



St Anthony's Parish



St Bernard's Parish

67-74 EXFORD ROAD, MELTON SOUTH, 3338.
P.O BOX 2152 MELTON SOUTH 3338
TEL: 9747 9692 FAX: 9746 0422

61 LERDERBERG STREET, BACCHUS MARSH 3340
TEL: 5367 2069 FAX: 5367 4863
OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS, KOROBET
309 MYRNIONG-KOROBET ROAD 3341

32nd Sunday In Ordinary Time

Year B

11th November 2018

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Fabian Smith

ASSISTANT PRIESTS: Fr Patrick Bradford & Fr Joseph Panackal IV Dei

ST ANTHONY'S PARISH

Parish Secretary: Lesley Morffew

Admin Assistant: Judy Johnson

Parish Office Hours:

Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri 9.00am—4.00pm

Email: meltonsouth@cam.org.au

Website: stanthonysmeltonsouth.wordpress.com

St Anthony's School Principal: Damien Schuster
Wilson Road, Melton South 3338

Phone: 9743 1401

Email: principal@sameltonsth.catholic.edu.au

Website: www.sameltonsth.catholic.edu.au

Catholic Regional College - Melton (Years 7-12)

Principal: Mr Mark Sheehan **Phone:** 8099 6000

Website: www.crcmelton.com.au

ST BERNARD'S PARISH

Parish Secretary: Dolores Turcsan

Admin Assistant: Judy Johnson

Sacramental Coordinator/ Bookkeeper:

Naim Chdid Fri 10.00am—3.00pm

Parish Office Hours: Tue –Thurs 9.00am-1.00pm

Email: bacchusmarsh@cam.org.au

Website: http://pol.org.au/bacchusmarsh/Home.aspx

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
Naim Chdid	0437 004 790
Lillian Christian	0400 441 257
Stephen Fernandes	0439 743 533
Amy Honrade	03 9747 0078
Natalie Howard	0410 478 046
Rose Ma'ae	0431 386 473
Marthese Mercieca	0421 378 691

EX-OFFICIO:

Fr Fabian Smith PP, Fr Patrick Bradford, Fr Joseph Panackal and Damien Schuster Council Secretary: Judy Johnson

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL COUNCIL

Cathy Belcher	0431 082 886
Shane Cook	0419 999 052
Peter Farren	0418 594 501
David Loxley	0459 974 960
Maira Ross	0400 675 056
Emillio Scalzo	5366 5800
James Waters	0403 822 795

EX-OFFICIO:

Fr Fabian Smith PP, Fr Patrick Bradford, Fr Joseph Panackal and Emilio Scalzo

CHILD SAFETY OFFICERS

Coordinator: Godwin Barton (0425 734 449)

Officers: Aloysious Dacunha, Karina Dunne & Lorraine Tellis

Please contact Judy Johnson for any Parish news you would like published in the Newsletter

Articles must be received by midday Tuesdays. Email: judyparishnews@gmail.com

For appointments with Father Fabian please call Judy on 0414 007 009

For urgent matters only please call Fr Fabian on 0403 435 471

MASS AND DEVOTIONS

ST ANTHONY'S **MELTON SOUTH**

MASS TIMES : 12/11/18-18/11/18

Monday :	No Mass	
Tuesday morning:	9.15am	FPB
Tuesday evening:	6.30pm	FFS
Wednesday:	9.15am	FFS
Thursday:	9.15am	FPB
Memorial Mass:	7.30pm	FFS
Friday:	9.15am	FFS
Saturday Vigil :	5.30pm	FPB
Sunday :	8.30am	FPB
	10.30am	FPB

INDIVIDUAL RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 4.45pm and before and after weekday Mass.

ROSARY:

Prayed at 9.00am before every weekday Mass.



ADORATION: 30 minutes before and 30 minutes after every weekday Mass.

During School Term Mass on Mon/Wed/Thurs/Fri at CRC Melton Chapel: 8.00am

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS **KOROBEIT**

MASS TIMES :

Saturday:	6.30pm Mass	FFS
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ST BERNARD'S **BACCHUS MARSH**

MASS TIMES : 12/11/18-18/11/18

All weekday Masses (except Thursday) will be held in the Chapel

Monday :	No Mass	
Tuesday :	5.30pm	FPB
Wednesday :	9.30am	FPB
Thursday :	No Mass	
Friday :	9.30am	FPB
Senior's Mass	10.30am	FPB
Saturday Vigil :	5:00pm	FFS
Sunday :	8:30am	FFS
	10:00am	FFS

INDIVIDUAL RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 4.30pm and before and after weekday Mass

ROSARY:

Prayed every Monday at 7.30pm with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for one hour.

