parish Office Hours:
Monday /Wednesday/ Friday: 9.00am –4.00pm
Tuesday 9.00am-1.00pm Thursday 9.00am-5.30pm
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 BERNARD'S PARISH

Parish Secretary: Dolores Turcsan
Admin Assistant: Judy Johnson
Sacramental Coordinator/ Bookkeeper: Naim Chdid
Parish Office Hours:
Monday Closed
Tuesday-Friday 9.00am-1.00pm
Email: bacchusmarsh@cam.org.au
Website: www.stbernardsbacchusmarsh.com.au
St Bernard's School Principal: Emilio Scalzo
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
Website: www.crcmelton.com.au

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL COUNCIL

Sue Alexander	0400 171 843
Lillian Christian - Vice Chair	0400 441 257
Stephen Fernandes	0439 743 533
Amy Honrade	03 9747 0078
Natalie Howard - Chair	0492 947 201
Villy Julita	0403 751 343
Rose Ma'ae	0431 386 473
Sally Markulin	0405 814 490
Kim Nguyen	0431 035 980
EX-OFFICIO: Fr Fabian Smith PP, Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint, Fr Marcus Goulding and Damien Schuster Council Secretary: Judy Johnson	

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL COUNCIL

Shane Cook -School Advisory Board	0419 999 052
Peter Farren	0418 594 501
Maira Ross	0400 675 056
Aaron Russell - Chair	0401 927 502
EX-OFFICIO: Fr Fabian Smith PP, Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint, Fr Marcus Goulding and Emilio Scalzo	

CHILD SAFETY OFFICERS

Coordinator: Godwin Barton (0425 734 449)

Officers: Karina Dunne & Lorraine Tellis

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.

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

MASS AND DEVOTIONS

ST ANTHONY'S 21/12-27/12 MELTON SOUTH

MASS TIMES:

Monday 21st Dec: 6.30pm*

Tuesday 22nd Dec: 9.15am & 6.30pm

Wednesday 23rd Dec: 9.15am

Thursday 24th Dec: Christmas Eve No morning Mass

Christmas Eve: See Mass Timetable Page 3

Friday 25th Dec: Christmas Day See Mass Timetable Page 3

A Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration will be held each Tuesday evening at 5.30pm

Saturday Vigil 26th Dec: 5.00pm

Sunday 27th Dec: 8.30am
10.30am
5.00pm

Confession available 30 minutes prior to each Mass

*No confessions on Mondays

ST BERNARD'S 21/12-27/12 BACCHUSMARSH

MASS TIMES:

Monday 21st Dec: No Mass

Tuesday 22nd Dec: 9.30am

Wednesday 23rd Dec: 9.30am

Thursday 24th Dec: Christmas Eve No Morning Mass

Christmas Eve : See Mass Timetable Page 3

Friday 25th Dec: Christmas Day See Mass Timetable Page 3

Saturday 26th Dec : EF Latin 1962 9.00am (Resumes 16/1)

A Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration will be held each Tuesday evening at 7.30pm.

Saturday Vigil 26th Dec: 5.00pm

Sunday 27th Dec: 8.30am
10.00am

Confession available 30 minutes prior to each Mass

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

KOROBET

MASS TIME Saturday Vigil: 6.30pm

MASS BOOKINGS

ST ANTHONY'S MASS BOOKINGS

St Anthony's can now accommodate 350 people at Mass indoors. Online registration is no longer required for any of our **regularly scheduled Masses**. Simply turn up and sign in upon arrival using our QR code or the paper registration forms provided.

ST BERNARD'S MASS BOOKINGS

St Bernard's can now accommodate 150 people at Mass indoors. Online registration is no longer required for any of our **regularly scheduled Masses**. Simply turn up and sign in upon arrival using our QR code or the paper registration forms provided.

FACE MASKS

Face Masks are no longer compulsory during Mass. However, people must carry a face covering at all times. If a distance of 1.5m cannot be maintained, either indoors or outdoors, then face coverings must be worn (unless they are people that live with each other, or have a lawful reason, or are children under 12 years of age).

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Anointing of the sick can be organised with the Priests directly, please call them.

