



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

31st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME-YEAR C

30th 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: 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

MASS AND DEVOTIONS

ST ANTHONY'S MELTON SOUTH 31/10/2022-6/11/2022

MASS TIMES:

Monday 31/10	6.30pm
Tuesday 1/11	9.30am & 6.30pm
Wednesday 2/11 (All Soul's Day)	7.30am, 9.30am & 6.30pm
Thursday 3/11	9.30am
Friday 4/11	9.30am
First Friday Devotion	7.30pm & Midnight
First Saturday Devotion 5/11	8.30am

Rosary 9.00am before 9.30am weekday Mass.



Sunday Masses

Saturday 5/11	5.00pm
Sunday 6/11	8.30am & 10.30am

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

ST BERNARD'S BACCHUS MARSH 31/10/2022-6/11/2022

MASS TIMES:

Monday 31/10	No Mass
Tuesday 1/11	7.30am
Holy Hour	7.30pm
Wednesday 2/11 (All Souls Day)	9.30am & 7.30pm
Thursday 3/11	7.30am
Friday 4/11	7.30am
Saturday 5/11	9.00am

Sunday Masses

Saturday 5/11	5.00pm
Sunday 6/11	8.30am & 10.30am

Confession available 30 minutes prior to each Mass.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

KOROBET

VIGIL MASS	5/11	6.30pm
------------	------	--------

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 31st SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME– Sr Mary Fermio

"What will people think!" my mother would say. These words can often prevent us from doing something worthwhile or which can help others in need.

Zacchaeus did not seem to care what people thought. As a tax collector, he was considered a sinner, and not worthy of salvation. But Zacchaeus wanted something – he wanted to see Jesus. Who was this man? So he was not too proud to climb a tree to overcome his lack of height. His reward a visit from Jesus himself who wanted to "stay at your house today". And the visit changed his life and the lives of others who benefited from his generosity. His life took a new direction. Zacchaeus apparently cared not for the gossip that would eventuate from his actions, the jeers and sneers that may eventuate. Jesus had changed his life and that was all that mattered.

We can learn from this man not to shy away from stepping up to offer help, to do something different, join a group, introduce myself to someone, invite someone into my circle. You will not lose out. All that matters is what Jesus thinks!



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 Most Holy Trinity** : 'The Mystery of the blessed Trinity is the central mystery of Christian faith and life.

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY-CATHOLIC MISSION CHURCH APPEAL-SPECIAL COLLECTION

Last weekend we had a special collection for World Mission Sunday. The St Anthony's Parish collected \$778.90.

The St Bernard's Parish collected \$670.00. Thank you for your generosity.

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.

MASS TIMETABLE CHANGE FOR FRIDAY MASSES AT ST ANTHONY'S AND ST BERNARD'S

Parishioners, please be advised that given we have three Priests at this point in time, Fr Lucas will change his day off from Mondays to Fridays. This will allow one Priest to be available for emergency call outs on Mondays. Fr Lucas will now have Fridays off. Therefore, we need to rearrange the Mass times on Fridays. As of 4th November 2022, the 7.30am Mass at St Anthony's will cease. The Friday Mass at St Bernard's will now be held at 7.30am.

Please see the Mass timetable on page 2.

ST ANTHONY'S

PARISH OFFICE The Parish Office will be closed on Tuesday 1st November for the Melbourne Cup Day public holiday.

ST ANTHONY'S CORPORATE DINNER DANCE FUNDRAISER

The St Anthony's Corporate Dinner Dance was held last Saturday night. It was a very enjoyable night, lots of good memories made and a great success! We would like to thank all our sponsors Lazy Moe's Melton, Melton Country Club, Grilled Woodgrove, Westside Bingo, Fawknor Bingo, Danahvina Fashions St Albans, Johlei Company Ltd, Bottlemart Melton South, Foodworld Laverton, Tim Hutchins Funeral Home and Tama Tatau Dance Group. Thank you to all our Parishioners who supported this fundraiser. We raised \$17,000.00. All money raised will go towards the extension of Padua Hall. A very big thank you to the Social Committee who worked tirelessly for many months to put together this amazing night. THANK YOU!

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.

WOMEN'S RECOLLECTION Our next Women's Recollection will be held **Thursday 10th November 6pm-8.30pm**. Theme for November: Being Part of the Kingdom of God. Contact Renee 0403 080 632 or f.r.prien@gmail.com. Flyers in 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. Please add your name to the clip board in the Church foyer.

ST BERNARD'S

PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office will be closed on Tuesday 1st November for the Melbourne Cup Day public holiday.