Rosary is also held on the first Friday of the month following morning mass.

Next Date : **7th December**



ADORATION:

1 hour before every weekday Mass.

PROVIDENCE MASS

Is held on the second Friday of the month at 11.00am The Village 5-7 Griffith St, Maddingley.

Next Mass: **7th December**

SENIOR PARISHIONER'S MASS

Is held on the third Friday of the month in the Parish Centre at 10.30am. Everyone is welcome not just the seniors. Next Senior's Mass: **16th November**

NEWS FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE

Widening the Door of Hope: A Response to the Victorian Assisted Dying Legislation

Date: Tuesday 20th November 2018 Time: 7.30pm start 7.00pm light refreshments
 Venue: Mercy Theatre , Australian Catholic University, 115 Victoria Parade, Fitzroy (enter via Young Street)
 Orators: **Assoc. Prof. Natasha Michael** MBChB FRACP FACHPM MRCPI MRCP MSc
 Director, Palliative Medicine Cabrini Health, University of Notre Dame, Sydney School of Medicine
Dr Stephen Parnis MBBS DipSurgAnat FACEM FAICD FAMA Former Vice-President AMA ,Emergency Physician,
 St. Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne. RSVP / Inquiries: by Monday 12th November 2018
justice@cam.org.au or (03) 9926 5727 cam.org.au/justice • [fb.com/camjusticepeace](https://www.facebook.com/camjusticepeace)

The Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre, at 362 Albert St East Melbourne, will be open on Saturday, 17th November

10.00am – 4.00pm, to enable visitors to prepare for the Christmas season with a visit to the Mary MacKillop Museum & Chapel. A special morning/afternoon tea will be available & a guided Mary MacKillop Walking Tour will take place at 11.00am. Religious Christmas gifts, cards, books & decorations, including Peruvian items, will be available in the gift shop.

PARISH EVENTS & NOTICES

MEN'S, WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S RETREAT

St Anthony's and St Bernard's Parishes will be holding a retreat for men, women and children on the 14th-16th December. Flyers are available with all the details.

CHRISTMAS BBQ AND NATIVITY PLAY

Organised by the Spirit of the Two Hearts Youth Group **Sunday 9th December 2018** St. Joseph's Hall at the Two Hearts Centre 274 La Cote Road, Greendale, Vic 3341. 12:30pm BBQ Lunch 1:30pm Nativity Play and Christmas Carols followed by Dessert. Cost: Free RSVP: Monday 3rd December Contact: Sister Clare Mobile: [0415 806 217](tel:0415806217) or Email: twoheartscentre@bigpond.com Coordinated by the Missionaries of Love and Peace of the Most Blessed Trinity

CATHOLIC DEAF APPEAL

This weekend we will be having a special collection for the Catholic Deaf

MISSION STATEMENT: *Inspired by Jesus Christ and the traditions of the Catholic Church, the John Pierce Centre seeks to empower all Deaf people and their families within Victoria to live their lives to the full.*

Please give generously. Thank you.

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

ST ANTHONY'S

NOVEMBER INTENTIONS

Parishioners, envelopes that had no Mass Times listed on them will have their loved ones names placed in the Memorial book, that will be processed in at all Masses during the month of November. Thank you, Lesley.

ANOINTING MASS—21st NOVEMBER

We will be having an Anointing of the sick and the elderly Mass on Wednesday 21st November at 11am. A light luncheon will be served after Mass. Please feel free to bring along friends and relatives who would like to receive the anointing. There is a clipboard at the back of the Church for catering purposes.

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 families who wish to go on the roster please put your name, address and phone number on the list at the back of the Church.

MISSION SUNDAY

The Mission Sunday collection on the 21st October totalled \$685.00. Thank you for your generosity.

PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2019

(for students who attend non-Catholic schools)

Preparation and active participation in the Sacraments is very important for the development of the spiritual journey of your child. To enrol your child in the program, please attend one of the 5.30pm Saturday evening Masses, during the first 3 Saturdays of November and speak to the Sacramental Coordinator after Mass. All information and dates will be given to you at the Sacramental Enrolment.

