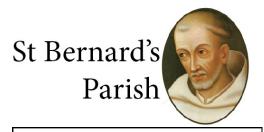


67-74 EXFORD ROAD, MELTON SOUTH, 3338.
P.O BOX 2152 MELTON SOUTH 3338
TEL: 9747 9692 FAX: 9746 0422



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

3rd Sunday of Advent

Year C

16th December 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 |
| Moira 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 |
|---------------|---------------|
| 0.7.1.1.0.1.0 | III CIT COULT |

STANTHONT 3 WELTON 3001

| MASS TIMES: 1//12/18-23/12/18 | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------|-----|--|
| Monday: | 7.30pm | FFS | |
| Tuesday morning: | 9.15am | FJP | |
| Tuesday evening: | 6.30pm | FJP | |

Wednesday:9.15amFJPSchool Mass10.15amFFS

Thursday:9.15amFFSFriday:9.15amFJP

Saturday morning:

Saturday Vigil: 5.30pm FFS

Sunday: 8.30am FPB 10.30am FJP

INDIVIDUAL RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 4.45pm and before and after weekday Mass.

ROSARY:

Prayed at 9.00am before every weekday Mass.

<u>ADORATION:</u>30 minutes before and 30 minutes after every weekday Mass.

CRC MELTON CHAPEL

No Masses during school holidays.

Masses will resume 4th February 2019

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS KOROBEIT

MASS TIMES:

Saturday: 6.30pm Mass FJP

ST BERNARD'S BACCHUS MARSH

MASS TIMES: 17/12/18-23/12/18

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

Monday: No Mass

Tuesday: 5.30pm FPB

Wednesday: 9.30am FPB

School Mass 2.00pm FFS

Thursday: 9.30am FPB

Friday: 9.30am FPB

Saturday Vigil: 5:00pm FPB

Sunday: 8:30am FFS 10.00am FFS

INDIVIDUAL RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 4.30pm and before and after weekday Mass

ROSARY:

Monday night Rosary and Adoration will resume on 21st January 2019

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: No Masses in December and January

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.

NEWS FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE

TROPICAL WILDERNESS RETREAT: FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND

Monday 15 to Monday 22 July 2019

Seville Mercy Conference Centre, Cairns, QLD

Join us on a 6-day walking retreat based in Cairns, Queensland in an experience of indigenous culture, beautiful walks and a visit to St Monica's Cathedral.

Details and bookings: Campion Centre of Ignatian Spirituality on 9854 8110 or secretary@campion.asn.au

Download Flyer: https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Portals/0/Tropical%20Wilderness%20Retreat-Flyer%206.pdf



PARISH EVENTS & NOTICES

DAWN CHRISTMAS NOVENA MASSES

The Parish of Melton invites you to join 'Simbang Gabi sa Melton' (The nine dawn Christmas Novena Masses). To be held 16th December—24th December 2018. Starts 5.00am at St Catherine of Siena Church, 108 Bulmans Road, Melton West, All welcome

MELBOURNE OVERSEAS MISSION

Last weekend we had a special collection for the Melbourne Overseas Mission and St Anthony's collected \$511.30 and St Bernard's collected \$423.65. Thank you for your generosity.

If you want to learn more about the Catholic Faith, want to become a Catholic, or you didn't receive all your Sacraments as a child and you want to receive them.

Classes for Adult Faith Formation are being held: February 3rd, 10th 17th & 24th. March 3rd, 10th, 17th & 24th.

At St Bernard's Parish Centre Bacchus Marsh 5pm till 6pm.

For further information, can you please contact the Parish Office on 5367 2069

BINGO—CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

St Anthony's Bingo will have its last session on Tuesday 18th December and recommence on Tuesday 15th January 2019.

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

ST ANTHONY'S

CHRISTMAS 2018

Reconciliation

Friday 21st December - 7.00pm—8.00pm

(3 priests available)

Christmas Viail Monday 24th December

5.30pm, 8.00pm & Midnight (all Masses preceded by Carols)

Christmas Day—25th December

9.00am (preceded by Carols)

Please note that incense will be in use at 8.00pm, Midnight & 9.00am Christmas Masses

New Years Eve 31st December

11.00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with Rosary

11.45pm Benediction followed by Midnight Mass for the Feast of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

New Years Day 1st January 2019

9.00am Mass

NEW YEAR'S EVE BALL—RAFFLE TICKETS

Raffle tickets are now available after every Mass on the weekends. All proceeds will go towards the New Adoration Chapel.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

There is a box on the Sanctuary for Parishioners who would like to donate towards the cost of the Christmas flowers for our Masses. Thank You.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

We need volunteers to cover our Christmas Masses 24th & 25th and New Year Masses 31st & 1st. Clipboards are available at the back of the Church. Thank you.

