



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

26th Sunday In Ordinary Time

Year B

30th September 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 Walters	0403 974 960

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 :

Monday :	No Mass	
Tuesday morning:	9.15am	FJP
Tuesday evening:	6.30pm	FFS
Wednesday:	9.15am	FFS
Thursday:	9.15am	FJP
Friday:	9.15am	FJP
1st Friday Devotion :	7.30pm	FJP
Vigil Mass 1st Saturday	12.00am	FFS
1st Saturday Devotion:	9.15am	FJP
Saturday Vigil :	5.30pm	FJP
Sunday :	8.30am	FJP
	10.30am	FJP

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

ST BERNARD'S BACCHUS MARSH

MASS TIMES :

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

Monday :	No Mass	
Tuesday :	5.30pm	FJP
Wednesday :	9.30am	FJP
Thursday :	9.30am	FFS
Friday :	9.30am	FFS
Saturday :	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 : **5th October**

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 Griffin St, Maddingley.

Next Mass: **12th October**

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: **19th October**



OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS KOROBET

MASS TIMES :

Saturday:	6.30pm Mass	FFS
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NEWS FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE

SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT 2018-2019

We celebrate Social Justice Sunday on 30 September. This year, the Australian Bishops' Social Justice Statement is titled: 'A Place to Call Home: Making a home for everyone in our land'. The statement challenges us all to confront Australia's growing rate of homelessness and unaffordable housing.

For further details about the Social Justice Statement, visit the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council website www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au or call (02) 8306 3499.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY ASSISTING REFUGEE STUDENTS

MERCY CONNECT MELBOURNE – Mercy Works Ltd. is currently recruiting volunteers to support Refugee Students and Asylum Seekers in Primary and Secondary schools across the Melbourne Archdiocese. The volunteer commitment is approximately half a day per week for four school terms. Experience working in an educational setting is preferred but not limited to. Please contact Sr Mary Lewis RSM for an application form and further information. Email: somml@bigpond.com (preferred for contact) Website: www.mercyworks.org.au Mercy Connect Melbourne Tel: 9326 1895

PARISH EVENTS & NOTICES

SPIRITS OF THE TWO HEARTS YOUTH GROUP

Experience faith, friendship and fun through: Praise and Worship, Music, Trivia nights, Game nights, Movie nights, Team Building activities, Outdoor activities, BBQ's, Bush walks, Bonfire nights, Camps and much more

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



SPECIAL COLLECTION—WEEKEND 6TH & 7TH OCTOBER

In August severe floods affected the south Indian state of Kerala, due to unusually high rainfall during the monsoon season. It was the worst flooding in Kerala in nearly a century. Amongst many families affected by this natural disaster, Father Joseph's sister and her family with 3 young children have been affected severely. To help them re-establish their home, we will be having a special collection, next weekend to help this family in this time of great need. Please give generously, thank you.

rites of Christian Initiation for Adults—(R.C.I.A)

Adults who are wishing to become Catholic or who would like to learn more about the Catholic faith are invited to attend 8 Faith Formation sessions being held in the St Anthony's Holy Family Room beginning Sunday 30th September 5.00pm-6.00pm. Contact Father Fabian 0403 435 471.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS—7TH OCTOBER

A reminder that daylight savings starts Sunday 7th October. Clocks will go forward one hour.



NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

ST ANTHONY'S

YOUNG MEN'S (YMG) AND YOUNG WOMEN'S GROUPS (YWG)

Thank you to all who came to the first meet and greet for the Young Women's Group. Our next session will be on the first Sunday of October, **the 7th of October from 6-7pm**, and will be run in parallel (but separately) to the Young Men's Group. We are starting a series of sessions to explore and discuss true masculinity (YMG)/true femininity (YWG) as well as the virtue of chastity (yes, relevant to married people too!) guided by the **True Strength (YMG)/True Beauty (YWG) 4-DVD series**.

We will be watching the first DVD on our next session: **The Heart of a Man (YMG)/The Heart of a Woman (YWG)**. Come and join in fellowship with like-minded brothers/sisters in Christ! For more information contact Kim (YMG) at 0431035980 or Villy (YWG) at 0403751343.

MERCY PALLIATIVE CARE

Our special collection for Mercy Palliative Care last weekend raised \$1406.15. Thank you for your generosity.

