



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

30th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME-YEAR C

23rd October 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 9.00-1.00pm
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: 0477 155 210
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

MASS AND DEVOTIONS

ST ANTHONY'S MELTON SOUTH 24/10/2022-30/10/2022

MASS TIMES:

Monday 24/10	6.30pm
Tuesday 25/10	9.30am & 6.30pm
Wednesday 26/10	7.30am & 9.30am
Thursday 27/10	9.30am
Friday 28/10	7.30am & 9.30am

Rosary 9.00am before 9.30am weekday Mass.



Sunday Masses

Saturday 29/10	5.00pm
Sunday 30/10	8.30am & 10.30am

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

ST BERNARD'S BACCHUS MARSH 24/10/2022-30/10/2022

MASS TIMES:

Monday 24/10	No Mass
Tuesday 25/10	7.30am
Holy Hour	7.30pm
Wednesday 26/10	9.30am
Thursday 27/10	7.30am
Friday 28/10	9.30am
Saturday 29/10	9.00am

Sunday Mass

Saturday 29/10	5.00pm
Sunday 30/10	8.30am & 10.30am

Confession available 30 minutes prior to each Mass.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

KOROBET

VIGIL MASS	29/10	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 30th SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME– Sr Mary Fermio

During these devastating floods, hundreds of precious gifts have been destroyed, lost, or swept away. Yet the memory of the gift is still precious as an expression of the love of the giver and we can only respond with gratitude.

God has given us a precious gift, a gift no flood can take away from us, the gift of salvation through Jesus. It is a free gift -no conditions attached - offered out of love. We have not earned it or deserved it. In today's gospel, the tax collector, who knows he does not deserve God's love, prays for mercy. Whereas the Pharisee is relying on his own efforts, has no need of God, thinking that by doing good he is righteous.

All the Masses, Rosaries, Novenas we might say won't achieve salvation for us. So why pray? We pray and act generously, living out our thank you, our gratitude, to God who has given us the most precious gift of all gifts Jesus the Son, for our salvation, because God loves us and wishes to share that love with us.

Each Mass is an expression of our thanksgiving, our gratitude.



PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

FAITH FORMATION

For information call our Catechist Naim Chdid to 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: the Paschal Mystery**-What Jesus did for us through his life, death and resurrection was the greatest act of love in history.

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY-CATHOLIC MISSION CHURCH APPEAL-SPECIAL COLLECTION

This weekend we will have a special collection for the Catholic Mission. Catholic Mission operates in over 160 countries to support initiatives in 1,100 dioceses. Your support of this mission will help continue vital Church-run mission programs around the world. Please give generously. Donation envelopes are also available in the Church foyer or go online [Build brighter futures for families in Emdibir \(catholicmission.org.au\)](http://Build.brighter.futures.for.families.in.Emdibir.catholicmission.org.au)

ALL SOUL'S DAY—Wednesday 2nd November 2022

Extra Masses will be held on All Soul's Day at **St Anthony's** 7.30am, 9.30am & 6.30pm and **St Bernard's** 9.30am & 7.30pm.

During the month of November, the Church calls us to pray for all our departed members. If you wish Mass to be offered for your loved ones, please fill in the envelopes in the foyer and then place them in the box provided. Then please add your loved one's name to the clipboard provided.

Their names will then be included in a Memorial book which will be processed in and placed on the Altar at all the weekend Masses in November.

MEMORIAL MASS

A Memorial Mass will be held in November at both St Anthony's and St Bernard's Parishes. Date and time to be confirmed.

ST ANTHONY'S

OUR LADY OF FATIMA STATUE-ROSTER

The roster for hosting our Lady of Fatima statue will be compiled in the 1st week of December. Any **NEW** family who wishes to go on the roster, must put their details on the clipboard in the Church foyer. Thank you.

PRIME TIMERS

Fun and games day at the Leisure Centre, Lifestyle Village Tuesday 25th October from 11.30am. BYO lunch, tea and coffee provided. Enquiries contact Ineke 0400 120 401 or ineke49@yahoo.com Thanks.

THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES

Thanksgiving envelopes are available for collection in the Church foyer.

TEAM GROUP LEADERS MORNING TEA

Fr Fabian and the Parish Pastoral Council would like to invite Team Group Leaders including spouses, to attend a Morning Tea on

Sunday the 13th November, after the 10.30 Mass, in appreciation for your Ministry. We look very much forward to sharing this time with you all, a clip board is placed in the Church foyer for catering purposes.



ST ANTHONY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL PLAYGROUP

St Anthony's Primary School are seeking expressions of interest to join a Friday morning playgroup. Limited spaces available, to express your interest in attending, please call 8099 7800.

BINGO

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

ST BERNARD'S

PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office will be closed Tuesday 25th October.

FUNDRAISING GROUP St Bernard's parish is forming a Fundraising Group to help raise funds for church expenses and also offer social opportunities to bring the community together. We are looking for enthusiastic people to join the team in bringing fresh ideas and help with coordinating the events. Please contact Natalia on 0409 445 552 if you are interested.

