



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

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE-YEAR C

20th 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 21/11/2022-27/11/2022

MASS TIMES:

Monday 21/11	6.30pm
Tuesday 22/11	9.30am & 6.30pm
Wednesday 23/11	7.30am & 9.30am
Thursday 24/11	9.30am
Friday 25/11	9.30am

Rosary 9.00am before 9.30am weekday Mass.



Sunday Masses

Saturday 26/11	5.00pm
Sunday 27/11	8.30am & 10.30am

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

ST BERNARD'S BACCHUS MARSH 21/11/2022-27/11/2022

MASS TIMES:

Monday 21/11	No Mass
Tuesday 22/11	7.30am
Holy Hour	7.30pm
Wednesday 23/11	9.30am
Thursday 24/11	7.30am
Friday 25/11	7.30am
Memorial Mass	6.00pm
Saturday 26/11	9.00am

Sunday Masses

Saturday 26/11	5.00pm
Sunday 27/11	8.30am & 10.30am

Confession available 30 minutes prior to each Mass.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

KOROBET

VIGIL MASS	26/11	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 FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING-Sr Mary Fermio

When I was a novice I read a story of a Mexican priest, who, when facing the firing squad, knelt, stretched out his arms and shouted. "Praised be Jesus Christ the King". When I was professed, I took the title Christ the King as my own, a custom of many congregations, to indicate a special devotion. This feast was inaugurated in 1925, a time in our world's history when the first Great War was over, and peace was illusory.

Values of the Kingdom of Christ are peace, love and justice, but the world seeks power through greed and selfishness and these values lead to the horrors of Gallipoli, Hiroshima, Cambodia and Ukraine. These two values can also result in pain and loss in a family situation. Peace begins where there is generosity, forgiveness and loving concern for others, aspects of the Kingdom Jesus offers us. Dying on the cross, Jesus shows this concern for the thief beside him – someone who showed concern for him.

Jesus said: The Kingdom of God is here. How do I know? I have only to look around to see the goodness in our world, those who generously give their time to help others, share their homes, their wealth and talents, their hopes and dreams. These last months of floods have revealed there are many who are working for the Kingdom, whether they know it or not. Am I one of them?



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: Mary, the communion of Saints and Angels

ELECTION GUIDE The Bishops of Victoria have written to the Catholic community in Victoria to provide an election guide designed to help Catholics consider and navigate key issues of significance, particularly those related to the common good. You are invited to read the guide and to prayerfully discern how your vote can contribute to the common good. The guide can be found at: www.melbournecatholic.org/stateelection2022.

CATHOLIC DEAF APPEAL Last weekend we had a special collection for the Catholic Deaf Appeal. St Anthony's collected \$587.05 and St Bernard's collected \$465.45. Thank you for your generosity.

The Advent and Christmas timetable is now available please take a copy home

CATHOLIC REGIONAL COLLEGE (CRC) MELTON

RELAUNCHING AS ST FRANCIS CATHOLIC COLLEGE

From January 2023, Catholic Regional College Melton will change its name to St Francis Catholic College, after St Francis of Assisi.

A new logo, branding and uniform will be launched at the start of next year for our existing Melton West campus and new Cobblebank campus. Drawing on the rich history and strong foundations established in the past 40 years at CRC Melton, St Francis Catholic College will continue to provide strong academic outcomes and outstanding pastoral care for all students.

For more information about all the changes, please visit: www.crcmelton.com.au/our-story/new-in-2023



ST ANTHONY'S

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

PARISH OFFICE will be closed on Thursday 24th November.