CUPPA WITH MARY

Cuppa with Mary will take place on Monday, October 1 at 10.00am and on Tuesday, October 2 at 10.30am. For further information please contact Sr Therese Dagge RSJ on 0418 480 880.

THANK YOU – SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The Fund Raising Committee would like to thank the Social Committee for raising \$533.85 with their sausage sizzle on the second and third weekends of this month. Also, \$94.00 was raised with the Father's Day Raffle. Special thanks to the Social Committee for all their efforts and to all those who supported this. The proceeds will go towards the extension of the Church.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED— FRIDAY 19TH OCTOBER— FETE

If you are able to assist please fill in the relevant clipboard at the back of the church or call Godwin on 0425 734 449. Thank you.

To set-up: 10.00am-12.00noon
Running of Stalls: 3.30pm-7.30pm
To close up: 7.30pm-9.00pm

ST BERNARD'S

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.

COLUMBAN CALENDARS 2019

Now available from the Piety Stall—\$9.00 each.



WORSHIP NEWS

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

ST ANTHONY'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 6th & 7th October

MINISTERS OF THE WORD:

5.30pm: Gavin Pereira
8.30am: Geoff Sutton
10.30am: Karina Dunne

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.30pm : Marthese Mercieca (P) & Lorraine Tellis
8.30am : Edwina La Rose (P) , Ineke Allen
& Denise Van Rooyen

10.30am: Ron Howard (P) & John Scerri

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

MASS COORDINATORS

5.30pm: Carmen Vella & Stephen Fernandes
8.30am: Indika Silva & Lina Calleja
10.30am: Godwin Barton & Anthea Scerri

ALTAR SERVERS

5.30pm: Kieran Grech & Mason Azzopardi
8.30am: Rhys Tuala
10.30am: Nick Taunuu & Ethan Porter

If you are unavailable please contact Ben Kratochvil 0423 076 305

ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 6th & 7th October

MINISTERS OF THE WORD:

5.00pm: Sandra Ibrahim
8.30am: Gerard Harrington & Jenny Hooper
10.00am: Sr Mary Fermio

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Vikki Benson
8.30am: Carole Ryder
10.00am: Jenny Kearney

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL ROSTER

October: Ellie Taffe

ALTAR SERVERS

5.00pm:
8.30am: Roster Pending
10.00am:

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

We pray for the recently deceased:

John Montgomery

We pray for the death anniversary at this time of:

Joseph Aquilina, Archiebald Arandez,
Michael Azzopardi, Gerard Cochran, Phillip Debrincat,
Campbell Dodemaide, Madeline Giordmaina
Mary O'Meara, Joseph Saliba,
Dominic Ariel Santa Maria & Charlie Zammit

Please pray for the Sick: Jean Barnett, Nickolia &

Klara Butkovic, Maria Caruana, Mary Caruana,
Judy Layton, Peter Manicaro, Veronica Michael,
Wanda Novak, John Osborne, Howard Parr,
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

We pray for the recently deceased:

Tony Rycks

We pray for the death anniversary at this time of:

Mary Benac, Zvonko Benac, John Brook, Margaret Card,
Peter Collins, Henk de Jong, Brian Dobson, Margery Faithfull,
Victor Faithfull, Robert Flower, Bernard Lenaghan,
Walter McGinnity, Bryan Stewart, Marjorie Taylor &
Edward (Ted) Wilkison.

Please pray for the Sick:

Noah Barlow, Dudley Baddeley, Michael Barrett,
Peter Bennett, Margaret Bolger, 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, Julie Scott,
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: 6th & 7th October

PIETY STALLS VOLUNTEERS

5.30pm: Judy Van Hoos
8.30am: Pat Chiles
10.30am: John Scerri

CUPPA ROSTER

Next Cuppa Weekend: **27th & 28th October**

5.30pm: Mary Drew & Michelle Dachuna
8.30am: Chris Fitzgerald &
Regina Traczynski
10.30am: Angelo & Rita Harinos



CHURCH FLOWERS

Ana Tannu &
Roperta Mavaega



CLEANING ROSTER: Thursday

Lorelle Porter

Volunteers would be appreciated as well.