FUND-RAISER CAKE STALL AND BBQ- THIS SUNDAY

Raising funds for Stage 2 Church Lighting. The Cake stall will run after the 8.30am Mass, and BBQ and Cake stall after the 10.30am Mass. Please bring a cake, slice or biscuits - and then buy one! Abiding by council regulations, please list all ingredients on your sweets. Ingredients requiring refrigeration such as cream or custard are disallowed. Please drop off sweets in church foyer before any of the Masses this weekend.

Enquiries or to volunteer help, please call Natalia 0409 445 552.

BACCHUS MARSH ST VINCENT de PAUL is seeking new members to join our Conference. Have you thought about giving back? We need people who want to make a difference. It only takes a small amount of time to change someone's life Take action and become part of the St Vincent de Paul team who support our community with our home visitation program. The work of our Conference is not limited to our home visitation program. The work of a member can include – Spiritual Advisor, Mini Vinnies Liaison, Member Data Entry, Social Justice Representative and School Camps Liaison. Please join us for a 'cuppa' after **8.30am or 10.30am Mass on Sunday October 30** to hear more about the works of our Conference from our members. For further information you can also contact Conference President Margot Short on 0419 507 438 or email bmarsh.conf.pres@svdp-vic.org.au

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: 29th & 30th October

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: Leonia Jessop
10.30am: Romeo Sacris

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 & Godwin
8.30am: Julie & Lillian
10.30am: Annonica & Leonia

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

We pray for the recently deceased:

Robert Mathieson

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

Peter Biechun, Paul & Hazel Harding & Louise Pereira

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: Maureen Zahra
8.30am: Gerard O'Shea
10.30am: Samantha Butler

MINISTERS OF THE WORD: 29th & 30th October

5.00pm: John Thorne
8.30am: Nathan Costin
10.30am: Dudley Rodrigues

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

October: Greta & Grace Kratochvil

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Kevin Bridges ,Mary Doran, Teresa Laszcz, Veronica McGregor, Ingrid Middlemast, Joan Pickin, Carmela Provenzano, John Schifferle & James Wilkie.

Please pray for the Sick:

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

SERVICE / COMMUNITY

ALL VOLUNTEERS IN OUR PARISH MUST HAVE A CURRENT VALID WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK AND A CODE OF CONDUCT FORM SIGNED.

ST ANTHONY'S

WEEKEND VOLUNTEERS: 29th & 30th October

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: To be confirmed
8.30am: Edwina La Rose
10.30am: Judy Van Hoos

CUPPA VOLUNTEERS –22nd & 23rd October

5.00pm Vigil: Joe Perera & Gavin & Allison Pereira
8.30am: Geoff & Debra Sutton
10.30am: Dwi Rochfort

CHURCH FLOWERS

October: Regina & Richella Tuala



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 : 29th & 30th October

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: 5.00pm Jan Farmelo
Sunday: 8.30am Jan & Colm
10.30am Natalia Klenkowski

CHURCH FLOWERS

October: Beatrice Younger



PRESBYTERY & CHURCH GROUNDS-MOWING

October: 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@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
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: Ben & Joan Antony	9743 8154
Group 2: Angelo & Rita Harinos	9746 6752
Group 3: Philip & Cristina Anyayahan	0403 171 918

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

Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice;
turn to the Lord and his strength;
constantly seek his face.

FIRST READING Sirach 35:12-14, 16-19

The Lord is a judge
who is no respecter of personages.
He shows no respect of personages to the detriment of a
poor man,
he listens to the plea of the injured party.
He does not ignore the orphan's supplication,
nor the widow's as she pours out her story.
The man who with his whole heart serves God will be
accepted,
his petitions will carry to the clouds.
The humble man's prayer pierces the clouds,
until it arrives he is inconsolable,
nor will he desist until the Most High takes notice of him,
acquits the virtuous and delivers judgement.
And the Lord will not be slow,
nor will he be dilatory on their behalf.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 32

Commentator: The Lord hears the cry of the poor.

All: The Lord hears the cry of the poor.

I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad.

The Lord turns his face against the wicked
to destroy their remembrance from the earth.
The just call and the Lord hears
and rescues them in all their distress.

The Lord is close to the broken-hearted;
those whose spirit is crushed he will save.
The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants.
Those who hide in him shall not be condemned.

The Lord hears the cry of the poor.

