



## St Anthony's Parish

67-75 EXFORD ROAD, MELTON SOUTH, 3338.  
P.O BOX 2152 MELTON SOUTH 3338  
TEL: 9747 9692 FAX: 9746 0422



## St Bernard's Parish

61 LERDERBERG STREET, BACCHUS MARSH 3340  
TEL: 5367 2069  
OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS, KOROBET  
309 MYRNIONG-KOROBET ROAD 3341

The 21st Sunday In Ordinary Time

Year A

23rd August 2020

**PARISH PRIEST:** Fr Fabian Smith

**ASSISTANT PRIESTS:** Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint /Father Marcus Goulding

### **ST ANTHONY'S PARISH**

**Parish Secretary:** Lesley Morffew Mon Tue Wed & Fri 9am-4pm

**Admin Assistant:** Judy Johnson Tue-Thu 10am-2pm

**Parish Office Hours:** phone/email contact only

Father Fabian 0403 435 471

Fr Lucas 0478 768 141 /Fr Marcus 0468 367 893

**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

**Catholic Regional College - Melton (Years 7-12)**

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

**Website:** www.crcmelton.com.au

### **ST BERNARD'S PARISH**

**Parish Secretary:** Dolores Turcsan Wed-Fri 9am-1pm

**Admin Assistant:** Judy Johnson Tue-Thu 10am-2pm

**Sacramental Coordinator/ Bookkeeper:** Naim Chdid

Tue & Fri 10am-1pm

**Parish Office Hours:** phone/email contact only

Father Fabian 0403 435 471

Fr Lucas 0478 768 141/Fr Marcus 0468 367 893

**Email:** bacchusmarsh@cam.org.au

**Website:** www.stbernardsbacchusmarsh.com.au

**St Bernard's School Principal:** Emilio Scalzo

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**

|                                |              |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Sue Alexander                  | 0400 171 843 |
| Lillian Christian - Vice Chair | 0400 441 257 |
| Stephen Fernandes              | 0439 743 533 |
| Amy Honrade                    | 03 9747 0078 |
| Natalie Howard - Chair         | 0410 478 046 |
| Villy Julita                   | 0403 751 343 |
| Rose Ma'ae                     | 0431 386 473 |
| Kim Nguyen                     | 0431 035 980 |

Ex-OFFICIO:

Fr Fabian Smith PP, Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint, Fr Marcus Goulding  
and Damien Schuster Council Secretary: Judy Johnson

### **ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL COUNCIL**

|                                   |              |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Cathy Belcher - Vice Chair        | 0431 082 886 |
| Shane Cook -School Advisory Board | 0419 999 052 |
| Peter Farren                      | 0418 594 501 |
| Moir Ross                         | 0400 675 056 |
| Aaron Russell                     | 0401 927 502 |
| John Thorne - Secretary           | 5310 6692    |
| James Waters - Chair              | 0403 822 795 |

EX-OFFICIO:

Fr Fabian Smith PP, Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint, Fr Marcus Goulding  
and Emilio Scalzo

### **CHILD SAFETY OFFICERS**

Coordinator: Godwin Barton (0425 734 449)

Officers: Karina Dunne & Lorraine Tellis

### **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: [CDFpay for St Anthony's Parish, Melton South](#)

The link to the St Bernard's Parish is: [CDFpay for St Bernard's Parish, Bacchus Marsh](#)

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

## MASS AND DEVOTIONS

### **ANOINTING OF THE SICK**

Anointing of the sick can be organised with the Priests directly, please call them.  
Father Fabian 0403 435 471 / Fr Lucas 0478 768 141 / Fr Marcus 0468 367 893

### **MASS TIMES—LIVE STREAMING FROM ST ANTHONY'S CHURCH**

**Monday-Saturday:** 5.30pm Adoration/Rosary/Benediction  
6.00pm Mass

**Sunday:** 10.30am Mass

### **MASSES AVAILABLE ON LIVE STREAMING— FACEBOOK AND YOUTUBE**

St Anthony's Parish are live streaming Masses on YouTube.

The Masses are also being live streamed on Facebook. You can watch Masses by going to the website: [stanthonypadua.com.au](http://stanthonypadua.com.au). Click the link for Live Masses.

The Masses are coming through the St Anthony's Facebook page—St Anthony of Padua Catholic Church Melton South (you will need to have a Facebook account to be able to view the Masses).