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.

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 this Sunday** 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: 5th & 6th 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: Mercy Seufatu

10.30am: Rhys Tuala

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: Ron & Natalie

8.30am: Godwin & Lillian

10.30am: Annonika & Lillian

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Muriel Kratochvil, Ooi Mooi Lee, Karen Micallef, Jay Nicholls, Leo Noonan, Keith Rowe & Joe Stellini

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: John Thorne

8.30am: Nathan Costin

10.30am: Dudley Rodrigues

MINISTERS OF THE WORD: 5th & 6th November

5.00pm: Vikki Benson

8.30am: Moira Ross

10.30am: Beatrice Younger

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

November: John Thorne

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

We pray for the recently deceased :

William Duffy, Maryanne Polidano & Patricia Shanahan

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

Eileen Closter, Janet Henderson, Mark Henry, Mario Kovacevic, Maree Larkin, Patricia May, Paul Wheelahan & William Vallence.

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: 5th & 6th November

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

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

CUPPA VOLUNTEERS –26th & 27th November

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

CHURCH FLOWERS

October: Rosabella 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 : 5th & 6th November

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: 5.00pm Jackie Tabone
Sunday: 8.30am Sean Giani
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@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

Forsake me not, O Lord, my God;
be not far from me!
Make haste and come to my help,
O Lord, my strong salvation!

FIRST READING Wisdom 11:22 - 12:2

In your sight, Lord, the whole world is like a grain of dust
that tips the scales,
like a drop of morning dew falling on the ground.
Yet you are merciful to all, because you can do all things
and overlook men's sins so that they can repent.
Yes, you love all that exists, you hold nothing of what you
have made in abhorrence,
for had you hated anything, you would not have formed it
And how, had you not willed it, could a thing persist,
how be conserved if not called forth by you?
You spare all things because all things are yours, Lord,
lover of life,
you whose imperishable spirit is in all.
Little by little, therefore, you correct those who offend,
you admonish and remind them of how they have sinned.
so that they may abstain from evil and trust in you, Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 144

Commentator: I will praise your name for ever, my king
and my God.

All: I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.
I will give you glory, O God my King,
I will bless your name for ever.
I will bless you day after day
and praise your name for ever.

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures

All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,
and your friends shall repeat their blessing.
They shall speak of the glory of your reign
and declare your might, O God.

The Lord is faithful in all his words
and loving in all his deeds.
The Lord supports all who fall
and raises all who are bowed down.

I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

SECOND READING 2 Thessalonians 1:11 - 2:2

We pray continually that our God will make you worthy of
his call, and by his power fulfil all your desires for
goodness and complete all that you have been doing
through faith; because in this way the name of our Lord
Jesus Christ will be glorified in you and you in him, by the
grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

To turn now, brothers, to the coming of our Lord Jesus
Christ and how we shall all be gathered round him: please
do not get excited too soon or alarmed by any prediction
or rumour or any letter claiming to come from us, implying
that the Day of the Lord has already arrived.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son,
that all who believe in him might have eternal life.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 19:1-10

Jesus entered Jericho and was going through the town
when a man whose name was Zacchaeus made his
appearance; he was one of the senior tax collectors and a
wealthy man. He was anxious to see what kind of man
Jesus was, but he was too short and could not see him for
the crowd; so he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree
to catch a glimpse of Jesus who was to pass that way.
When Jesus reached the spot he looked up and spoke to
him: 'Zacchaeus, come down. Hurry, because I must stay
at your house today.' And he hurried down and welcomed
him joyfully. They all complained when they saw what was
happening. 'He has gone to stay at a sinner's house' they
said. But Zacchaeus stood his ground and said to the
Lord, 'Look, sir, I am going to give half my property to the
poor' and if I have cheated anybody I will pay him back
four times the amount' And Jesus said to him, 'Today sal-
vation has come to this house, because this man too is a
son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek out
and save what was lost.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence, O Lord.

NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS-

32nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: 2 Macc 7:1-2, 9-14;
Second Reading: 2 Thess 2:16-3:5;
Gospel: Lk 20:27-38



The Feast of All Saints

Both the Feast of All Saints and the Feast of All Souls evolved in the life of the Church independently of paganism and Halloween. However, elements of pagan practices were perhaps “baptized” by some cultures or attached themselves to the celebration of these feasts.