Father Fabian 0403 435 471 /Fr Lucas 0478 768 141 /Fr Marcus 0468 367 893

PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

Loving God, Help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men. Amen

**WISHING ALL OUR PARISHIONERS A VERY HAPPY AND HOLY CHRISTMAS.
Lesley, Dolores, Naim and Judy**



NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

ST ANTHONY'S

PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office will be **closed** for the Christmas Holidays from **Thursday 24th December**. The Office will **reopen** from **Monday 4th January, 2021**.

The Office will be open Mon-Fri 9am-1.00pm

READER'S ROSTER WEEKEND 26th & 27th DECEMBER

Saturday 26th December

5.00pm: Gavin Pereira

Sunday 27th December

8.30am: Villy Julita

10.30am: Faustina Ma'ae

5.00pm: Karina Dunne

CLIPBOARD AT THE REAR OF THE CHURCH-MINISTERS

We have a clipboard at the rear of the Church for our Eucharistic Ministers to leave their details to volunteer for the Christmas Masses. Please add your name to the roster if you have not already been contacted by the Parish Office. Thank you.

READERS AND EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS-CHRISTMAS MASSES

Our Readers and Extraordinary Ministers will be contacted this week by the Parish Office.

RECONCILIATION

Reconciliation will be held on Wednesday 23rd December 7.00pm-8.00pm. 5 Priests will be available.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES-ST ANTHONY'S

CHRISTMAS EVE 24th December 2020

4.00pm-Christmas Eve Mass—No Incense

6.00pm-Christmas Eve Mass

8.00pm-Christmas Eve Mass

10.00pm-Christmas Mass during the Night

CHRISTMAS DAY 25th December 2020

Midnight Mass

8.30am-Christmas Day Mass-No Incense

10.30am— Christmas Day Mass



Pre-registration through our website stanthonyofpadua.com.au is essential in order to be admitted to one of our Christmas Masses. If you have made a booking but cannot attend, you must cancel by clicking the link at the bottom of the confirmation email. Thank you

ST BERNARD'S

PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office will be **closed** for the Christmas Holidays from **Thursday 24th December**. The Office will **reopen** from **Tuesday 5th January, 2021**.

The Office will be open Tue-Fri 9am-1.00pm

READER'S ROSTER

To Be Advised

THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES

Parishioners are able to collect their Thanksgiving envelopes for December 2020 to March 2021, in the Church foyer.

RECONCILIATION

Reconciliation will be held on Tuesday 22nd December 7.30pm-8.30pm. 4 Priests will be available

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES-ST BERNARD'S

CHRISTMAS EVE 24th December 2020

5.00pm-Christmas Eve Mass

7.00pm-Christmas Eve Mass

8.00pm-Christmas Eve Mass— Korobeit

10.00pm-Christmas Mass during the Night

CHRISTMAS DAY 25th December 2020

8.30am-Christmas Day Mass

10.30am X 2 Christmas Day Mass

Pre-registration through our website

stbernardsbacchusmarsh.com.au is essential in order to be admitted to one of our Christmas Masses. If you have made a booking but cannot attend, you must cancel by clicking the link at the bottom of the confirmation email. Thank you



THE ADVENT WREATH



Advent, which begins the Church's liturgical year, began on Sunday 29 November 2020. Advent encompasses the four Sundays and weekdays leading up to the celebration of Christmas.

The Advent season is a time of preparation for our hearts and minds for the anniversary of the Lord's birth on Christmas. The Advent Wreath can be a way to involve even very little children in learning about Christian preparation - not only for celebrating Our Lord's birth, but to make our hearts truly ready to receive Him.

Gathering materials for the wreath-perhaps on an outing in the park or woods, or even in the backyard- and assembling it at home is an interesting family project in which even the youngest children can participate.

The wreath and candles are full of symbolism tied to the Christmas season.

- The wreath itself, which is made of various evergreens, signifies continuous life.
- The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life we find in Christ.
- The evergreens that make up the wreath signifies victory over persecution and suffering. The pine and holly, signify immortality and the cedar signifies strength and healing. The pinecones that decorate the wreath symbolize life and resurrection. The wreath as a whole is meant to remind us of both the immortality of our souls and God's promise of everlasting life to us through Christ.
- The candles also have their own special significance. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent, and one candle is lit each Sunday. Three of the candles are purple because the colour purple is a liturgical colour that signifies a time of prayer, penance, and sacrifice. And one candle, the third candle is pink and signifies joy. The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of His second coming to judge the living and the dead.