### **ST ANTHONY'S FACEBOOK**

Please visit our Facebook page.:

[St Anthony of Padua](#)

[Catholic Church Melton South](#) Live

Masses streaming from St Anthony's daily.



### **MASS AT ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL**

The 11am Sunday Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral will be televised every week during the COVID-19 restrictions, on Channel 31 (often listed as Channel 44 on digital TVs). Also 'Mass for you at Home' is televised on channel 10 every Sunday at 6am. Please share this news with friends and family who might be limited to TV viewing. Please check your TV guides for changes.

### **PARISHIONER'S FIRST COLLECTION/SECOND COLLECTION OR PARISH APPEALS**

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.

Parishioners are able to make quick and easy recurring thanksgiving payments or can choose a one-off offering from the comfort of their own home.

When making an offertory online, parishioners have the option to choose which collection they would like to partake in, as they usually would during Sunday Mass - first collection, second collection or a parish appeal.

The link to the St Anthony's Parish is: [CDFpay for St Anthony's Parish, Melton South](#)

The link to the St Bernard's Parish is: [CDFpay for St Bernard's Parish, Bacchus Marsh](#)

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

### **PRAYER FOR OUR NATION, AMIDST COVID-19**

Gracious God,

We give thanks anew for your providence and presence.

We prayerfully seek your grace, amidst COVID-19 here and overseas.

We pray for those in need of healing.

We pray for your peace with those who are anxious or grieving.

We pray you will continue to strengthen and sustain all those who are serving in response.

We pray for your Holy Spirit's discernment amidst the many choices and decisions facing our national, community and medical leaders.

We pray we each might see quickly what more we can do to help those who are vulnerable.

This prayer for our nation in the family of nations, with all that is on our hearts, we gather now and pray through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN.



National Council of  
Churches in Australia



St Anthony's  
Parish

## PHOTOS OF THE RENOVATION/EXTENSION

Photos of our new renovation and extension-more photos will be included in the coming weeks-stay tuned!



**Above: New carpet being laid in the Church**



**Above: New Kitchen**



**Above: New Sacristy with a Sacralium**



**Above: View of the new exterior of the Church**



## St Anthony's Parish

Dear Parishioners of St Anthony's,

I wish to write to you about the progress with our church extension. Much work has been happening during these past six months. In the next three weeks our church extension will be completed. Thank you for all your creative ideas to raise money and for all your financial support. I know that you have gone out of your way to support the many fundraisers to make this happen. You have given very generously to make a ten-year dream come to reality.

Whilst we have run a tight ship and have diligently used all the money allocated for the project to complete the building, we have not exceeded much over the budget. The furnishings in the chapel are not included in the extension project. Whilst we are in lockdown we are unable to raise any money to furnish and complete the works in the new chapel.

Only if you are in a financial position to help make this happen and wish to contribute towards the furnishings, I am providing bank details. Ac Name **ST ANTHONYS CHURCH**, BSB **083 347** Account No **641915964**. Please put in your Full Name for record keeping.

Two White Angels, Two Painted Angels, St Anthony's Statue, Carpet, 10 Pews with upholstery for the seat and kneeler which will seat a total of 40 in the new chapel. I sincerely apologise for asking. If you need to talk to me please contact me on 0403 435 471. Donations can be made over some months.

Many Blessings  
Fr Fabian



### **ST ANTHONY'S PARISH OFFICE**

Parishioners please be advised that the St Anthony's Parish Office will be closed during the COVID-19 Stage 4 lockdown. The Parish Staff will be working from home. Please contact us for any assistance you need.

**Lesley Morffew** Parish Secretary **Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 9.00am-4.00pm**

Email Lesley: [meltonsouth@cam.org.au](mailto:meltonsouth@cam.org.au) or call **9747 9692**

**Judy Johnson** Admin Assistant **Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 10.00am-2.00pm**

Email Judy: [judyparishnews@gmail.com](mailto:judyparishnews@gmail.com) or call **0414 007 009**



Est. 1874

# *St Bernard's Catholic Parish*

BACCHUS MARSH

Dear parishioners of St Bernard's,

**Masses Suspended.** Bacchus Marsh was placed under Stage 3 Stay at Home restrictions at 11.59pm on Wednesday, 5th August. This necessitates the temporary suspension of public Masses until the lock-down is lifted. It has been wonderful to see so many of you taking the opportunity to attend Mass over the last few weeks. The suspension of public Masses is a great suffering for Catholics, but we are now well practiced at keeping our faith alive at home.

