



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

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT-YEAR A

27th 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-9.00-4.00pm Wed 9.00-5.30pm
Thu/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

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

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 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 28/11/2022-4/12/2022

MASS TIMES:

Monday 28/11	6.30pm
Tuesday 29/11	9.30am & 6.30pm
Wednesday 30/11	7.30am & 9.30am
Thursday 1/12	9.30am
Friday 2/12	9.30am
First Friday Devotion	7.30pm & Midnight
First Saturday Devotion 3/12	8.30am

Rosary 9.00am before 9.30am weekday Mass.



Sunday Masses

Saturday 3/12	5.00pm
Sunday 4/12	8.30am & 10.30am

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

ST BERNARD'S BACCHUS MARSH 28/11/2022-4/12/2022

MASS TIMES:

Monday 28/11	No Mass
Tuesday 29/11	7.30am
Holy Hour	7.30pm
Wednesday 30/11	9.30am
Thursday 1/12	7.30am
Friday 2/12	7.30am
Saturday 3/12	9.00am

Sunday Masses

Saturday 3/12	5.00pm
Sunday 4/12	8.30am & 10.30am

Confession available 30 minutes prior to each Mass.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

KOROBET

VIGIL MASS	3/12	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.

RELECTION 1ST SUNDAY ADVENT YEAR A- Sr Mary Fermio

Last week I read an old story on Sacred Space Prayer. The world had ended. All the faithful had entered Heaven and Peter was about to close the gates, when he noticed Jesus outside. "What are you doing outside, Master", Peter asked. "I am waiting for Judas" Jesus replied.

Advent is a time of waiting, and we are all waiting for someone or something. The Jewish people's whole history is one of waiting for the Messiah, but they had decided on what the Messiah would be like – definitely not someone like Jesus. They did not understand or recognise the signs from the Torah and were not alert and ready.

Our Gospel today reminds us to be ready and alert for when Jesus comes to us in today's world. He will not come again as a babe, so how will he come and how will we recognise him. Jesus told us how to recognise him when he said: "Whatever you do to the least of these, you do to me!" Recent sculptures of the **Homeless Jesus and the Begging Jesus** remind us that we need to look beyond the externals to see Jesus. If I was to design a sculpture of Jesus in today's world, what would I make?

Let us be alert to recognise Jesus in those we meet each day.



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: The four Last Things-What happens to the human soul after bodily death?

Faith Formation talks coming up:

6th December -Dr Gerard O'Shea-The Catholic Moral Vision

13th December- Dr Gerard O'Shea- The Moral Action

20th December- Sr Mary Ruth- Moral Law

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

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

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

MONDAY EVENING ADVENT REFLECTION

Next session **Monday 28th November** St. Anthony's in the MacKillop room from 7.00pm to 8.30pm.

We will reflect and acquire more understanding on the Advent Sunday readings.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT-YEAR A - First Reading: Is 11:1-10 Second Reading: Rom 15:4-9 Gospel Mt 3:1-12

WEDNESDAY EVENING ADVENT TALKS

The Advent Talks will begin on Wednesday 30th November for four consecutive Wednesdays at St Anthony's in the MacKillop room from 6.00pm-7.15pm.

Wednesday 30th November- The wave of the "last Adam" (1 Cor 15:45)



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

ST ANTHONY'S

SRI LANKAN FOOD STALL-THIS WEEKEND

The Sri Lanka community will be holding their food stall 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

If you are spending Christmas alone this year we would like to invite you to join us in the Padua Hall for lunch on Christmas day.

Time: 12.00 noon- 4.30pm.

For more information contact

Elizabeth 0422 882 562



CUPPA WEEKEND

It's cuppa weekend, please stay after Mass for a cuppa and a chat with your fellow parishioners.

BINGO

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

ST BERNARD'S

FUNDRAISING CHRISTMAS SOCIAL EVENT AND ADVENT PAGEANT.

Keep the date free! **DECEMBER 18TH.**

We are holding Cake Stalls after every Mass over the weekend of **17th/18th December.**

Please bring a cake or cookies and then buy one! Please list ingredients on what you have baked. No cream, raw egg or custard allowed.

There will be a beautiful Advent Pageant held in the hall after the 10.30am Mass with tea and coffee served, followed by the raffling of prizes, Fundraising BBQ, and then fun games and races for the children - and a visit from Santa! Please come and enjoy the Christmas spirit with our friendly community! (Cash preferred but Eftpos available.)

PARISH DIRECTORY - UPDATE

If there are any Parish Groups who currently are not in our Parish Directory and wish to be included, or the details of any existing ones which need to be updated, please contact the parish office.

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: 3rd & 4th December

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: Mercy Seufatu
10.30am: Annonica Mavaega

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm Vigil: Gavin Pereira
8.30am: Geoff Sutton
10.30am: George Bonello

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

MASS COORDINATORS

5.00pm: Annonica & Godwin
8.30am: Godwin & Lillian
10.30am: Leonia & Lillian

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Tom Dagge, Martin Giordmaina, Lorenz Sapulovic & Damina Sciberras

Please pray for the Sick:

Hazel Michael, Nickolia & Klara Butkovic, Maria Caruana, Mary Caruana, Christabelle, Lydia De Vega, Melanie Fue, Bruce Hynes, Kotinis Cornelia Kani, Judy Layton, Peter Manicaro, Reg Marslen, Lisa Melia, Damien Michael, Tony Michael, Veronica Michael, Nickol, 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: John Thorne
8.30am: Margaret Love
10.30am: Samantha Butler

MINISTERS OF THE WORD: 3rd & 4th December

5.00pm: Sonia Smith
8.30am: Gerard O'Shea
10.30am: Charlotte Lindorff

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

December: Jan Carragher

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Andrew Connell, William Delahey, Ray Marshall, Jean McGregor, Peter Mullins, Con Rigby, Roma Webster & Kevin Unthank.

