



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

4th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME-YEAR A

29th January 2023

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Fabian Smith
ASSISTANT PRIESTS: Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint and Fr Samuel Kapani

ST ANTHONY'S PARISH

Parish Secretary: Lesley Morffew

Admin Assistant: Judy Johnson

Parish Office Hours: Mon 9.00am-12.00noon

Tue 9.00-4.00pm Wed 9.00-5.30pm

Thu/Fri 9.00-4.00pm

Email: parishsecretary83@gmail.com

Website: www.stanthonyofpadua.com.au

St Anthony's School **Principal:** Damien Schuster

Wilson Road, Melton South 3338

Phone: 8099 7800

Email: principal@sameltonsth.catholic.edu.au

Website: www.sameltonsth.catholic.edu.au

St Lawrence of Brindisi School **Principal:** Bill Hill

31 Waterway Boulevard, Weir Views, 3338

Phone: 8099 6699

Email: principal@slweirviews.catholic.edu.au

Website: www.slweirviews.catholic.edu.au

ST BERNARD'S PARISH

Parish Secretary: Dolores Turcsan

Admin Assistant: Judy Johnson

Sacramental Coordinator/ Bookkeeper: Naim Chdid

Parish Office Hours:

Tue 9.00am-11.30am Wed & Thu 9.00am-1.00pm

Email: bacchusmarsh@cam.org.au

Website: www.stbernardsbacchusmarsh.com.au

Facebook link:

<https://www.facebook.com/stbernardsbacchusmarsh>

St Bernard's School **Principal:** Sr Mary Sarah Galbraith

19a Gisborne Rd, Bacchus Marsh VIC 3340

Phone: (03) 5366 5800

Email: principal@sbbacchusmarsh.catholic.edu.au

Website: www.sbbacchusmarsh.catholic.edu.au

St Francis Catholic College- Melton (Years 7-12)

Principal: Marlene Jorgensen **Phone:** 8099 6000

109-141 Bulmans Rd, West Melton, 3337 **Website:** www.crcmelton.com.au

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

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL COUNCIL

Naim Chid	0437 004 790
Lillian Christian - Vice Chair	0400 441 257
Stephen Fernandes	0439 743 533
Amy Honrade	0457 042 695
Natalie Howard - Chair	0492 947 201
Rose Ma'ae	0460 672 571

EX-OFFICIO: Fr Fabian Smith PP, Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint,
Fr Samuel Kapani, Damien Schuster and Bill Hill
Council Secretary: Judy Johnson

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL COUNCIL

Shane Cook -School Advisory Board	0419 999 052
Peter Farren	0418 594 501
Peter Kennedy - Secretary	0407 778 119
Moir Ross	0400 675 056
Aaron Russell - Chair	0401 927 502

EX-OFFICIO:

Fr Fabian Smith PP, Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint and Fr Samuel Kapani
Sr Mary Sarah Galbraith

SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Coordinator/Officer: Godwin Barton (0425 734 449) **Officers:** St Anthony's - Lorraine Tellis 0437 658 423 & Geetha Vincent 0478 112 996
St Bernard's - Margaret Love (0437 247 779) Evana Miesen & Ron Geurts

Items for the newsletter must be submitted by Tuesday 6.00pm. Please email judyparishnews@gmail.com or call 0414 007 009

Judy Johnson's office hours: Mon-Wed 9am-1pm

MASS AND DEVOTIONS

ST ANTHONY'S MELTON SOUTH 30/1/2023-5/2/2023

MASS TIMES:

Monday 30/1	6.30pm
Tuesday 31/1	6.30pm
Wednesday 1/2	7.30am & 9.30am
Thursday 2/2	9.30am
Friday 3/2	9.30am
First Friday Devotion	7.30pm & Midnight
First Saturday Devotion	8.30am

Rosary at 9.00am before 9.30am morning masses

Sunday Masses

Saturday 4/2	5.00pm
Sunday 5/2	8.30am & 10.30am

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

ST BERNARD'S BACCHUS MARSH 30/1/2023-5/2/2023

MASS TIMES:

Monday 30/1	No Mass
Tuesday 31/1 (No Holy Hour)	9.30am
Wednesday 1/2	9.30am
Thursday 2/2	7.30am
Friday 3/2	9.30am
Saturday 4/2	9.00am

Sunday Masses

Saturday 4/2	5.00pm
Sunday 5/2	8.30am & 10.30am

(Rosary in the Chapel 10.00am on Sundays)

Confession available 30 minutes prior to each Mass.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

KOROBET

MASS TIMES

VIGIL	4/2	6.30pm
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PARISHIONER'S FIRST COLLECTION/SECOND COLLECTION

Parishioners who normally give cash each weekend for the collections,
if they wish to donate, are now able to go to the link below and make their payments online.