**Pray at Home.** We are working hard to help you keep close to the Lord throughout lock-down. Over the last couple of weeks, we have developed a new website which will be regularly updated with helpful links and resources to support your relationship with God at home. For more information, visit [StBernardsBacchusMarsh.com.au](http://StBernardsBacchusMarsh.com.au)

**Pastoral Care.** Fr Lucas and Fr Marcus continue to reside at St Bernard's presbytery. They will pray for you daily at their private Masses. If you have any pastoral or sacramental need, please do not hesitate to contact them.

**Parish Annual General Meeting.** Given the limitations we are currently experiencing, our parish AGM will be held via Zoom at 7.30pm on Thursday, 10th September 2020. Parishioners who wish to attend the AGM via Zoom should email Dolores at [bacchusmarsh@cam.org.au](mailto:bacchusmarsh@cam.org.au). A link will be sent out to you prior to the AGM with instructions about how to connect to the meeting. Papers for the AGM will be emailed to everyone on our Newsletter mailing list on 26th August 2020, two weeks prior to the AGM. Hard copies will be available outside the parish office from the same day. If you are unable to participate in the AGM by Zoom and have questions or comments for the AGM, they should be emailed or submitted in writing to Dolores prior to the AGM. Responses to any queries will be brought to you by members of the Parish Council following the AGM.

Many blessings,

Father Fabian 0403 435 471

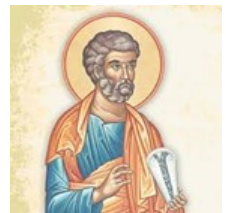
Fr Lucas 0478 768 141 /Fr Marcus 0468 367 893

## The Memorare of St. Bernard

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that any one who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, and sought thy intercession, was left unaided.

Inspired with this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother, to thee I come, before thee I stand sinful and sorrowful.

O Mother of the Word Incarnate! Despise not my petitions, but, in thy mercy, hear and answer me. Amen.



### ST BERNARD'S PARISH OFFICE

Parishioners please be advised that the St Bernard's Parish Office will be closed during the COVID-19 Stage 3 lockdown. The Parish Staff will be working from home. Please contact us for any assistance you need.

**Dolores Turcsan** Parish Secretary **Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 9.00am-1.00pm**  
Email Dolores: [bacchusmarsh@cam.org.au](mailto:bacchusmarsh@cam.org.au) or call **0432 055 992**.

**Naim Chdid** Sacramental Coordinator/ Bookkeeper **Tuesday & Friday 10.00am-1.00pm**  
Email Naim: [bacchusmarsh@cam.org.au](mailto:bacchusmarsh@cam.org.au)

**Judy Johnson** Admin Assistant **Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 10.00am-2.00pm**  
Email Judy: [judyparishnews@gmail.com](mailto:judyparishnews@gmail.com) or call **0414 007 009**

## **ST ANTHONY'S CARE TEAM**

Dear St Anthony's Parishioners

The Care Team at St Anthony's would like to reach out to all our Parishioners during this difficult time.

Many of us are living in lockdown and isolation. Our Care Team, are available for a chat and to offer some support during these COVID-19 restrictions.

Please give one of our team members a call they would love to hear from you!

|                          |                     |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Sue Alexander</b>     | <b>0400 171 843</b> |
| <b>Lillian Christian</b> | <b>0400 441 257</b> |
| <b>Stephen Fernandes</b> | <b>0439 743 533</b> |
| <b>Amy Honrade</b>       | <b>03 9747 0078</b> |
| <b>Natalie Howard</b>    | <b>0410 478 046</b> |
| <b>Villy Julita</b>      | <b>0403 751 343</b> |
| <b>Rose Ma'ae</b>        | <b>0431 386 473</b> |
| <b>Sally Markulin</b>    | <b>0405 814 490</b> |
| <b>Kim Nguyen</b>        | <b>0431 035 980</b> |

If you know of a fellow Parishioner that would benefit from contact from our Care Team, please give **Judy Johnson** a call on **0414 007 009**, who will be able to organise contact for the Parishioner.