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: 3rd & 4th December

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: Lorraine Tellis
8.30am: Pat Chiles
10.30am: Geetha Vincent

CUPPA VOLUNTEERS –THIS WEEKEND

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

CHURCH FLOWERS

December: Gloria



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 : 3rd & 4th December

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: 5.00pm Jackie Tabone
Sunday: 8.30am Sean Gianni
10.30am Natalia Klenkowski

CHURCH FLOWERS

December: Melinda Martin -Blooms



PRESBYTERY & CHURCH GROUNDS-MOWING

December: Colm Carragher & Ron Geurts

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 \$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

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.
Nor let my enemies exult over me;
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

FIRST READING Isaiah 2:1-5

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In the days to come
the mountain of the Temple of the Lord
shall tower above the mountains
and be lifted higher than the hills.
All the nations will stream to it,
peoples without number will come to it; and they will say:
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the Temple of the God of Jacob
that he may teach us his ways
so that we may walk in his paths;
since the Law will go out from Zion,
and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.'
He will wield authority over the nations
and adjudicate between many peoples;
these will hammer their swords into ploughshares,
their spears into sickles.
Nation will not lift sword against nation,
there will be no more training for war
O House of Jacob, come,
let us walk in the light of the Lord.

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.

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 judgement
of the house of David.

For the peace of Jerusalem pray:
'Peace be to your homes!
May peace reign in your walls,
in your palaces, peace!'

For love of my brethren and friends
I say: 'Peace upon you!'
For love of the house of the Lord
I will ask for your good.

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

SECOND READING Romans 13:11-14

You know 'the time' has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon - let us give up all the things we prefer to do under cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 24:37-44

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.

'So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS-

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT-YEAR A

First Reading: Is 11:1-10;

Second Reading: Rom 15:4-9;

Gospel: Mt 3:1-12



Advent 2022 Week I

First Sunday of Advent

For Catholics, the new Liturgical Year begins with the first Sunday of Advent. In this new Liturgical Year, the Church not only wishes to indicate the beginning of a period, but the beginning of a renewed commitment to the faith by all those who follow Christ, the Lord.

This time of prayer and path of penance that is so powerful, rich and intense, endeavours to give us a renewed impetus to truly welcome the message of the One who was incarnated for us.

In fact, the entire Liturgy of the Advent season, will spur us to an awakening in our Christian life and will put us in a “vigilant” disposition, to wait for Our Lord Jesus, who is coming.

As Pope Benedict XVI wrote in December 2006: “Awaken! Remember that God comes! Not yesterday, not tomorrow, but today, now! The one true God, ‘the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob’, is not a God who is there in Heaven, unconcerned with us and our history, but he is the-God-who-comes.”

The Season of Advent is therefore a season of vigilant waiting, that prepares us to welcome the mystery of the Word Incarnate, who will give the “Light” to the womb of the Virgin Mary, but essentially this time prepares us not only to welcome this great event but to incarnate it in our lives.

We could say that the true light enters the world through the immaculate womb of Mary but it does not stay there. On the contrary, this light flows out into our dark, obscure, sinful lives to illuminate them, so that we can become the light that illuminates the world.

For this reason, let us live this time of waiting not only to celebrate a historical memory but to repeat this memory in our lives and in the service of others. To wait for the Lord who comes, means to wait and to watch so that the Word of Love enters inside us and focuses us every day of our lives.

As Saint John Henry Newman reminds us in a homily for the Advent Season: “Advent is a time of waiting, it is a time of joy because the

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coming of Christ is not only a gift of grace and salvation but it is also a time of commitment because it motivates us to live the present as a time of responsibility and vigilance.

“This ‘vigilance’ means the necessity, the urgency of an industrious, living ‘wait’. To make all this happen, then we need to wake up, as we are warned by the Apostle to the Gentiles, in today’s reading to the Romans: ‘Besides this you know what hour it is, how it is full time now for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed’ (Romans 13:11).

We must start our journey to ascend to the mountain of the Lord, to be illuminated by His Words of peace and to allow Him to indicate the path to tread (cf. Isaiah 2:1-5).

Moreover, we must change our conduct, abandoning the works of darkness and put on the “armour of light” and so seek only to do God’s work and to abandon the deeds of the flesh (cf. Romans 13:12-14).

Jesus, through the story in the parable, outlines the Christian life style that must not be distracted and indifferent but must be vigilant and recognise even the smallest sign of the Lord’s coming because we don’t know the hour in which He will arrive (cf. Matthew 24:39-44):

“Jesus said to his disciples: ‘As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. In those days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day that Noah entered the ark. They did not know until the flood came and carried them all away. So will it be also at the coming of the Son of Man. Two men will be out in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken, and one will be left. Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come.

“‘Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour of night when the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and not let his house be broken into. So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.’”