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

SAFEGUARDING

Lists of volunteers and employees holding WWCC current at Nov 1st 2022 and those who have submitted signed Code of Conduct declarations are displayed in our Gathering space. If you have met these requirements, please check that your name appears. Please notify Dolores if there are any errors. A list of parish groups and regular third party users of parish facilities is also displayed. Could any parish groups not on the list, please attend to Risk Assessment documents as soon as possible. Safeguarding issues at the old convent site continue to be a concern. Groups are now gathering late at night. Police have been asked to patrol the area. Sr Mary Sarah has suggested a stronger fence along the old convent property with repairs to gate allowing it to be locked. Any of our farming parishioners with surplus fencing materials who would be able to help fix this issue could contact me. Margaret Love

FINANCE COMMITTEE NOV MEETING REPORT

Expenditure is being kept to a minimum but our operating deficit of \$39757.00 remains a major concern. Thank you to the small number of people who responded to the recent call for commitment to our thanksgiving programme. Thanksgiving receipts were budgeted at \$10,000.00 per month but the actual receipts are \$9,000.00 per month. A Tap and Go machine will soon be installed in the church to assist those who find themselves without cash for collections. Negotiations re sale of parish land are progressing.

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: 26th & 27th 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: Liza Fernandes
 8.30am: Leonia Jessop
 10.30am: Nikshita D'Souza

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm Vigil: Aloysious Dacunha
 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: Godwin & Coleen
 8.30am: Julie & Lillian
 10.30am: Leonia & Annonica

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Anthony D'Cruz, Francis D'Cruz, Joseph Gomez,
 Rosa Gomez, Peter Quinn & Stella Silva

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

MINISTERS OF THE WORD: 26th & 27th November

5.00pm: John Thorne
 8.30am: Margaret Love
 10.30am: Samantha Butler

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

November: John Thorne

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Carmel Andrews, Antonio Battaglia, Arthur Bell, Marie Bridget,
 Guinness Connell, Anthony Giani, Patricia Haire,
 Carmel Moore & Jean Tobin.

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: 26th & 27th November

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: Liza Fernandes
8.30am: Edwina La Rose
10.30am: Judy Van Hoos

CUPPA VOLUNTEERS –26th & 27th November

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

CHURCH FLOWERS

November: 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 : 26th & 27th November

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: 5.00pm Jan & Colm
Sunday: 8.30am Jan Farmelo
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@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: Barry & Rosanna Melder 9743 5063

Group 2: Tune & Epi Kepu 0410 416 445

Group 3: Michael & Monica Kratochvil 0439 837 252

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

How worthy is the Lamb who was slain,
to receive power and divinity,
and wisdom and strength and honour.
To him belong glory and power for ever and ever.

FIRST READING 2 Samuel 5:1-3

All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron. 'Look' they said 'we are your own flesh and blood. In days past when Saul was our king, it was you who led Israel in all their exploits; and the Lord said to you, "You are the man who shall be shepherd of my people Israel, you shall be the leader of Israel."' So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and King David made a pact with them at Hebron in the presence of the Lord, and they anointed David king of Israel.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 121

Commentator: Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

All: Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

I rejoiced when I heard them say:
'Let us go to God's house.'
And now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is built as a city
strongly compact.
It is there that the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord.

For Israel's law it is,
there to praise the Lord's name.
There were set the thrones of judgment
of the house of David.

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS- **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT-YEAR A**

First Reading: Is 2:1-5;
Second Reading: Rom 13:11-14;
Gospel: Mt 24:37-44



SECOND READING Colossians 1:12-20

We give thanks to the Father who has made it possible for you to join the saints and with them to inherit the light. Because that is what he has done: he has taken us out of the power of darkness and created a place for us in the kingdom of the Son that he loves, and in him, we gain our freedom, the forgiveness of our sins.

He is the image of the unseen God
and the first-born of all creation;
for in him were created
all things in heaven and on earth:
everything visible and everything invisible,
Thrones, Dominions, Sovereignities, Powers -
all things were created through him and for him.

Before anything was created, he existed,
and he holds all things in unity.

Now the Church is his body,
he is its head.

As he is the Beginning,
he was first to be born from the dead,
so that he should be first in every way;
because God wanted all perfection
to be found in him

and all things to be reconciled through him and for him,
everything in heaven and everything on earth,
when he made peace
by his death on the cross.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed is he who inherits the kingdom of David our Father;
blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 23:35-43

The people stayed before the cross watching Jesus. As for the leaders, they jeered at him. 'He saved others,' they said 'let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One.' The soldiers mocked him too, and when they approached to offer him vinegar they said, 'If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.' Above him there was an inscription: 'This is the King of the Jews.'