The link to the St Anthony's Parish is: <https://bit.ly/CDFpayMeltonSouth>

The link to the St Bernard's Parish is: <https://bit.ly/CDFpayBacchusMarsh>

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

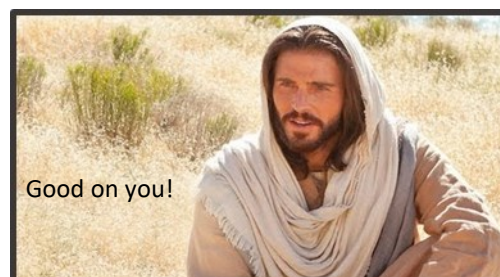
REFLECTION 5th SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME-Sr Mary Fermio

We all like to hear someone say to us "Good on you", as it can give us a lift of spirits, knowing we have achieved something good.

The Greek translation for BLESSED has this same sense. So why would Jesus say "Good on You" for being poor, bereaved, hungry etc. Jesus is offering us a change of perspective, of what the world would be like if God's reign existed. The Sermon on the Mount sets out the values and way of life for Christians. They are the new Commandments for the Kingdom of God, for following Jesus.

The values of generosity, compassion, hospitality are contrary to the values promoted today in our world of greed and economic society, where the lives of others seem to have little value.

So "Good on You" if you care for others, weep with them, share what you have, struggle to remain faithful, are gentle and merciful, are abused or misunderstood. You belong to the Kingdom!



PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

FAITH FORMATION Sessions begin at 7.00pm every Tuesday at St Anthony's Church of Padua, 67-75 Exford Road, Melton South (Age 16+) Faith Formation topic: Catholic Social Teaching.

MASS TIME TABLE

Parishioners please check page 2 of the newsletter, some Mass times for the weekday masses have been updated. We will resume our normal weekly mass timetable from 6th February 2023. Thank you.

REJOICE CHRIST LOVES YOU-CATECHESIS FOR ADULTS

Come and listen. Every Monday and Wednesday 8.00pm-9.00pm beginning Monday 6th February. St Anthony's Church-MacKillop Room. Please see postcards in the foyer for more detail.

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

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

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

Why Catechism?

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

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

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

Term Two Sacramental Classes—dates to be advised

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

Contact Sacramental Coordinator: Naim Chdid Email: enrol4sacraments@gmail.com or call the Parish Offices for further information.

ST ANTHONY'S

WANTED - QUALIFIED ELECTRICIAN FOR OUR PARISH

If you are a qualified electrician with experience, in the C-BUS system, we need you.

Please contact the Parish Office on 9747 9692.

FLOWER ROSTER

We would like more volunteers to help with the Church flowers, if you would like to be added to the roster please contact

Lesley -Parish Office 9747 9692

PRIME TIMERS

Our first meeting for 2023 will be Tuesday 31st January at the Leisure Centre, Lifestyle Village, Melton. Start 11.30am.

We will discuss what plans and activities we hope to enjoy the coming year. If you have any ideas bring them along.

BYO lunch and tea/coffee provided.

Enquiries contact Ineke 0400 120 401 or ineke49@yahoo.com.

BINGO

Bingo is held every Tuesday night at 7pm in the Padua Hall, St Anthony's Parish. Complimentary tea and coffee available. Canteen services 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

ST. BERNARD'S SOCIAL AND FUNDRAISING TEAM

A big THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to and attended our two Fundraisers last year. Apart from having a successful, beautiful, and fun day for the Christmas Event, we raised \$1,067.53. Together with the previous Cake Stall that raised \$510.00, we have raised a total of \$1,577.53. Awesome effort! Looking forward to seeing you all at the exciting line up of events coming in 2023. Watch this space!

With thanks, St. Bernard's Social and Fundraising Team.

SAFETY ISSUE

Our St Bernard's church pews are out of alignment. This has created tripping hazards because of exposed power points. It would be appreciated if a few folk could help re-align the seats after 8.30am Mass next Sunday morning, please.

Margaret Love

SOUL FOOD

The figures are in for 2022, Soul Food Program Inc. distributed 6100 meals to the most vulnerable members of our local Community. (2021 was 4,200 meals). This represents a substantial increase in numbers of meals. To assist with our funding into 2023, Soul Food Program Inc. is holding a fundraiser at The Plough in Myrniong on Thursday 9th March 2023, at 12 noon. This will be a 3 course meal, with an Elvis Tribute show included. There will be raffles, and door prizes. Tickets are available through the Plough website, <https://theplough.com.au/> under events., or ph.: 5368 7173, or from Jenny 0408 104 155.