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

FUNDRAISING & SOCIAL COMMITTEE DATES

19th Oct: Parish & School Fete

11th Nov: Family Day

31st December: New Year's Eve Dance
Aspendale Gardens
Fundraiser for New Chapel

ST BERNARD'S

VOLUNTEERS WEEKEND : 6th & 7th October

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: Margot Short
Sunday: Kay Lafranchi

MORNING TEA

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

Next Morning Tea: **7th October**

Host: St Vincent de Paul Society



CHURCH FLOWERS

Tup Shea



COUNTING TEAM # 9

Roy & Carole Ryder
Henry & Chris Gasior

PRESBYTERY & CHURCH GROUNDS- (October)

Front Garden: Colm Carragher
Back/Side Garden: John Tung
Parish Centre: Volunteer Please
Carpark/Pines: Volunteer Please
Back Paddock: Ron Gerts

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Welfare Number: 1800 305 330

The Vinnies Store is located at 8 Grant Street, Bacchus Marsh. We are calling for more volunteers. If you would like more information please ring 5310 6322.

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

Our committee consists of two representatives from each of the participating churches who normally are nominated and appointed at our Annual General Meeting which was held in May.

Currently we only have one representative from the Catholic church and we are calling for a volunteer from St Bernard's Parish to take up this position on The Neighbour's Place Committee of Management. We only meet once a month and it provides two-way communication of information, ideas and opinions on our outreach work.

Contact: Fr Fabian 5367 2069

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 25th Oct**

Baptisms are held on the 1st and 3rd

Sunday of the month: **Sunday 4th & 18th November.**

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: **Anna Samy** 0435 258 230

Group 2: **Iopu & Agnes Akalga** 0401 975 591



ST BERNARD'S

BAPTISM PREPARATION PROGRAM

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

Next program: **Sunday 28th October**

Baptisms are held on the 1st and 3rd

Sunday of the month: **Sunday 4th & 18th November**

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 : Kate & Danny

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

All that you have done to us, O Lord,
you have done with true judgement,
for we have sinned against you
and not obeyed your commandments.
But give glory to your name
and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Numbers

*Are you jealous on my account? Who decrees that all people
may prophesy?*

The Lord came down in the Cloud. He spoke with Moses, but
took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the
seventy elders. When the spirit came on them they
prophesied, but not again.

Two men had stayed back in the camp; one was called
Eldad and the other Medad. The spirit came down on them;
though they had not gone to the Tent, their names were
enrolled among the rest. These began to prophesy in the
camp. The young man ran to tell this to Moses, 'Look,' he said
'Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.' Then said
Joshua the son of Nun, who had served Moses from his
youth, 'My Lord Moses, stop them!' Moses answered him, 'Are
you jealous on my account? If only the whole people of the
Lord were prophets, and the Lord gave his Spirit to them all!'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 18

Comm: The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.

All: The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.

The law of the Lord is perfect,
it revives the soul.

The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,
it gives wisdom to the simple.

The fear of the Lord is holy,
abiding for ever.

The decrees of the Lord are truth
and all of them just.

So in them your servant finds instruction;
great reward is in their keeping.
But who can detect all his errors?
From hidden faults acquit me.

From presumption restrain your servant
and let it not rule me.
Then shall I be blameless,
clean from grave sin.

All: The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St James

Your wealth is rotting.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Your word, O Lord, is truth:
make us holy in the truth.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

*Anyone who is not against us is for us. If your hand should cause
you to sin, cut it off.*

John said to Jesus, 'Master, we saw a man who is not one of us
casting out devils in your name; and because he was not one of us
we tried to stop him.' But Jesus said, 'You must not stop him: no
one who works a miracle in my name is likely to speak evil of me.
Anyone who is not against us is for us.'

'If anyone gives you a cup of water to drink just because you
belong to Christ, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not
lose his reward.'

'But anyone who is an obstacle to bring down one of these little
ones who have faith, would be better thrown into the sea with a
great millstone round his neck. And if your hand should cause you
to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life crippled, than to
have two hands and go to hell, into the fire that cannot be put out.
And if your foot should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for
you to enter into life lame, than to have two feet and be thrown into
hell. And if your eye should cause you to sin, tear it out; it is better
for you to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than to have
two eyes and be thrown into hell where their worm does not die nor
their fire go out.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

By this we came to know the love of God:
that Christ laid down his life for us;
so we ought to lay down our lives for one another.