THANK YOU - SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The Fund Raising Committee would like to thank the Social Committee for raising \$184.00 with their sausage sizzle a couple of weekends ago. The proceeds will go towards the extension of the Church.

ST BERNARD'S

PLENARY COUNCIL CONVERSATIONS 2020

Facilitator: Steve Vereker Date: Sunday 16th Dec Time: 7.00pm Venue: Parish Centre

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES—2018

Reconciliation

Saturday 22nd December- 10.00am-11.00am

(3 priests available)

St Bernard's

Christmas Vigil – Monday 24th December

7.00pm—Vigil Family Mass (preceded by Carols at 6.30pm)

10.30pm—Mass (preceded by Carols at 10.00pm)

Christmas Day—Tuesday 25th December

8.30am and 10.00am Mass

Our Lady Help of Christians

Christmas Vigil—Monday 24th December 2018

8.00pm—Vigil Mass (preceded by Carols at 7.30pm)

MOORABOOL LIGHT ORCHESTRA

Barry Wilkins OAM Musical Director presents

"The Sounds of Christmas" Sunday 16 December 2018 @ 2pm Bacchus Marsh Public Hall Featuring 75+ Musicians & Singers Special Guests THE GISBORNE SINGERS TOMAS DALTON (Tenor) A Pleasant Sunday Afternoon of specially selected Christmas Music, with Special Guest Artists, and Community Carol Singing. GENERAL ADMISSION \$25

Tickets available at the door.

WORSHIP NEWS

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

ST ANTHONY'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 22nd & 23rd December

MINISTERS OF THE WORD:

5.30pm: Pat Fernandez 8.30am: Villy Julita 10.30am: Rose Ma'ae

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.30pm: Lorraine Tellis (P) & Philip Anyayahan **8.30am**: Ron Howard (P). Ineke Allen &

Geoff Sutton

10.30am: Rita Harinos (P) & Elaine Lacey

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

MASS COORDINATORS

5.30pm: Godwin Barton & Stephen Fernandes8.30am: Natalie Howard & Ron Howard10.30am: Godwin Barton & Anthea Scerri

ALTAR SERVERS 5.30pm: Jona

5.30pm: Jonathan Dacunha & Mason Azzopardi

8.30am: Rhys Tuala & Andre Oqueli **10.30am:** Nick Taunuu & Ethan Porter

If you are unavailable please contact Ben Kratochvil 0423 076 305

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

We pray for the death anniversary at this time of:

Arthur Abela, Noue Taupi Asiata, Andrea Butcher, Alessandro Dimartino & Anthony Mercieca

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

Amen

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.



ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 22nd & 23rd December

MINISTERS OF THE WORD:

5.00pm: John Thorne

8.30am: Peter Lafranchi & Margaret Love **10.00am:** Diane Corro & James Waters

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Vikki Benson
8.30am: Colm Carragher
10.00am: Jenny Kearney

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL ROSTER

December: Diane Corro

ALTAR SERVERS 5.00pm:

5.00pm: 8.30am:

10.00am: Lindorff

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 death anniversary at this time of:

Kevin Fernandez, Marie Graham, Rae Graham, Patrick Green, Michael Kenny, Phillip McLaughlin, Luigi Albina Nardella, Winnie O'Keefe, Normie Tisdell, Mick Twoomey & Christian Zahra.

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, Hayden Tung, 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: 22nd & 23rd December

PIETY STALLS VOLUNTEERS

5.30pm: Anne Peramuna8.30am: Judy Johnson10.30am: Kim Barton

CUPPA ROSTER

Cuppa Weekend: 22nd & 23rd December

5.30pm: John & Anthea Scerri **8.30am:** Ineke Allen & Lilly Offer **10.30am:** Rose Ma'ae & Family



CHURCH FLOWERS

Doris Bonello & Josephine German



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: 22nd & 23rd December

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: Trish Davine Sunday: Carol Ryder

MORNING TEA

Is held on the first Sunday of the month in the Parish

Centre after 10.00am Mass.

Next Morning Tea: 3rd February 2019

Host: TBA

CHURCH FLOWERS

Jan Carragher (Christmas)

COUNTING TEAM

TBA



PRESBYTERY & CHURCH GROUNDS- (December)

Front Garden: *Volunteer Please*
Back/Side Garden: *Volunteer Please*

Parish Centre: Ron Geurts
Carpark/Pines: Ron Geurts
Back Paddock: Colm Carragher

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Welfare Number is 1800 305 330.