SECOND READING 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

My life is already being poured away as a libation, and the
time has come for me to be gone. I have fought the good
fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have
kept the faith; all there is to come now is the crown of
righteousness reserved for me, which the Lord, the
righteous judge, will give to me on that Day; and not only
to me but to all those who have longed for his Appearing.
The first time I had to present my defence, there was not a
single witness to support me. Every one of them deserted
me - may they not be held accountable for it. But the Lord
stood by me and gave me power, so that through me the
whole message might be proclaimed for all the pagans to
hear; and so I was rescued from the lion's mouth.
The Lord will rescue me from all evil attempts on me, and
bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory
for ever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself;
and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted
to us.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 18:9-14

Jesus spoke the following parable to some people who
prided themselves on being virtuous and despised
everyone else. 'Two men went up to the Temple to pray,
one a Pharisee, the other a tax collector. The Pharisee
stood there and said this prayer to himself, "I thank you,
God, that I am not grasping, unjust, adulterous like the
rest of mankind, and particularly that I am not like this tax
collector here. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes on all I get."
The tax collector stood some distance away, not daring
even to raise his eyes to heaven; but he beat his breast
and said, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner." This man, I
tell you, went home again at rights with God; the other did
not. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but
the man who humbles himself will be exalted.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

We will ring out our joy at your saving help
and exult in the name of our God.

NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS-

31st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Wis 11:22-12:2;
Second Reading: 2 Thess 1:11-2:2;
Gospel: Lk 19:1-10



St Lawrence of Brindisi V

The 'Woman Clothed with the Sun' according to St Lawrence (part 2)

In speaking of Mary's glory, Lawrence presents this startling yet heart-warming comparison.

"We often read that God, Himself appeared to the holy patriarchs and prophets acceptable to God, to manifest His glory to them. But never did God appear in a glory and majesty such as this. To Abraham He appeared in heaven in the midst of the stars. To Jacob He appeared with ministering angels on the summit of a heavenly ladder. To Moses He appeared in a burning bush, To Isaiah He appeared upon His lofty and exalted throne, while Seraphim sang the thrice-holy song. To Jeremiah He appeared with a watchful rod; to Ezekiel in a triumphant chariot of glory; to Daniel in the majesty of a judge. But nowhere do we read that He appeared with a garment, with a throne, with a crown such as this.

"Christ showed His glory to His chosen Apostles on the holy mountain when He was *transfigured before them. And His face shone as the sun and His garments became white as snow*. Still, He was not exalted above the moon. In other passages, as in the Book of Revelation, we often read that Christ appeared to John in glory, His face shining like the sun. At one time He appeared to John in the midst of seven golden lampstands and stars; at another time crowned with a rainbow; at still another time surrounded with many crowns. And yet never did He appear with a glory such as this.

"What then is this? Is the glory of the Virgin greater in heaven than the glory of Christ? Than the glory of God? By no means. It is customary, at marriages and public solemnities in the courts of princes and kings of this world, that the queen, because of her beauty and sex, enters glittering with gold and adorned with such splendid and costly garments, that she appears more glorious than even the king or prince, the king's son. So Mary appeared in heaven surrounded with a glory greater than that with which even God or Christ has ever appeared.

"No difficulty lurks here. Though Christ shone on earth with the great glory of His signs and miracles, He wished His Apostles, and especially Peter, His Vicar and the Prince of the Apostles, to shine with an even greater glory by their miracles. *They who believe in me, the works that I do they also shall do, and greater than these shall they do*. For this same reason He wished His Mother to appear with a glory more wonderful than His own: *A great sign appeared in heaven.*"

Mary appearing with the lights of the universe is a great sign indeed.

"How noble did Mary appear in the heaven of the Divine Plan! *A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun*. No more brilliant or splendid figure can be created by the mind of mortal man. Mary was not merely predestined for grace and glory with the holy angels and the elect of God and chosen for the greatest measure of grace and glory after Christ. She was also selected to fill the role of Mother of God, for she indeed is the Godbearer, the truly natural Mother of the Only-Begotten Son of God. She was the predestined Mother of Christ, having been predestined before all creatures, together with Christ, the firstborn of every creature.

"For Christ had been predestined to be the Son of Mary, just as Mary had been predestined to be the Mother of Christ. The light of the sun reflects the dignity of motherhood, which God had ordained for her. With a radiance surpassing that of the moon, her position above the moon signifies the excellence of her grace. The crown of stars bespeaks the dignity of her special glory. For to these three things had Mary been predestined: motherhood, grace, and glory. What a truly noble act of predestination, a selection so unique and ineffable that words cannot express it aptly!"

Let us now envisage with this Doctor of the Church the mystical meaning permeating the three gems of the universe with which the Mother of God is adorned.

"Clothed with the sun": Saint Lawrence attaches a loving meaning to this spectacle.

"Mary was seen clothed with the sun that we may know that she is like the sun which, although one, illumines and warms each man as if it had been created by God for him alone, for *there is no one that can hide himself from his heat*. So the Virgin Mother of God is both the mother of all men and the mother of each individual man. To all she is a common mother; to each his own personal mother.

As the one sun can be seen in its entirety by each and every man (for every man at the same time sees a complete outline of the sun), so every one of the faithful, who from his heart devotes himself entirely to the Virgin, may enjoy her complete love as if he were her only son. For this reason, Christ spoke to Mary in the singular when He said: *Woman, behold thy son.*"

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