God Bless



**CATHOLIC REGIONAL COLLEGE MELTON**

## **YEAR 7 2022 ENROLMENTS**

Enrolment applications for Year 7 2022 are due on Friday 9 October 2020. To obtain or submit an application form email: [enrolments@crcmelton.com.au](mailto:enrolments@crcmelton.com.au)

### **Virtual School Tours**

We invite you to take a Virtual Tour of the College led by our Year 12 student leaders, which includes a live Q&A session with our Principal, Mrs Marlene Jorgensen. To reserve your place visit: [www.crcmelton.com.au/join-us/college-tours](http://www.crcmelton.com.au/join-us/college-tours)



**ALL VOLUNTEERS IN OUR PARISH MUST HAVE A CURRENT WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK**

**ST ANTHONY'S**

**ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE**

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

Sandra Doorbar.

**Please pray for the Sick:**

Jean Barnett, Nickolia & Klara Butkovic, Maria Caruana, Mary Caruana, Judy Layton, Peter Manicaro, Reg Marslen, Damien Michael, Kevin Michael, Tony Michael, Veronica Michael, Wanda Novak, Caleb O'Brien, John Osborne, Peter Poole, Irene Rahilly, Catherine Roberts, Peter Roberts, Pat Roberts, Charlie Spiteri, Dolores Turcsan, Clint Abela Wadge, & John Xuereb and all those who have requested our prayers.

**(PLEASE LET US KNOW WHEN YOUR LOVED ONE IS NO LONGER REQUIRED ON THIS LIST)**

**ST BERNARD'S**

**ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE**

**FAITH ON FIRE PRAYER GROUP**

Every fortnight on Thursday at 7.00pm. We pray the Rosary, Stations of the cross, Divine Mercy chaplet and do a Bible reading and discussion.

Next meeting **To be advised**

**We pray for the recently deceased:**

Dot Attwood

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

Maurice Clancy, Alice Doolan, Roy Magill, Antonio Schembri, Jack Shelley, John Patrick Thorneycroft, Norma Stevens & Brian Ward.

**Please pray for the Sick:**

Noah Barlow, Chaiel Balcombe, Michael Barrett, Peter Bennett, Steven Braszel, Kevin Bridges, Tina Bower, John Canty, Fred Capuano, Gary Ching, Josephine Cilia, Robyn Cola, Ted Cooling, Marianne Cuskelly, Lindsay & Kathleen Dally, Judy Delahey, Jack DeLuca, Allison Evans, Helen Evans, Justin Fernandez, Pasquale Gagliarbi, Mario Galea, Cynthia Goodyear, Gwen Green, Joe Gristi, Adam Hillier, 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, Susan Trist, Dolores Turcsan, Stephen Van Eede, John Van Orsouw, Angela Vicum, Louis Vogels, Barry Walsh, Mary Walsh, Cath Wheelahan, Jayne Wilkins, Patricia Yazbek, & Betty Young.

**(PLEASE LET US KNOW WHEN YOUR LOVED ONE IS NO LONGER REQUIRED ON THIS LIST)**

**FATIMA STATUE**

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

Group 1: **Shane & Dolly Barrow** **0439 386 130**

Group 2: **Elaine & Edward Rodrigues** **0405 956 724**

Group 3: **Michael & Monica Kratochvil** **0438 765 776**



**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

# Along the track

## Jesus Today: Who Do You Say I Am?

(Fourth Meditation)

People are more interested in Jesus than ever. Not just the 2.1 billion or so people who call themselves Christian - today, people who aren't even believers say that Jesus doesn't belong only to Christians. He is part of the human heritage. Others say that he inaugurated a new era. He gave a blueprint for reform for people of all faiths. If the world paid attention to Him, others say, it would be transformed. Others suggest that perhaps we are witnessing the demise of a Christian religion greatly influenced by Greek philosophy and Roman law, but we're on the threshold of a new development with Jesus as the centre. Whatever we may think, Paul's words ring true: 'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.' (Heb 13:8)

Paradoxically, while there is much interest in Jesus, do many take him seriously? In his book *Jesus Now*, Albert Nolan suggests that while there are some remarkable exceptions 'by and large we don't love our enemies, we don't forgive seventy times seven, we don't turn the other cheek, we don't bless those who curse us, we don't share what we have with the poor and we don't put all our trust and hope in God' (p.xvii)

For many, the resurrection is a problem. What did it mean? Did Jesus really rise? Was there really an empty tomb? What does it mean today? It is true that something happened to the disciples which is hard to explain. They fled and hid behind locked doors but something changed them from fear and confusion to bold conviction. They preach that God raised Jesus from the dead and that the Crucified One is among them. All this awakens in them a new faith in Jesus, their growing sense of his presence with them and in them after his death. Later on, Paul will say that he feels 'the power of his resurrection' and that 'I live now, not I but it is Christ Jesus living in me' (Ga. 2.20).