ST BERNARD'S

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY—FASHION EVENT

Date: **28th November** Time: **7pm**

Venue: **Vinnies, 8 Grant Street, Bacchus Marsh**

Tickets: **\$5.00** Light refreshments provided.

Tickets can be purchased at the Vinnies store and the store will be open on the night.

KSC MEETING

KSC meeting this Monday 12th November. 8pm Parish Centre.

KSC MEMORIAL MASS

Deceased Members Memorial Mass

Friday 23rd November at 6:30pm

Followed by dinner at Bacchus Marsh Golf Club.

SENIOR PARISHIONER'S MASS GROUP

The Seniors monthly Mass will be celebrated Friday 16th November at 10.30am in the Parish Centre. Please join us in celebrating the Eucharist, everyone welcome.

The December Mass will be the groups last for 2018. It will be celebrated on the **2nd Friday of the month— 14th December at 11.30am** in the Parish Centre.

This will be our Christmas Mass and as usual will be followed by a Christmas Luncheon. All Parishioners, not just Seniors are invited, so please come along. Further details at a later date.

MISSION SUNDAY

The Mission Sunday collection which was scheduled to be collected on the 21st October will be collected next weekend. Catholic Mission is the International mission agency of the Catholic Church in Australia.

PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2019

(for students who attend non-Catholic schools)

Preparation and active participation in the Sacraments is very important for the development of the spiritual journey of your child. To enrol your child in the program, please arrange a meeting time with Naim Chdid, our Sacramental Coordinator, through the Parish Office (5367 2069). The enrolment meetings will be held on Fridays in November. He will be available each Friday 10.00am –5.00pm and 12noon—6.30pm alternately. All information and dates will be given to you at the Sacramental Enrolment Meeting.

WORSHIP NEWS

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

ST ANTHONY'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 17th & 18th November

MINISTERS OF THE WORD:

5.30pm: Patrick Ilustrisimos
8.30am: Michael Higgins
10.30am: Susan Malinov

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.30pm : Mila Little (P) & Dolores Turcsan
8.30am : Lois Brewis (P) , Sue Alexander & Geoff Sutton
10.30am: Rita Harinos (P) & John Scerri

If you are unavailable for these dates please contact the emergency minister on the roster. Thank you.

MASS COORDINATORS

5.30pm: Josephine German & Pat Fernandez
8.30am: Indika Silva & Ken Dumandan
10.30am: Godwin Barton & Josephine German

ALTAR SERVERS

5.30pm: Kieran Grech & Jedi Anyayahan
8.30am: Nixon, Thytus & Aaron Ben
10.30am: Anakin Anderson & Nick Taunuu

If you are unavailable please contact Ben Kratochvil 0423 076 305

ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 17th & 18th November

MINISTERS OF THE WORD:

5.00pm: John Thorne
8.30am: Gerard Harrington & Jenny Hooper
10.00am: Cathy Belcher

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Mary Beaton
8.30am: Peter Lafranchi
10.00am: Jennifer Taylor

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL ROSTER

November: John Thorne

ALTAR SERVERS

5.00pm:
8.30am: Shea x 2
10.00am: Vereker & Byham

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

We pray for the death anniversary at this time of:

Wanda Biechun, Sylvia Ladson, Tony Sciberras, Imelda Thomson, Regina Tolosa & Patrick George Woods

Please pray for the Sick: Jean Barnett, Nickolia & Klara Butkovic, Maria Caruana, Mary Caruana, Judy Layton, Peter Manicaro, Veronica Michael, Wanda Novak, John Osborne, Irene Rahilly, Catherine Roberts, Peter Roberts, Pat Roberts, Charlie Spiteri, Clint Abela Wadge, Michael Wright & 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)

PRAYER FOR THE SICK

May you be wrapped up in God's love,
Found deep in his everlasting wings;
Carried and kept safe and cherished.
May the healing power of Christ be
with you.
Amen



ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

SPIRITS OF THE TWO HEARTS YOUTH GROUP

Experience faith, friendship and fun.

Age group: 11years+ **When:** Every 4th Thursday of the month 7.00pm-9.00pm **Where:** Two Hearts Centre, 274 La Cote Road, Greendale

Contact: Sister Clare 0415 806 217 or

Email : twoheartscentre@bigpond.com

'Coordinated by the Missionaries of Love and Peace of the Most Blessed Trinity of the Pilgrimage of the Two Hearts'

We pray for the recently deceased:

Mary Donegan & Basil Britt

We pray for the death anniversary at this time of:

Maria Bellegante, Ray Coghlan, Kevin Lawrence Condon, Peter Gallagher, Jack Glasheen, Daryl Hyne, Margaret Porter & Verna Walsh.

