



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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT-YEAR A

4th December 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 5/12/2022-11/12/2022

MASS TIMES:

Monday 5/12	6.30pm
Tuesday 6/12	9.30am & 6.30pm
Wednesday 7/12	7.30am & 9.30am
Thursday 8/12	9.30am
Friday 9/12	9.30am



Rosary 9.00am before 9.30am weekday Mass.

Sunday Masses

Saturday 10/12	5.00pm
Sunday 11/12	8.30am & 10.30am

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

ST BERNARD'S BACCHUS MARSH 5/12/2022-11/12/2022

MASS TIMES:

Monday 5/12	No Mass
Tuesday 6/12	7.30am
Holy Hour	7.30pm
Wednesday 7/12	9.30am
Thursday 8/12	7.30am
Friday 9/12	7.30am
Providence Mass	11.00am
Saturday 10/12	9.00am

Sunday Masses

Saturday 10/12	5.00pm
Sunday 11/12	8.30am & 10.30am

Confession available 30 minutes prior to each Mass.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

KOROBET

VIGIL MASS	10/12	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 2ND ADVENT YEAR A-Sr Mary Fermio

After World War II a German soldier visited a group of Polish Soldiers and asked their forgiveness for what had happened to their people. The Polish group were loathe to do so, remembering the horrors of the war. It was suggested they pray the Our Father together. When they came to "Forgive us our...." there was a pause. One Polish man exclaimed "I HAVE to forgive you, otherwise I will NEVER be able to say this prayer again!" (*What's so Amazing About Grace by Philip Yancey*)

John the Baptist calls us to repent, which calls us to change our lives, change our heart, to show sorrow and forgiveness. We cannot just go through the motions, or some ritual. Rituals are easy. Truth seeking, costs. Changing our heart is left to each of us to decide how, to whom and why. To find time to pray, to listen, to ask myself questions.

As I prepare for the celebration of God's coming, may I approach it honestly, from the heart, even if it costs e.g. my pride, my pocket, my time. Let us pray the Our Father each day in truth and honesty.



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 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

MONDAY EVENING ADVENT REFLECTION

Next session **Monday 5th December** 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.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT-YEAR A - First Reading: Is 35:1-6,10 Second Reading: James 5:7-10 Gospel Mt 11:2-11

WEDNESDAY EVENING ADVENT TALKS

The Advent Talks are held on Wednesdays at St Anthony's in the MacKillop room from 6.00pm-7.15pm.

Wednesday 7th December– The presence of the "I Am"



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

ST ANTHONY'S

SRI LANKAN FOOD STALL

The Sri Lanka community held a food stall last weekend and raised \$1500.00. All money raised will go towards the extension of the Padua Hall. Thanks to the Social Committee and the our Sri Lankan Community and to all our Parishioners who supported this fundraiser.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS 17th December-PADUA HALL

Be a part of our Christmas preparation. There will be.... Carolling & Nativity Scene performance by our children, games for children (for ages 4-7 & ages 8-12), a visit from Santa and goody-bags for children. Start time 6pm
FOR PURCHASE: Santa's Gift Shop and Food Stations
Get a gift from Santa's Gift Shop & pass it to Santa's elves. Santa will deliver this gift to your child on the evening.
Ho! Ho! Ho!

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



CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS

If you would like to contribute to the cost of the flowers for our Christmas services, please place your donation in the box provided on the sanctuary. Thank you.

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 -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.)

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Volunteers are needed for this important ministry in the parish, particularly **5pm Saturday Vigil Mass**. If you can help, please contact the parish office.

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.

PROVIDENCE AND FRIENDS MASS

Parishioners are invited to our monthly Providence and Friends Mass on Friday 9th December at 11am. Please bring a plate for morning tea/lunch. If transport is required, please let the Parish Office know or call Margot Short 0419 507438.

ST VINCENT de PAUL BACCHUS MARSH

Bacchus Marsh Conference will be providing hampers to families we have assisted throughout the year.

If you would like to make a contribution to the cost, please contact Margot Short 0419 507 438 or Peter Kennedy 0407 778 119. Cash donations can be placed in the StVdePaul Poor Box which is located on the end of the seat directly opposite the Church entrance.

MORNING TEA-NEXT WEEKEND

Please join us next weekend after the 8.30am and 10.30am Masses for the monthly morning tea. All welcome.

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: 10th & 11th 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: Aloysious Dacunha
 8.30am: Sefulu Sefatu
 10.30am: Romeo Sacris

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm Vigil: Ann Tennakoon
 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: Coleen & Olen
 8.30am: Julie & Lillian
 10.30am: Annonica & Godwin

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Mark Clarke, Greta Mascarenhas, Lafaele (Ralph) Mataia,
 Frederick Radford & Felix Scotto.

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

MINISTERS OF THE WORD: 10th & 11th December

5.00pm: Vikki Benson
 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:**

Brian Barry, Ann Bourke, Bill Cassar, Betty Condon,
 Laurie Cumper, John Dodd, John Glide, Kevin Leonard,
 Gnaire Lockman, Marita Miesen, Helen Rayner &
 Gavan Shea.

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: 10th & 11th December

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: Kim Barton
8.30am: Mercy Seufatu
10.30am: Gilles Maitre

CUPPA VOLUNTEERS

Cuppa Weekend will resume in 2023. Thank you to all our volunteers in 2022.