Today some people feel 'born again' and like the disciples were transformed by 'a resurrection experience', their faith has been awakened and they enjoy a new relationship with Jesus. Others struggle with faith, others perhaps think that Jesus is focusing on the Kingdom to come in the after-life. We endure what we experience today in the hope of a better tomorrow. There are those who perhaps see religion and life separately - we can be followers of Christ without taking too much notice of what is happening in the world around us. But Jesus' message was very clear - we must engage with the world, 'we must read the signs of the times' (Mt 16 3-4) with honesty and sincerity.

So how do we answer when Jesus asks us 'Who do you say I am?'

Pagola in *Jesus An Historical Approximation* writes: We must put Jesus at the centre of Christianity. Everything else comes later. We Christians must confess Jesus as Son of God. Doctrine alone will not nourish our faith nor can we live by a set of truths as our only motivation. We need

a living connection with him and to continue to know him better. We are in danger of turning Jesus into a mere object of worship, an icon with a majestic face to venerate. Instead, we need to see and meet him up close.

We begin to encounter the Risen Jesus, we allow the leaven of the Good News to grow in our lives. Pagola suggests that:

- 'when we begin to trust God as Jesus did,
- when we believe in love as he did,
- when we look at people as he did,
- when we confront life and death with hope as he did,
- when we pass on the contagion of the Good News as he did' (p. 27,8)

Emeritus Pope Benedict calls Jesus, God with a human face. God is like Jesus. The starting point of meeting Jesus of the resurrection may be for some to think again our image of Jesus who cares about us and seeks us out, to think again about the God to whom Jesus gave witness by his life and death and resurrection - God who 'from the fullness of his love, addresses us as friends, and moves among us, in order to invite us into his own company.' (CCC#142) and who 'never ceases to draw each person to himself' (CCC #27). For some, that is a very different image from our childhood. God is revealed in Jesus' life as a loving father, Abba

The seeds of Jesus' mission were born inside his village life with its community living, the joys and hardships of life at that time. It was born in the witness of the suffering and oppression of his people. It was underpinned by his belief in a very personal God, which many struggle with today. In his time, Jesus seeks intimacy with God in silent prayerful encounters. That's a good starting place for us to come to know the face of Jesus for today. Jesus' revolution was not to organise a new religion or an overthrow of leaders and power structures but rather a spiritual revolution of beliefs and values - it offered a new perspective, where God's compassion is central, focusing our lives on the 'poor', seeing life through the eyes of those suffering, taking their side. It involved living with compassion. Like the first followers, we have to learn to live with the risen Lord but without his physical presence, to find him in our brothers and sisters. It takes quite another mindset - literally a leap of faith.

Regards  
Jim Quillinan

Phone: 0401 933 023  
Email: jquillinan@dcsi.net.au

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### **ENTRANCE PROCESSION**

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me;  
save the servant who trusts in you, my God.  
Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

### **FIRST READING** Isaiah 22:19-23

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace:

I dismiss you from your office,  
I remove you from your post,  
and the same day I call on my servant  
Eliakim son of Hilkiyah.

I invest him with your robe,  
gird him with your sash,  
entrust him with your authority;  
and he shall be a father  
to the inhabitants of Jerusalem  
and to the House of Judah.

I place the key of the House of David  
on his shoulder;  
should he open, no one shall close,  
should he close, no one shall open.  
I drive him like a peg  
into a firm place;  
he will become a throne of glory  
for his father's house.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 137**

**Response:** Lord, your love is eternal;  
do not forsake the work of your hands.

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,  
you have heard the words of my mouth.  
Before the angels I will bless you,  
I will adore before your holy temple. **R.**

I thank you for your faithfulness and love  
which excel all we ever knew of you.  
On the day I called, you answered;  
you increased the strength of my soul. **R.**

The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly  
and the haughty he knows from afar.  
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,  
discard not the work of your hands. **R**

### **SECOND READING** Romans 11:33-36

How rich are the depths of God - how deep his wisdom and knowledge - and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church;  
the gates of hell will not hold out against it.