The St Vincent de Paul Conferences are obliged to elect a new President every four years. On Monday 3rd December 2018, we met and elected Margot Short as our new President. Margot has been a member of the this parish for many years and has worked on various committees. We are pleased to have her as our new leader. Please remember Margot and the other members in your prayers.

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. 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 24th Jan**Baptisms are held on the 1st and 3rd

Sunday of the month: **Sunday 3rd & 17th February**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

<u>ADULT PREPARATION</u> 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.

<u>CHILDREN'S LITURGY</u> 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: **Gerard Anderson** 0433 690 902 Group 2: **John & Joyce Sultana** 03 9747 9925



ST BERNARD'S

BAPTISM PREPARATION PROGRAM

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

Next program: **Sunday 27th January** Baptisms are held on the 1st and 3rd

Sunday of the month: **Sunday 3rd & 17th February** 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: To be advised

<u>ADULT PREPARATION</u> 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.

<u>CHILDREN'S LITURGY</u> 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

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah

With gladness the Lord will rejoice over you.

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion,

Israel, shout aloud!

Rejoice, exult with all your heart,

daughter of Jerusalem!

The Lord has repealed your sentence;

he has driven your enemies away.

The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst;

you have no more evil to fear.

When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem:

Zion, have no fear,

do not let your hands fall limp.

The Lord your God is in your midst,

a victorious warrior.

He will exult with iov over you.

he will renew you by his love;

he will dance with shouts of joy for you

as on a day of festival.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 12

<u>Comm:</u> Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

<u>All:</u> Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

Truly, God is my salvation, I trust, I shall not fear. For the Lord is my strength, my song, he became my saviour.

With joy you will draw water

from the wells of salvation.

Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name! Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!

Declare the greatness of his name.

Sing a psalm to the Lord for he has done glorious deeds, make them known to all the earth! People of Zion, sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

<u>All:</u> Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

The Lord is near.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me:

he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke *What, then, must we do?*

When all the people asked John. 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS- FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: Micah 5:1-4;
Second Reading: Heb 10:5-10;
Gospel: Lk 1:39-44



The Catholic family: Raising children in a secular world III

We continue the series of customs and traditions that you may like to adopt in your family home for Advent and Christmas.

THERE ARE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS!

December 26. St Stephen's Feast Day. We play a game.

December 27. Feast Day of St John. We always serve grape juice and drink the Love of St John on that day. (According to tradition, St John the Apostle was once presented by his enemies with a cup of poisoned wine intended to kill him. When the Apostle made the sign of the cross over the wine, however, the cup split in half and the poisoned wine was spilled.)

December 28. Holy Innocents. We always have a party with a lot of families and their children, all dressed in white, for innocence, and red, for blood. The required dessert was vanilla icecream with strawberries.

December 29–30. Christmas carols wall to wall.

December 31. Children in bed early, awakened about 11:30pm to a lovely, adult-type sophisticated buffet. It is a quiet party. At midnight, we say the Yearly Offering (adapted from the Morning Offering) and the Our Father, then off to bed.

New Year's Day. We have our yearly drawings and a turkey dinner. Each of us draws the name of a saint to have for a special friend for the year. Another drawing gives you a living person or family to pray for throughout the year. The third is a poor soul.

The Yearly Offering that is prayed on New Year's Eve might be like this one:

O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer you all my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this year, for all the intentions of your Sacred Heart, in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world, in reparation for my sins, for the intentions of all my relatives and friends and in particular for the intentions of the Holy Father. Amen

Epiphany. We bake cup cakes; four of them have buttons hidden in them. They represent the three kings (wise men), and Herod (the black button). If you get the cake with one of the Kings' buttons, you get a crown. Everyone hides, and whoever got the cake with the black button is Herod has to find them.

On this day, the father of the household sprinkles holy water in the main room of the house and asks God's blessing on the room and on all who enter it.

Over the front door he writes with chalk:

2COM1B9+

That is, the year (2019); and C = Caspar; M = Melchior; B = Balthasar (the traditional names of the three Kings).

A Birthday Cake for Jesus

- **1.** Make it round, like the never-ending circle, as is His love for all of us.
- **2.** Make it chocolate, like the darkness our sins bring to us and others.
- **3.** Make it covered with white frosting, like His purity covering our weaknesses.
- **4.** Top it with a yellow star and an angel, bearer of the first glad tidings.
- **5.** Put 12 red candles on top, for all the 12 months of the year that Christ is our light. They are red for the blood He willingly shed for us.
- **6.** Encircle this loving cake with evergreens, the symbol of everlasting life.