One of the criminals hanging there abused him. 'Are you not the Christ?' he said. 'Save yourself and us as well.' But the other spoke up and rebuked him. 'Have you no fear of God at all?' he said, 'You got the same sentence as he did, but in our case we deserved it: we are paying for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong. Jesus,' he said 'remember me when you come into your kingdom.' 'Indeed, I promise you,' he replied 'today you will be with me in paradise.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord sits as King for ever.

The Lord will bless his people with peace.

St Lawrence of Brindisi VII

On the Immaculate Conception

A short excerpt from St Lawrence's work on Mary Immaculate.

St Lawrence of Brindisi (1559-1619), like his spiritual father St Francis of Assisi, had an ardent devotion to the Immaculate Mother of God. Indeed, he was the first to write on all aspects of theology that concern Our Lady.

The root of humanity, bedchamber of God, and pure water: This is Mary, therefore Immaculate.

Great was the happiness of human nature in Paradise before original sin, so long as man remained in the state of innocence and original justice. Then was human nature like that tree seen by King Nebuchadnezzar in his dreams: tall, with its top touching heaven; wide, with its branches filling the whole world; adorned with the loveliest fronds and flowers and the best of fruits in greatest abundance.

But soon, by virtue of the sentence executed by the Angel, this tree was despoiled of its goods and, with branches and trunk cut off, was reduced to nothing—almost, except for the command that a root with a shoot be preserved safe and intact (Daniel 4:7-12). On account of sin, humanity tumbled from maximum good fortune to maximum misfortune; light was changed into darkness, the bright day into the cloudiest of nights, a full moon went into eclipse.

But from the contagion of that sin, the shoot, that is, Christ, was preserved, as well as the root (Mary) from which that shoot was to rise ... We see in Genesis the root with its shoot preserved; for before a penalty for sin was inflicted on man, it was said to the serpent: I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; she will crush your head (Genesis 3,15).

When a king builds some palace to be a proper and rightful dwelling for himself and his family, he constructs it wholly magnificent, and adorns it royally as befits his majesty. Thus did Solomon build his house (I Kings 7:1-12).

Such a king will especially adorn with the greatest magnificence and riches his own

chamber, where the throne of his majesty is to be placed. So, too, does God build His holy Church, the living Temple of God: Behold, the tabernacle of God with men (Revelation 21,3); You are the temple of God (II Corinthians 6,16), a temple made of living stones, the whole constructed with divine magnificence, as the temple of Solomon.

But above all, God adorned His own chamber, which is the most holy Virgin. He did so just as did Solomon adorn the holy of holies, the dwelling place of God (I Kings 6:19-36).

"You are all fair, my love, and the stain is not in you" (Song of Solomon 4:7). The Hebrew reads: "the stain not in you"—without the verb "is". Similarly, the verb "is" does not appear in Deuteronomy 32:4 when Moses said of God: "A faithful God and without any iniquity."

David said: "Because You are a God that wills not iniquity" (Psalms 5:5); yet the Hebrew for that reads: "not a God willing iniquity You". The latter means: "You never were, are not, nor will be willing iniquity; there never was, is not, nor will be iniquity in God". So too, the statement "the stain not in you" means that "the stain never was, is not, nor will be in you". Thus must be understood (not limited to the present tense only) the statement "the stain not in you".

"One only is my dove, one my perfect one" (Song 6:7). The Hebrew reads: "my immaculate one". There are three words in Hebrew very similar: *tham*, *thamah*, and *thamim*, of which the first means "simple", the second "immaculate", and the last "perfect".

The Hebrew text here, however, uses the second. For this reason, therefore, the all-holy Virgin is unique above all queens ... and young maidens because she is immaculate, like the purest dove, like the sun itself, which was made full of light. Hence it is written: "you all fair, my love; and the stain not in you". "Not in you"; this denotes the uniquely singular grace of Mary.

The soul of the Virgin Mother of God was in Her conception like the bush with Moses, entirely intact in the midst of the flames, not consumed, unharmed (Exodus 3:2).