The Candles

The first candle, which is purple, symbolizes hope. It is sometimes called the "Prophecy Candle" in remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. It represents the expectation felt in anticipation of the coming Messiah.

The second candle, also purple, represents faith. It is called the "Bethlehem Candle" as a reminder of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

The third candle is pink and symbolizes joy. It is called the "Shepherd's Candle," and is pink because rose is a liturgical colour for joy. The third Sunday of Advent is meant to remind us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus, as well as the joy that the faithful have reached the midpoint of Advent.

On the fourth week of Advent, we light the final purple candle to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait for the birth of our Saviour. This final candle, the "Angel's Candle," symbolizes peace. It reminds us of the message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men."

The white candle is placed in the middle of the wreath and lit on Christmas Eve. This candle is called the "Christ Candle" and represents the life of Christ. The colour white is for purity—because Christ is our sinless, pure Saviour.

Celebrating Advent is an excellent way to prepare your mind and heart for Christmas.

In family practice, the Advent wreath is most appropriately lit at dinner time after the blessing of the food.

A traditional prayer service using the Advent wreath proceeds as follows:

Finally during the **fourth week of Advent:**

O Lord, stir up Thy power, we pray Thee, and come; and with great might help us, that with the help of Thy grace, Thy merciful forgiveness may hasten what our sins impede. Who lives and reigns forever.

Amen



ALL VOLUNTEERS IN OUR PARISH MUST HAVE A CURRENT WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK

ST ANTHONY'S

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Consilya Bonnici, Charlu Sr Cha, Eustace Christian, Dan Hassett & Sam Micallef

Please pray for the Sick:

Nickolia & Klara Butkovic, Maria Caruana, Mary Caruana, Chinnamma Joseph, Judy Layton, Peter Manicaro, Reg Marslen, Damien Michael, Kevin Michael, Tony Michael, Veronica Michael, Wanda Novak, Caleb O'Brien, John Osborne, Peter Poole, Irene Rahilly, Catherine Roberts, Peter Roberts, Pat Roberts, Charlie Spiteri, Janko Stojanovic, Dolores Turcsan, Clint Abela Wadge, & John Xuereb and all those who have requested our prayers. **(PLEASE LET US KNOW WHEN YOUR LOVED ONE IS NO LONGER REQUIRED ON THIS LIST)**

FATIMA STATUE

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

Group 1: **Paul & Sonia Zarb** **0477 813 272**

Group 2: **Kalolaine & Sam Foma** **0432 295 121**

Group 3: **Indika & Mangala Silva** **0410 677 692**



DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

1st Sunday of the Month-3.00pm

ST BERNARD'S

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Ronald Bowyer, Walter David Ibbs, Michael Kenny, David James McConnell, Eddie Mullane, Pat Pigott, Alice Sloane, and Sarah Tonkin.

Please pray for the Sick:

Noah Barlow, Chaiel Balcombe, Michael Barrett, Peter Bennett, Steven Braszel, Tina Bower, John Canty, Fred Capuano, Gary Ching, Josephine Cilia, Robyn Cola, Ted Cooling, Marianne Cuskelly, Lindsay & Kathleen Dally, Judy Delahey, Jack DeLuca, Allison Evans, Helen Evans, 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, 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, Susan Trist, Dolores Turcsan, Stephen Van Eede, John Van Orsouw, Angela Vicum, Louis Vogels, Barry Walsh, Cath Wheelahan, Jayne Wilkins, Patricia Yazbek, & Betty Young.

(PLEASE LET US KNOW WHEN YOUR LOVED ONE IS NO LONGER REQUIRED ON THIS LIST)

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

Along the track

A Christmas Blessing

So much of our Christmas imagery comes from the northern hemisphere, Christmas in a cold climate – the snow, the tinsel, the reindeer, minus temperatures, sparkling snow covered trees, quiet stillness, real Christmas trees, mulled wine, eggnog, snowmen, fire places and the list goes on! We listen to songs like "I'm dreaming of a White Christmas", "Frosty the Snowman", "Let it Snow" and "Winter Wonderland".