*Glorious God, loving Father, precious Saviour,
life-giving Holy Spirit: Though words fail in
describing your excellence, receive my poor praise as
the song of a heart wholly indebted to you.*

Source: A Year With The Saints-Paul Thigpen

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: 4th & 5th February

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: Marian Muller

8.30am: Amy Honrade

10.30am: Romeo Sacris

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Gavin Pereira

8.30am: Ron Howard

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 & Coleen

8.30am: Leonia & Lillian

10.30am: Annonica & Lillian

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Mary Winifred Cochrane, Martha Decotter, Ellen Dodemaide, Eunice McRoberts, Rosa Portelli, Tulo Tuala & Andrew Waleryszek

Please pray for the Sick:

Hazel Michael, Nickolia & Klara Butkovic, Maria Caruana, Mary Caruana, Christabelle, Lydia De Vega, Melanie Fue, Bruce Hynes, Kotinis Cornelia Kani, Judy Layton, Peter Manicaro, Reg Marslen, Lisa Melia, Damien Michael, Tony Michael, Veronica Michael, Nickol, Ian Novak, Kathleen Novak, Caleb O'Brien, John Osborne, Vaivasa Ruth Perez, Catherine Roberts, Peter Roberts, Pat Roberts, Samantha Smith, Charlie Spiteri, Janko Stojanovic, Christina Tuigamala, Uatoa Tuigamala, Clint Abela Wadge, Wai Walsh and all those who have requested our prayers.

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

PRAYER FOR THE SICK

Father we lift up all those who are facing illness. We ask that You bring healing, comfort and peace to their bodies. Calm their fears and let them experience the healing power of your love. Amen



ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

MINISTERS OF THE WORD : THIS WEEKEND

5.00pm: Vikki Benson

8.30am: Margaret Love

10.30am: Charlotte Lindorff

MINISTERS OF THE WORD: 4th & 5th February

5.00pm: Sonia Smith

8.30am: Gerard O'Shea

10.30am: Dudley Rodrigues

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

February: Sr Mary Fermio

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Olive Andrews, Rodney Arnold, Thelma Crowley, Gary Dodd, Richard Evans, Denis Lennox, Jane Reilly, Betty Tregurtha & Martin Vrbec.

Please pray for the Sick:

Patricia Allison, Noah Barlow, Chaiel Balcombe, Michael Barrett, Peter Bennett, Steven Braszel, Tina Bower, Fred Capuano, Gary Ching, Chris, Josephine Cilia, Robyn Cola, Ted Cooling, Lindsay & Kathleen Dally, Judy Delahey, Theresa Dockter, Allison Evans, Helen Evans, George Farrell, John Fermio, 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, 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: 4th & 5th February

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: Lorraine Tellis
8.30am: Edwina La Rose
10.30am: Judy Van Hoos

CUPPA VOLUNTEERS

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

CHURCH FLOWERS

February: Tuala Family



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 : 4th & 5th February

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

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

CHURCH FLOWERS

February: Deborah Hosking



PRESBYTERY & CHURCH GROUNDS-MOWING

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

Baptisms will be held at St Anthony's on the 1st & 3rd Saturdays of the month at 11.00am and Baptisms will be held at St Bernard's on the 2nd & 4th Saturdays of the month at 11.00am.

Our websites will be updated shortly with all the information and the new Baptism application form.

Please contact the Parish Offices for further information. Thank you.



ADULT PREPARATION Adult preparation for the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist or Confirmation are through the R.C.I.A Program. Please see Fr Fabian, Fr Samuel or Fr Lucas .

FATIMA STATUE—ST ANTHONY'S

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

Group 1:	Richard & Rosabella Tuala	0452 633 761
Group 2:	Naim Chdid	0437 004 790
Group 3:	John & Joyce Sultana	9747 9925

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

Save us, O Lord our God!
And gather us from the nations,
to give thanks to your holy name,
and make it our glory to praise you.

FIRST READING Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13

Seek the Lord
all you, the humble of the earth,
who obey his commands.
Seek integrity,
seek humility:
you may perhaps find shelter
on the day of the anger of the Lord.
In your midst I will leave
a humble and lowly people,
and those who are left in Israel will seek refuge in the name of
the Lord.
They will do no wrong,
will tell no lies;
and the perjured tongue will no longer
be found in their mouths.
But they will be able to graze and rest
with no one to disturb them.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 145

Commentator: Happy the poor in spirit;
the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

All: Happy the poor in spirit;
the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free.

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan.

It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age.