Please pray for the Sick:

Noah Barlow, Dudley Baddeley, Michael Barrett, Peter Bennett, Steven Braszel, Kevin Bridges, John Canty, Fred Capuano, Gary Ching, Ted Cooling, Lindsay & Kathleen Dally, Judy Delahey, Jack DeLuca, Allison Evans, Helen Evans, Justin Fernandez, Pasquale Gagliarbi, Mario Galea, Cynthia Goodyear, Gwen Green, Joe Gristi, Brian Harrison, Adam Hillier, Elle Hillman, Kiahni Holamotutama, Alicia Holborn, Matthew Jansen, David Kasprzak, Loretta Kervin, Marie Maloney, Patricia Marechal, Debbie Marshall, Jordanis Maryo, Pauline McDonald, Ian McKechnie, Marcus Meno, Paul Mullin, Kevin O'Gorman, Arthur Pape, Michael Paterson, Georgia Peacock, Arabella Periera, Bev Pickett, Mitchell Prendergast, Peter Roberts, Ken Shaw, Marian Smith, Frank & Elizabeth Stehmann, Susan Trist, Mitchell Tung, John Van Orsouw, Angela Vicum, Louis Vogels, Barry Walsh, Mary Walsh, Carol Wells, Cath Wheelahan, Jayne Wilkins, Nils Wyren, Patricia Yazbek, Betty Young & Hannah Young.

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



SERVICE / COMMUNITY

ST ANTHONY'S

VOLUNTEERS WEEKEND: 17th & 18th November

PIETY STALLS VOLUNTEERS

5.30pm: Liza Fernandes
8.30am: Edwina La Rose
10.30am: Indika Silva

CUPPA ROSTER

Cuppa Weekend: **24th & 25th November**

5.30pm: Emily Bonello & Kristina Scerri
8.30am: Joyce Stellini & Lina Calleja
10.30am: Charlie & Lina Vassalo



CHURCH FLOWERS

Rosabella Tuala



CLEANING ROSTER: Thursday

Lorelle Porter

Volunteers would be appreciated as well.

SERVICE AND COMMUNITY QUADRANT

Volunteers are required for the following groups:
Piety Stall, Social Committee, & Monthly Cuppa.
Contact:

Natalie Howard	0410478046,
Amy Honrade	0457042695
Lillian Christian	0400441257

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Welfare Number: 1800 305 330

The Melton South Conference meet every 3rd Tuesday morning in the Holy Family Room 10.00am.

New members most welcome, training provided.

Non perishable items within the use by date can be left in the 'drop box' at the back of the Church. Thank you.

COMBINED CHURCHES CARING MELTON INC

CCCM's aim is to supply free food to help people in our local community in need and walk alongside them to reduce dependency through friendship and education.

Address: 100 Coburn Road Melton South 9747 6811

Hours: Mon- Thurs: 10.00am-3.00pm
Friday : 10.00am-12.15pm
School Holidays : 10.00am-12.30pm

ST BERNARD'S

VOLUNTEERS WEEKEND : 17th & 18th November

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: Trish Davine
Sunday: *Volunteer Please*

MORNING TEA

Is held on the the first Sunday of the month in the Parish Centre after 10.00am Mass.

Next Morning Tea: **2nd December**

Host: Parish Pastoral Council



CHURCH FLOWERS

Jan Carragher



COUNTING TEAM # 5

Pat O'Leary
Jo Cowan
Peter Lafranchi
Frank Pomeroy
Stuart Robertson

PRESBYTERY & CHURCH GROUNDS- (November)

Front Garden:	Stuart Robertson
Back/Side Garden:	Hugh Miller
Parish Centre:	*Volunteer Please*
Carpark/Pines:	*Volunteer Please*
Back Paddock:	Henry Gasior

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Welfare Number is 1800 305 330.

The Bacchus Marsh Conference meets once a month in the Parish Centre. New members are welcome and training is available. The contact number is 5310 6322.

The Vinnies Store is located at 8 Grant 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. Presently, the store is looking for homewares and toys. However, all donations are gratefully accepted.