I am reminded of one very Australian Christmas story, written in verse by John Hartigan of Around the Boree Log fame. When the Bishop came for confirmation, he questioned the children about their faith:

Come, tell me, boy, 'his lordship said, in crushing tones severe,
'Come, tell me why is Christmas Day the greatest of the year?
'How is it that around the world we celebrate that day
'And send a name upon a card to those who're far away?
'Why is it wandering ones return with smiles and greetings, too?
A squall of knowledge hit the lad from Tangmalangmaloo.
He gave a lurch which set a-shake the vases on the shelf,
He knocked the benches all askew, up-ending of himself.
And oh, how pleased his lordship was, and how he smiled to say,
'That's good, my boy. Come, tell me now; and what is Christmas Day?
The ready answer bared a fact no bishop ever knew -
'It's the day before the races out at Tangmalangmaloo'.

I have never been to Tangmalangmaloo but so many small country communities thrived on such events before and after Christmas. I know because I came from one of them. Christmas was a very special time – the school Christmas break up which virtually everyone in the district attended, the pre-Christmas outings, the shopping, midnight Mass, the celebration of Christmas at home and then the Boxing Day sporting events. Our family had the Post Office, a back room in the house, so we saw everyone in the district at least weekly but, at Christmas time, they came every day because Christmas cards were such a big feature of the season. People near and far kept in touch in that way.

Gifts were not a big part of our Christmas celebration, in fact I think they petered out when I was about seven. But the dinner was important and those meals remain one of my fondest and most enduring memories. They were very special, not just because it was the only time in the year when we ate chicken, but the family was all together. Stories were shared and plans made and we didn't have to go out and work on the farm, except to keep a keen eye out for any smoke on the horizon.

I still remember one card which we received every year for quite a number of years – the picture on the front may have been different but the message inside was not:

I didn't ask for wealth or fame (I knew you wouldn't mind). I asked for priceless treasures rare of a much more lasting kind. I prayed that God would be near to you at the start of each new day, to grant you health and blessing and friends to share your way. I asked for happiness for you in all things great and small, but that you'd know God's loving care I prayed for most of all.

My Christmas memories may be from a different era but some things stay the same. Christmas celebrations can help us grasp something of how deeply we are loved by God. We feel that in the love of our parents, our partner, our children, our brothers and sisters, we feel that love in our celebrations, in all those moments of wonder in our life, but we can feel it too in the most menial and ordinary, the everyday greetings and acts of kindness - in all these we are being loved by God.

Celebrating Emmanuel, God being with us isn't just about Bethlehem, the Stable and the Crib – it is about the Incarnation, how Jesus became one of us so that we become like him, so that the grace and life of God might flow through us and inspire us, so that we too might bring that love into our world. When we wish each other a Happy Christmas, it is more than wishing joy but wishing for those things that will make us truly happy, for those things that will bring us peace.

Theologian Karl Rahner wrote:

God says to the world: "I am there. I am with you. I am your life. I am there. I no longer go away from this world, even if you do not see me now. I am there. It is Christmas. Light the candles. They have more right to exist than all the darkness. It is Christmas. Christmas that lasts forever."

So this Christmas.

May God always be near to you and you near to God.
May you always be grateful for the gift of your life and for the hidden treasures it contains.

May the bonds of love for one another be strengthened as you gather with your family and friends around the table.

May the wonder and awe that fills the eyes of children lead you to a renewed awareness and appreciation of whatever you too easily take for granted.

May you be blessed with good friends and may you be a good friend to others.
May you always be ready to forgive.

May the coming year be one of good health for you.
May you experience the peace which only Christ can give.

Regards
Jim Quillinan

Email: jquillinan@dcsi.net.au

LITURGY OF THE WORD

ENTRANCE PROCESSION

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

FIRST READING 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 88

Commentator: For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

All: For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;
through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,
that your truth is firmly established as the heavens.

'I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn to David my servant:
I will establish your dynasty for ever
and set up your throne through all ages.'

He will say to me: 'You are my father,
my God, the rock who saves me.'
I will keep my love for him always;
for him my covenant shall endure.

All: For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

SECOND READING Romans 16:25-27

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;
and his name will be called Emmanuel.