Happy the poor in spirit;
the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS

5th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME- YEAR A

First Reading: Is 58:7-10;
Second Reading: 1 Cor 2:1-5;
Gospel: Mt 5:13-16



SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Take yourselves, brothers, at the time when you were called: how many of you were wise in the ordinary sense of the word, how many were influential people, or came from noble families? No, it was to shame the wise that God chose what is foolish by human reckoning, and to shame what is strong that he chose what is weak by human reckoning; those whom the world thinks common and contemptible are the ones that God has chosen - those who are nothing at all to show those who are everything. The human race has nothing to boast about to God, but you, God has made members of Christ Jesus and by God's doing he has become our wisdom, and our virtue, and our holiness, and our freedom. As scripture says: if anyone wants to boast, let him boast about the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Rejoice and be glad;

Your reward will be great in heaven.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 5:1-12

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

'How happy are the poor in spirit;
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Happy the gentle:
they shall have the earth for their heritage.

Happy those who mourn:
they shall be comforted.

Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right:
they shall be satisfied.

Happy the merciful:
they shall have mercy shown them.

Happy the pure in heart:
they shall see God.

Happy the peacemakers:
they shall be called sons of God.

Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right:
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Let your face shine on your servant.

Save me in your merciful love.

O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.

The Psalms XIV

Psalm 110

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

The evocative image that concludes our Psalm fits in here; it is also an enigmatic word: "He will drink from the brook by the way; therefore he will lift up his head" (v. 7).

The king's figure stands out in the middle of the description of the battle. At a moment of respite and rest, he quenches his thirst at a stream, finding in it refreshment and fresh strength to continue on his triumphant way, holding his head high as a sign of definitive victory. It is clear that these deeply enigmatic words were a challenge for the Fathers of the Church because of the different interpretations they could be given.

Thus, for example, St Augustine said: "This brook is the onward flow of the human being, of humanity, and Christ did not disdain to drink of this brook, becoming man; and so it was that, on entering the humanity of the human being, he lifted up his head and is now the Head of the mystical Body, he is our head, he is the definitive winner." (*Enarrationes in Psalmos* CIX, 20: PL36, 1462).

The Church's Tradition has held this Psalm in high esteem as one of the most important messianic texts. And the Fathers continued eminently to refer to it in a Christological key. The king of whom the Psalmist sang is definitively Christ, the Messiah who establishes the Kingdom of God and overcomes the powers of evil. He is the Word, begotten by the Father before every creature, before the dawn, the Son incarnate who died and rose and is seated in Heaven, the eternal priest who, through the mystery of the bread and the wine, bestows forgiveness of sins and gives reconciliation with God, the king who lifts up his head, triumphing over death with his Resurrection.

St Augustine also wrote: "It was necessary to know the Only-Begotten Son of God who was about to come among men, to adopt man and to become a man by taking on his nature; he died, rose and ascended into Heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father and fulfilled among the people all that he had

promised ... All this, therefore, had to be prophesied, it had to be foretold, to be pointed out as destined to come about, so that by coming unexpectedly it would not give rise to fear but by having been foretold, would then be accepted with faith, joy and expectation.

"This Psalm fits into the context of these promises. It prophesies our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in such reliable and explicit terms that we cannot have the slightest doubt that it is really Christ who is proclaimed in it" (*Enarrationes in Psalmos* CIX, 3: PL 36, 1447).

The paschal event of Christ thus becomes the reality to which the Psalm invites us to look: to look at Christ, to understand the meaning of true kingship, to live in service and in the gift of self, in a journey of obedience and love "to the end" (cf. John 13:1 and 19:30).

In praying with this Psalm, let us therefore ask the Lord to enable us to proceed on his paths, in the following of Christ, the Messiah King, ready to climb with him the mount of the cross to attain glory with him, and to contemplate him seated at the right hand of the Father, a victorious king and a merciful priest who gives forgiveness and salvation to all men and women.

And we too, by the grace of God made "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation" (1 Peter 2:9), will be able to draw joyfully from the wells of salvation (Isaiah 12:3) and proclaim to the whole world the marvels of the One who "called you out of darkness into his marvellous light" (1 Peter 2:9).

Dear friends, in these recent catecheses I have wanted to present to you certain Psalms, precious prayers that we find in the Bible and that reflect the various situations of life and the various states of mind that we may have with regard to God. I would then like to renew to you all the invitation to pray with the Psalms, even becoming accustomed to using the Liturgy of the Hours of the Church, Lauds in the morning, Vespers in the evening, and Compline before retiring.

Our relationship with God cannot but be enriched with greater joy and trust in the daily journey towards him.