NEXT WEEKS READINGS

First Reading: Gen 2:18-24;

Second Reading: Heb 2:9-11

Gospel: Mk 10:2-16



2018 the Year of Youth:

World Youth Day Cracow, Poland, July 2016 IV

The 31st World Youth Day was held in the Polish city of Cracow. This is the second part of Pope Francis' homily at the closing Mass for the pilgrims on Sunday, July 31, 2016.

Dear young friends, don't be ashamed to bring everything to the Lord in confession, especially your weaknesses, your struggles and your sins. He will surprise you with his forgiveness and his peace.

Don't be afraid to say "yes" to him with all your heart, to respond generously and to follow him! Don't let your soul grow numb, but aim for the goal of a beautiful love which also demands sacrifice. Say a firm "no" to the narcotic of success at any cost and the sedative of worrying only about yourself and your own comfort.

After his small stature, after the paralysis of shame, there was a *third* obstacle that Zacchaeus had to face. It was no longer an interior one, but was all around him. It was the *grumbling of the crowd*, who first blocked him and then criticised him: How could Jesus have entered his house, the house of a sinner! How truly hard it is to welcome Jesus, how hard it is to accept a "God who is rich in mercy"!

People will try to block you, to make you think that God is distant, rigid and insensitive, good to the good and bad to the bad. Instead, our heavenly Father "makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good". He demands of us real courage: the courage to be *more powerful than evil* by loving everyone, even our enemies.

People may laugh at you because you believe in the gentle and unassuming power of mercy. But do not be afraid. Think of the motto of these days: "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy". People may judge you to be dreamers, because you believe in a new humanity, one that rejects hatred between peoples, one that refuses to see borders as barriers and can cherish its own traditions without being self-centred or small-minded. Don't be discouraged: with a smile and open arms, you proclaim hope and you are a blessing for our one human family.

That day the crowd judged Zacchaeus; they looked him over, up and down. But Jesus did otherwise: he

gazed up at him. Jesus looks beyond the faults and sees the person. He does not halt before bygone evil, but sees future good. His gaze remains constant, even when it is not met; it seeks the way of unity and communion. In no case does it halt at appearances, but looks to the heart.

With this gaze of Jesus, you can help bring about another humanity, without looking for acknowledgement but seeking goodness for its own sake, content to maintain a pure heart and to fight peaceably for honesty and justice. Don't stop at the surface of things; distrust the worldly cult of appearances, cosmetic attempts to improve our looks. Instead, "download" the best "link" of all, that of a heart which sees and transmits goodness without growing weary. The joy that you have freely received from God, please, freely give away: so many people are waiting for it! So many are waiting for it from you.

Finally let us listen to the words that Jesus spoke to Zacchaeus, which seem meant for us today, for each one of us: "Come down, for I must stay at your house today." "Come down, for I must stay with you today. Open to me the door of your heart".

Jesus extends the same invitation to you: "I must stay at your house today". We can say that World Youth Day *begins today and continues tomorrow, in your homes*, since that is where Jesus wants to meet you from now on. The Lord doesn't want to remain in this beautiful city, or in cherished memories alone. He wants to enter your homes, to dwell in your daily lives: in your studies, your first years of work, your friendships and affections, your hopes and dreams.

How greatly he desires that you bring all this to him in prayer! How much he hopes that, in all the "contacts" and "chats" of each day, pride of place be given to the golden thread of prayer! How much he wants his word to speak to you day after day, so that you can make his Gospel your own, so that it can serve as a compass for you on the highways of life!

In asking to come to your house, Jesus *calls you*, as he did Zacchaeus, *by name*. Your name is precious to him. The name "Zacchaeus" would have made people back the think of the *remembrance of God*. Trust the memory of God: his memory is not a "hard disk" that "saves" and "archives" all our data, his memory is a heart filled with tender compassion, one that finds joy in "erasing" in us every trace of evil.

May we try to imitate the faithful memory of God and treasure the good things we have received in these days. In silence, let us remember this encounter, let us preserve the memory of the presence of God and his word, and let us listen once more to the voice of Jesus as he calls us by name. So let us now pray silently, remembering and thanking the Lord.

The theme of WYD Cracow was the text: "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy" (Matthew 5:7).