NEXT WEEK'S READING

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

First Reading: Gen 15:1-6, 21:1-3;

Second Reading: Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19;

Gospel: Lk 2:22-40



The life of Catholic worship and piety XXXXVIII

O Antiphons: A devotional meditation

DECEMBER 22

O King of the Gentiles, and desire of them, Cornerstone, that makes of two one, come to save man, whom Thou hast made out of the dust of the earth!

O Rex Gentium, et desideratus earum, lapisque angularis, qui facis utraque unum: veni, et salva hominem, quem de limo formasti.

This antiphon calls Jesus “King”. Is He our king? Does He call the shots or do we obey someone else? Do you and I obey Christ? Do we allow His thoughts to replace ours? Are His priorities, thoughts, and teachings ours as well?

Jesus Christ told Pontius Pilate that His kingship was about the fact that He came to bear witness to the truth, and that those who were of the truth would listen to His voice. See the connection between faith, kingship, and obedience to the truth that Christ, as King and teacher, proclaims to us!

The antiphon goes on to refer to Christ as the cornerstone. The cornerstone of a building is critical; the walls above rest on it. Therefore, a cornerstone has to be true, perfectly cut, reliable, sturdy, and firm. Jesus and His teachings are this for us; He is the cornerstone, the foundation on which we stand. And Peter is His vicar.

*VENI veni, Emmanuel
captivum solve Israel,
qui gemit in exsilio,
privatus Dei Filio.*

*R: Gaude! Gaude! Emmanuel,
nascetur pro te Israel!*

*Veni, O Sapientia,
quae hic disponis omnia,
veni, viam prudentiae
ut doceas et gloriae. R.*

*Veni, veni, Adonai,
qui populo in Sinai
legem dedisti vertice
in maiestate gloriae. R.*

*Veni, O lesse virgula,
ex hostis tuos ungula,
de spectu tuos tartari
educ et antro barathri. R.*

*Veni, Clavis Davidica,
regna reclude caelica,
fac iter tutum superum,
et claude vias inferum. R.*

*Veni, veni O Oriens,
solare nos adveniens,
noctis depelle nebulas,
dirasque mortis tenebras. R.*

*Veni, veni, Rex Gentium,
veni, Redemptor omnium,
ut salvas tuos famulos
peccati sibi conscios. R.*

*Veni, veni, Emmanuel
captivum solve Israel,
qui gemit in exsilio,
privatus Dei Filio.*

Christ calls Peter the rock on which He will build His Church. Are you standing on the solid rock of Christ's teachings or on the shifting sands of this world?

The antiphon also says that Christ is the desire of the nations. All of our desires that we think can be fulfilled by worldly things are really pointing to the Lord, who alone can fill the God-sized hole in our hearts. No one but the Lord can really and ultimately satisfy us. Sadly, though, we always think that just one more drink, just a little more money, just one more thing will fulfill us and make us happy. It will not. Christ really is your desire.

DECEMBER 23

O Emmanuel, our King and our Law-giver, Longing of the Gentiles, and their Saviour, come to save us, O Lord our God!

O Emmanuel, Rex et legifer noster, expectatio gentium, et Salvator earum: veni ad salvandum nos, Domine Deus noster

This last antiphon is a great summation of most of the antiphons that have preceded it. The Lord Jesus is summoned as king, lawgiver, the desire of the nations, Saviour — indeed, God Himself with us. Come, Lord Jesus. Come, you who are God among us; come and save your people.

*O COME, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.*

*R: Rejoice! Rejoice! O Israel,
to thee shall come Emmanuel!*

*O come, Thou Wisdom, from on high,
and order all things far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show,
and teach us in her ways to go. R.*

*O come, o come, Thou Lord of might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times did give the law,
in cloud, and majesty, and awe. R.*

*O come, Thou Rod of Jesse's stem,
from ev'ry foe deliver them
that trust Thy mighty power to save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. R.*

*O come, Thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heav'nly home,
make safe the way that leads on high,
that we no more have cause to sigh. R.*

*O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night
and death's dark shadow put to flight. R.*

*O come, Desire of the nations, bind
in one the hearts of all mankind;
bid every strife and quarrel cease
and fill the world with heaven's peace. R.*

*O Come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.*

By Mon Charles Pope, catholiceducation.org/en/