Alleluia!

### **GOSPEL** Matthew 16:13-20

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said, 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### **COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord;  
you bring forth bread from the earth  
and wine to cheer the heart.

### **NEXT WEEK'S READING**

#### **22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**First Reading:** Jer 20:7-9 ;

**Second Reading:** Rom 12:1-2;

**Gospel:** Mt 16:21-27



# The life of Catholic worship and piety XXXI

## Music and Liturgy (No. 2 of 3 parts)

### Religious and Liturgical Music

Whether it is Bach or Mozart that we hear in church, we have a sense in either case of what *gloria Dei*, the glory of God, means. The mystery of infinite beauty is there and enables us to experience the presence of God more truly and vividly than in many sermons. But there are already signs of danger to come.

Subjective experience and passion are still held in check by the order of the musical universe, reflecting as it does the order of the divine creation itself. But there is already the threat of invasion by the virtuoso mentality, the vanity of technique, which is no longer the servant of the whole but wants to push itself to the fore. During the 19th century, the century of self-emancipating subjectivity, this led in many places to the obscuring of the sacred by the operatic. The dangers that had forced the Council of Trent to intervene were back again.

In similar fashion, Pope Pius X at the beginning of the 20th century tried to remove the operatic element from the liturgy and declared Gregorian chant and the great polyphony of the age of the Catholic Reformation (of which Palestrina was the outstanding representative) to be the standard for liturgical music. A clear distinction was made between liturgical music and religious music in general, just as visual art in the liturgy has to conform to different standards from those employed in religious art in general. Art in the liturgy has a specific responsibility, and precisely as such does it serve as a wellspring of culture, which in the final analysis owes its existence to “cult”.

### The Challenge of Popular Music

After the cultural revolution of recent decades, we are faced with a challenge no less great than that of the three moments of crisis that we have encountered in the past: the Gnostic temptation, the crisis at the end of the Middle Ages and the beginning of modernity, and the crisis at the beginning of the 20th century, which formed the prelude to the still more radical questions of the present day.

Three developments in recent music epitomise the problems that the Church has to face when she is considering liturgical music. First of all, there is the cultural universalisation that the Church has to undertake if she wants to get beyond the boundaries of the European mind. This is the question of what inculturation should look like in the realm of sacred music if, on the one hand, the

identity of Christianity is to be preserved, and, on the other, its universality is to be expressed in local forms.

Then there are two developments in music itself that have their origins primarily in the West but that for a long time have affected the whole of mankind in the world culture that is being formed. Modern so-called “classical” music has manoeuvred itself, with some exceptions, into an elitist ghetto, which only specialists may enter — and even they do so with what may sometimes be mixed feelings. The music of the masses has broken loose from this and treads a very different path.

On the one hand, there is pop music, which is certainly no longer supported by the people in the ancient sense (*populus*). It is aimed at the phenomenon of the masses, is industrially produced, and ultimately has to be described as a cult of the banal.

Rock, on the other hand, is the expression of elemental passions, and at rock festivals it assumes a cultic character, a form of worship, in fact, in opposition to Christian worship. People are, so to speak, released from themselves by the experience of being part of a crowd and by the emotional shock of rhythm, noise, and lighting effects. However, in the ecstasy of having all their defences torn down, the participants sink, as it were, beneath the elemental force of the universe. The music of the Holy Spirit’s sober inebriation seems to have little chance when self has become a prison, the mind is a shackle, and breaking out from both appears as a true promise of redemption that can be tasted at least for a few moments.

### Music and Logos

Not every kind of music can have a place in Christian worship. It has its standards, and that standard is the *Logos*. If we want to know whom we are dealing with, the Holy Spirit or the unholy spirit, we have to remember that it is the Holy Spirit who moves us to say, “Jesus is Lord” (1 Corinthians 12:3). The Holy Spirit leads us to the *Logos*, and he leads us to a music that serves the *Logos* as a sign of the lifting up of the human heart. Does it integrate man by drawing him to what is above, or does it cause his disintegration into formless intoxication or mere sensuality? That is the criterion for a music in harmony with *logos*, a form of *logiké lat-reia* (reasonable, *logos*-worthy worship).

### Acknowledgement

Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, “Music and Liturgy”, from *The Spirit of the Liturgy* (Ignatius Press, San Francisco, 2000).