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 : 10th & 11th December

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: 5.00pm Margot Short
Sunday: 8.30am Carmel Shea
10.30am Dagmar Van Der Linden

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: Shane & Dolly Barrow	0439 386 130
Group 2: Kalolaine & Sam Forma	0432 295 121
Group 3: Josephine German	0478 288 761

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

O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

FIRST READING Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse,
a scion thrusts from his roots:
on him the spirit of the Lord rests,
a spirit of wisdom and insight,
a spirit of counsel and power,
a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.
(The fear of the Lord is his breath.)
He does not judge by appearances,
he gives no verdict on hearsay,
but judges the wretched with integrity,
and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land.
His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless;
his sentences bring death to the wicked.
Integrity is the loincloth round his waist,
faithfulness the belt about his hips.
The wolf lives with the lamb,
the panther lies down with the kid,
calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them.
The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together.
The lion eats straw like the ox.
The infant plays over the cobra's hole;
into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand.
They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain,
for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters swell the sea.
That day, the root of Jesse
shall stand as a signal to the peoples.
It will be sought out by the nations
and its home will be glorious.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 71

Commentator: Justice shall flourish in his time,
and fullness of peace for ever.

All: Justice shall flourish in his time,
and fullness of peace for ever.

O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement.

In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails:
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to earth's bounds.

For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor.

May his name be blessed for ever
and endure like the sun.
Every tribe shall be blessed in him,
all nations bless his name.

Justice shall flourish in his time,
and fullness of peace for ever.

SECOND READING Romans 15:4-9

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 3:1-12

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet spoke of when he said:

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights,
and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS:

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT-YEAR A

First Reading: Is 35:1-6, 10

Second Reading: James 5:7-10

Gospel: Mt 11:2-11



Advent 2022 Week II

Second Sunday of Advent

“As the journey of Advent continues, as we prepare to celebrate the nativity of Christ, John the Baptist’s call to conversion sounds out in our communities. It is a pressing invitation to open our hearts and to welcome the Son of God Who comes among us to make divine judgement manifest. The Father, writes St John the Evangelist, does not judge anyone, but has entrusted the power of judgement to the Son, because He is the Son of man.

“And it is today, in the present, that we decide our future destiny. It is with our concrete everyday behaviour in this life that we determine our eternal fate. At the end of our days on earth, at the moment of death, we will be evaluated on the basis of our likeness or otherwise to the Baby Who is about to be born in the poor grotto of Bethlehem, because He is the measure God has given humanity.

“Through the Gospel, John the Baptist continues to speak down the centuries to each generation. His hard, clear words bring health to us, the men and women of this day in which even the experience and perception of Christ-mas often, unfortunately, reflects materialist attitudes. The ‘voice’ of the great Prophet asks us to prepare the way for the coming Lord in the deserts of today, internal and external deserts, thirsting for the water of life which is Christ.”

—Benedict XVI

Jerusalem

In Palestine, Christians gather today in Jerusalem for the celebration of holy Mass. In Rome, they proceed to the station church, the “Holy Cross at Jerusalem”, which serves to give the atmosphere of the Holy City.

Why “Jerusalem”? Excavations of ancient sites often reveal a number of strata. When enemies destroyed a city, a new one would rise on the same location, so that today there are several layers of remains: one city, as it were, above the other.

Our Jerusalem likewise has four strata. The bottommost layer is the Jerusalem of the Jews, that venerable land where the Lord Jesus began His mission of redemption, where He suffered and died. This is the historical Jerusalem so dear

catholicculture.org

to us Christians. Anyone making a pilgrimage to the Holy Land enters that ancient city with holy awe. That Jerusalem, however, lies buried deep.

For us, another has been built upon it, the Jerusalem of Christians, God’s kingdom on earth, the holy Church. This city still stands; it is the one which the divine King will enter at Christmas. Now we understand why we will hear so much about Jerusalem during the coming week.

We should now clean and adorn our city, improving its streets and avenues through which the Saviour will make His entrance. As a motto, we should take the words of the precursor, St John the Baptist: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight His paths; let every valley be filled, every hill be levelled.” Holy Mother Church’s message today is that the Saviour is coming to the Jerusalem of the Christians, to the Church.

Above the second stratum there arises a third, the heavenly Jerusalem at the end of time. Already now the Church sings of this Jerusalem. For during Advent, we await the Saviour who will appear on the Last Day to take all into “the new Jerusalem coming down from heaven”.

Finally, there may be recognised a fourth Jerusalem, our souls in sanctifying grace. This city too must be adorned and prepared, for the King will want to enter. That is our present task.

On Epiphany, the climax to the current season, the Church will cry out: “Arise, shine, O Jerusalem, for the glory of the Lord has risen upon thee.” That is the goal. Today we must prepare for the great King’s visit to our city. The whole coming week must be devoted to it. The Church prays: “Awaken our hearts to prepare the way for Your only-begotten Son that we may serve Him with purified hearts.”

In the time of the Roman Empire, rulers rode from city to city for the purpose of official visitations. Their appearance, called epiphany or *parousia*, was a great event, one preceded by months of preparation. Something analogous takes place in the Jerusalem of our souls. From a high watchtower, we see the Lord coming afar off. Suddenly, John the Baptist appears; he hurries into the city to announce the King’s approach. God condescends to manifest Himself to us in grace; but He demands the proper reception.

—Excerpted from *The Church’s Year of Grace*,
by Pius Parsch