THE NEIGHBOURS PLACE

Emergency Foodbank and Hospitality centre

Address: 77 Main Street Bacchus Marsh

Open: Monday/Wednesday/Friday 9.30am-3.00pm

Email: neighbourspl@iinet.net.au

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.

Contact: Jenny Kearney 0408 104 155

PARISH CENTRE BOOKING

Tel: 5367 3427

Mon-Fri 9.00am to 6.00pm

Hall Managers: Marie & Terry Casey

FAITH FORMATION

ST ANTHONY'S

BAPTISM PREPARATION PROGRAM

Held on the fourth Thursday of the month in the Church 6.30pm-7.45pm.

Next preparation : **Thursday 22nd Nov**

Baptisms are held on the 1st and 3rd

Sunday of the month: **Sunday 2nd & 16th December**

See details on Parish Homepage as listed on front page and download forms. Forms are also available from the Parish Office or from the Sacristy after Mass from Father. Both parents are required to attend these meetings. We kindly request adults only and a copy of the birth certificate.

Contact Fr Fabian, Fr Patrick, Fr Joseph or the Parish Office for queries.

BAPTISM TEAM: Karina Dunne & Judy Johnson

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

CHILDREN'S LITURGY Is held during Saturday evening Vigil Mass and Sunday 10.30am Mass.

DIVINE MERCY: 1st Sunday of the month at 3pm .

FATIMA STATUE

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

Group 1: **Ben & Joan Antony 9743 8154**

Group 2: **Maria & Juan Dumandan 0402 177 623**



ST BERNARD'S

BAPTISM PREPARATION PROGRAM

Held on the fourth Sunday of the month in the Parish Centre at 11:15am.

Next program: **Sunday 25th November**

Baptisms are held on the 1st and 3rd

Sunday of the month: **Sunday 2nd & 16th December**

Registration forms can be downloaded from our website www.pol.cam.org.au/bacchusmarsh. Bring completed Registration Form with a copy of Birth Certificate to the program.

Please note: Both parents are required to attend the program.

Contact Fr Fabian, Fr Patrick, Fr Joseph or the Parish Office for queries.

COORDINATORS : Steve & Geraldine

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

CHILDREN'S LITURGY Is held every Sunday during 10.00am Mass in the meeting room in the Parish Centre.



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.



NICENO-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

WEEKLY PRAYERS & READINGS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Let my prayer come into your presence.
Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord.

FIRST READING

A reading from the first book of the Kings

The widow made a little scone from her flour meal and brought it to Elijah.

Elijah the Prophet went off to Sidon. And when he reached the city gate, there was a widow gathering sticks; addressing her he said, 'Please bring a little water in a vessel for me to drink.' She was setting off to bring it when he called after her. 'Please' he said 'bring me a scrap of bread in your hand.' 'As the Lord your God lives,' she replied 'I have no baked bread, but only a handful of meal in a jar and a little oil in a jug; I am just gathering a stick or two to go and prepare this for myself and my son to eat, and then we shall die.' But Elijah said to her, 'Do not be afraid, go and do as you have said; but first make a little scone of it for me and bring it to me, and then make some for yourself and for your son. For thus the Lord speaks, the God of Israel:

"Jar of meal shall not be spent,
jug of oil shall not be emptied,
before the day when the Lord sends
rain on the face of the earth."

The woman went and did as Elijah told her and they ate the food, she, himself and her son. The jar of meal was not spent nor the jug of oil emptied, just as the Lord had foretold through Elijah.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 145

Comm: Praise the Lord, my soul!

All: Praise the Lord, my soul!

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.

It is the Lord who loves the just,
the Lord, who protects the stranger.

The Lord upholds the widow and orphan
but thwarts the path of the wicked.

The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age.

All: Praise the Lord, my soul!

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Christ offered himself only once to take the faults of many on himself.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

This poor widow has put more in than all who contributed.

In his teaching Jesus said, 'Beware of the scribes who like to walk about in long robes, to be greeted obsequiously in the market squares, to take the front seats in the synagogues and the places of honour at banquets; these are the men who swallow the property of widows, while making a show of lengthy prayers. The more severe will be the sentence they receive.'

He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the treasury, and many of the rich put in a great deal.