Let us first address the Feast of All Saints. The exact origins of this celebration are uncertain, although, after the legalisation of Christianity in 313 AD, a common commemoration of Saints, especially the martyrs, appeared in various areas throughout the Church. For instance in the East, the city of Edessa celebrated this feast on May 13; the Syrians, on the Friday after Easter; and the city of Antioch, on the first Sunday after Pentecost. Both St Ephrem (died 373) and St John Chrysostom (died 407) attest to this feast day in their preaching.

In the West, a commemoration for all the saints also was celebrated on the first Sunday after Pentecost. The primary reason for establishing a common feast day was because of the desire to honour the great number of martyrs, especially during the persecution of Emperor Diocletian (284-305 AD), the worst and most extensive of the persecutions. Simply, there were not enough days of the year for a feast day for each martyr and many of them died in groups. A common feast day for all saints therefore seemed most appropriate.

In 609 AD, the Emperor Phocas gave the Pantheon in Rome to Pope Boniface IV, who rededicated it on May 13 under the title Sancta Maria ad Martyres (St Mary and All Martyrs). Whether the Holy Father purposefully chose May 13 because of the date of the popular celebration already established in the East or whether this was just a happy coincidence is open to debate.

The designation of November 1 as the Feast of All Saints occurred over time. Pope Gregory III (731-741) dedicated an oratory in the original St Peter's Basilica in honour of all the saints on November 1, and this date then became the official date for the celebration of the Feast of All Saints in Rome.

St Bede (died 735) recorded the celebration of All Saints Day on November 1 in England, and such a celebration also existed in Salzburg, Austria. Ado of Vienna (died 875) recounted how Pope Gregory IV asked King Louis the Pious (778-840) to proclaim November 1 as All Saints Day throughout the Holy Roman Empire. Sacramentaries of the ninth and tenth centuries also placed the Feast of All Saints on the liturgical calendar on November 1.

According to an early Church historian, John Beleh, Pope Gregory IV (827-844) officially declared November 1 the Feast of All Saints, transferring it from May 13. However, Sicard of Cremona (died 1215) recorded that Pope Gregory VII (1073-85) finally suppressed May 13 and mandated November 1 as the date to celebrate the Feast of All Saints. In all, we find the Church establishing a liturgical feast day in honour of the saints independent of any pagan influence.

Now for the pagan connection: November 1 marked *Samhain*, the beginning of the Celtic winter. (The Celts lived as early as 2,000 years ago in England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, and northern France.) *Samhain*, for whom the feast was named, was the Celtic lord of death, and his name literally meant “summer's end”. Since winter is the season of cold, darkness and death, the Celts soon made the connection with human death.

The eve of *Samhain*, October 31, was a time of Celtic pagan sacrifice, and *Samhain* allowed the souls of the dead to return to their earthly homes that evening. Ghosts, witches, goblins, and elves came to harm the people, particularly those who had inflicted harm on them in this life. Cats were considered sacred because they had once been persons who had been changed as a punishment for their evil deeds on this earth.

To protect themselves from marauding evil spirits on the eve of *Samhain*, the people extinguished their hearth fires and the Druids (the priests and spiritual teachers of the Celts) built a huge new year's bonfire of sacred oak branches. The Druids offered burnt sacrifices of crops, animals, even humans and told fortunes of the coming year by examining the burned remains. People sometimes wore costumes of animal heads and skins. From this new fire, the home hearths were again ignited.

Particular ethnic groups developed their own lore, which merged with the celebration. In Ireland, people held a parade in honour of Muck Olla, a god. They followed a leader dressed in a white robe with a mask from the head of an animal, and begged for food. (Ireland is also the source of the jack-o'lantern fable: A man named Jack was not able to enter heaven because of his miserliness and he could not enter hell because he had played practical jokes on the devil; so he was condemned to walk the earth with his lantern until Judgement Day.)

The Scots walked through fields and villages carrying torches and lit bonfires to ward off witches and other evil spirits.

In Wales, every person placed a marked stone in the huge bonfire. If a person's stone could not be found the next morning, he would die within a year.

Besides the Celtic traditions in place, the Roman conquest of Britain in 43 AD brought two other pagan feasts: Feralia was held in late October to honour the dead. Another Autumn festival honoured Pomona, the goddess of fruits and trees; probably through this festival, apples became associated with Halloween. Elements of these Roman celebrations were combined with the Celtic *Samhain*.

With the spread of Christianity and the establishment of All Saints Day, some of these pagan customs remained in the English-speaking world for All Hallows Eve (or Halloween, All Saints Eve), perhaps at first more out of superstition and, later, more out of fun. Nevertheless, All Saints Day clearly arose from genuine a Christian devotion.