A poor widow came and put in two small coins, the equivalent of a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, this poor widow has put more in than all who have contributed to the treasury; for they have all put in money they had over, but she from the little she had has put in everything she possessed, all she had to live on.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose,
near restful waters he leads me.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS— 33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Dan 12:1-3;

Second Reading: Heb 10:11-14, 18

Gospel: Mk 13:24-32



2018 the Year of Youth:

Models of holiness V: The Child Martyrs of Tlaxcala part II

The Tlaxcalans were given the highest status among all the indigenous people of New Spain. They had the right to carry guns and to ride horses. They could retain their noble titles and indigenous names. The first archbishopric established in colonial Mexico was in Tlaxcala, and the first archbishop, a 73-year old Dominican from Aragón named Julián Garcés, assumed the post in 1525, when the martyrs Cristobal, Antonio and Juan were still alive.

Archbishop Garcés fought for the rights of the indigenous, established welfare services, built a hospital, and started construction of the cathedral at Puebla. Much of what Julián Garcés wrote in his diaries and letters survives to this day. He wrote this general statement about the children found throughout his immediate ministry in Tlaxcala:

“The children of the Indians ... learn more rapidly and with greater joy than the Spanish children the articles of faith in their order and the other prayers. They are not chattering or quarrelsome, nor stubborn, nor restless, nor arrogant, nor disapproving, nor ill-tempered, but agreeable, and very obedient to their teachers.

“They are very intelligent, so that they can be easily taught anything. When they are ordered to count, or read or write, paint, perform any type of manual or artisan work or art, they show great clarity, quickness and facility of mind in learning the basic principles.

“They learn perfectly ecclesiastical song, as well as that of the organ and Gregorian chant and harmony to such a degree that foreign musicians are not needed.”

It was the Spanish king himself who suggested that the clergy in New Spain start the evangelisation process with the children of native noble houses first and that their conversion to Christianity would set an example for others living under Spanish rule who had not yet completely accepted the new faith. The early missionaries focused on the children with two primary objectives in mind: conversion to Christianity; and to transmit useful knowledge and skills.

The king of Spain's idea had the intended effect. As Archbishop Garcés said, the youngsters were quick learners and helpful, obedient students. More learned children often instructed other children. Bilingual children often worked closely with the clergy when it came to translation. And so, the children of New Spain adopted their new faith with zeal and spread it to their families. The newfound faith included with it the complete rejection of the

old, and this caused strife within indigenous families. Here is where the story of the three Tlaxcalan martyrs begins.

Cristobal was born into a minor Tlaxcalan noble family in 1514 or 1515, just a few years before the Spanish arrived in Mexico. When he was a young boy, Cristobal's father, Acxotécatl, reluctantly sent him away to a Franciscan school.

Acxotécatl didn't concern himself too much with Cristobal's evangelism until the boy started to destroy idols to the old gods that were still being venerated in the home. At that point, the boy's father told him to stop immediately, but Cristobal continued with his personal crusade to eliminate all physical representations of the Nahua belief systems in the house.

Acxotécatl grew infuriated with his son and had thoughts of killing him. These thoughts were further encouraged by his second wife, Xochipapalotzin, Cristobal's step mother. After one of Cristobal's idol-smashing tirades, sometime in the year 1527, Acxotécatl took his son by the hair, dragged him through the house and beat him terribly so as to cause many broken bones.

In his fury, the father took his son outside and threw him on to a pile of burning wood. Cristobal suffered with his injuries until the next day. From his deathbed, Cristobal's last words to Acxotécatl were, “Father, I forgive you.” Acxotécatl hastily buried Cristobal's body in a room in their house but word quickly spread among the Tlaxcalans about what he had done. The Spanish authorities sentenced Cristobal's father to death for his crime.

The martyring of the second and third Tlaxcalan children—Antonio and Juan—happened together two years later. Antonio was the grandson of a prominent Tlaxcalan noble named Xiochténacti, and as the eldest grandson, Antonio was set to inherit his titles and lands. Juan was a servant to Antonio and around the same age; both boys were born in 1516 or 1517. Both also converted to Christianity at the same time and were evangelists for their new faith.

They found themselves in a similar situation to Cristobal: the two were caught destroying indigenous idols in the name of Christianity. An angry mob surrounded the two boys and clubbed them to death. This was in 1529. Their bodies were hurled off a cliff but were later recovered by a Dominican friar known to history only as Bernardino.

Cristobal, Antonio and Juan were canonised in Rome on October 15, 2017, and were named the patron saints of Mexican childhood.