



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

31st Sunday In Ordinary Time

Year B

4th 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 : 5/11/18– 11/11/18

Monday :	No Mass	
Tuesday morning:	9.15am	Fr Crispin
Tuesday evening:	6.30pm	Fr Crispin
Wednesday:	9.15am	Fr Crispin
Thursday:	9.15am	Fr Crispin
Friday:	9.15am	Fr Crispin
Saturday Vigil : Year One Family Mass	5.30pm	Fr Crispin
Sunday :	8.30am	Fr Crispin
	10.30am	Fr Crispin

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

ST BERNARD'S BACCHUS MARSH

MASS TIMES : 5/11/18-11/11/18

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

Monday :	No Mass	
Tuesday :	No Mass	
Wednesday :	9.30am	FPB
Thursday :	9.30am	FPB
Friday :	Providence Mass 11.00am	FPB
	No 9.30am Mass	
Saturday Vigil :	5:00pm	FPB
Sunday :	8:30am	FPB
	10:00am	FPB

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 Griffin St, Maddingley.

Next Mass: **9th November**

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**

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS KOROBET

MASS TIMES :

Saturday:	6.30pm Mass	FPB
------------------	-------------	-----

NEWS FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM – AIRS 11 Nov 2018

Just a reminder, that all Journey Catholic Radio information is always a week in advance
This week on The Journey, Fr Graham Schmitzer reflects on the Gospel of Mark, Sr Hilda Scott shares her Wisdom from the Abbey, Bruce Downes, The Catholic Guy, shares his piece on 'The Journey of Conversation', and Francene Pirolas gets us thinking In her God spot, 'When Desires Don't Match'. Our music reflects our passion and drive for the Journey Catholic Radio program, where faith hope, love and life come together. Go to WWW.jcr.org.au or www.itunes.jcr.org.au where you can listen anytime and subscribe to weekly shows by email.

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

THE NEIGHBOUR'S PLACE (EMERGENCY FOOD BANK) GARAGE SALE

When: **Sat. 10th Nov** Time: **8.30am – 2.00pm** Where: **Uniting Church, Gisborne Road, Bacchus Marsh.**

Anyone wishing to donate any items towards the sale please drop off the items on Fri. 9th Nov. at the Uniting Church Hall, between 3pm and 4pm. If you need further information please contact The Neighbour's Place on Mon. Wed. and Fri. between 9am and 3pm on 5367 6222.

BINGO

Please be advised there is no Bingo this Tuesday Melbourne Cup Day. Bingo will recommence on Tuesday 13th November.

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

ST ANTHONY'S

THANK YOU - PARISH FETE

The fund raising Committee would like to thank all the Parish Fete volunteers from the Church and the school for their time, talent and contributions towards the Fete. The amount raised - \$11,000 will be divided by two - \$5500 towards the Church extension and \$5500 towards the school education.

NOVEMBER INTENTIONS

During the month of November, Masses are offered for the Holy Souls. If you wish to have your deceased loved ones remembered in Masses to be offered for the Holy Souls, please fill in the 'November Intentions Envelope' and specify which Mass on the 2nd weekend of November you would like their name to be announced. Envelopes can be found at the rear of the Church. The names will also be recorded in a Remembrance Book which will be placed at the altar for the month of November.

MEMORIAL MASS—15th NOVEMBER

The Memorial Mass will be held at 7.30pm. There is a clipboard at the back of the Church for you to place your loved ones name on. You can also bring a photo of your loved one which will be placed beside the Sanctuary. Please bring a plate to share after Mass.

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.

CUPPA WITH MARY

Prayer Meeting will be held on Monday, November 5 at 10.00am. This will be the last meeting for 2018. For further information please contact Sr Therese Dage RSJ on 0418 480 880.

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

NOVEMBER INTENTIONS

During the month of November, Masses are offered for the Holy Souls. If you wish to have your deceased loved ones remembered in Masses to be offered for the Holy Souls, please fill in the 'November Intentions Envelope' and specify which Mass on the 2nd weekend of November you would like their name to be announced. Envelopes can be found in the foyer of the Church. The names will also be recorded in a Remembrance Book which will be placed at the altar for the month of November.

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.

CATHOLIC CARE

CatholicCare would like to thank the community of St Bernard's Bacchus Marsh Parish for its generous donation of **\$501.70** to the recent CatholicCare Sunday Appeal.

VICTORIAN JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES

All are invited to the end of year Mass. It will be held at the Josephite Chapel in Camberwell on Saturday 10th November.

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: 10th & 11th November

MINISTERS OF THE WORD:

5.30pm: Lorraine Tellis
8.30am: Amy Honrade
10.30am: Faustina Ma'ae

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.30pm : Ann Tennakoon (P) & Philip Anyayahan
8.30am : Ineke Allen (P) , & Edwina La Rose
Volunteer Please

10.30am: Doris Bonello (P) & George Bonello

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

MASS COORDINATORS

5.30pm: Godwin Barton & Pat Fernandez
8.30am: Natalie Howard & Ron Howard
10.30am: Anthea Scerri & Godwin Barton

ALTAR SERVERS

5.30pm: Josh Djie-Spiteri & Jonathan Dacunha
8.30am: Rhys Tuala & Andre Oqueli
10.30am: Anakin Anderson & Ethan Porter

If you are unavailable please contact Ben Kratochvil 0423 076 305

ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 10th & 11th November

MINISTERS OF THE WORD:

5.00pm: Sandra Ibrahim
8.30am: Jan Carragher & Allan Comrie
10.00am: Carmel Shea & Jennifer Taylor

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Stuart Robertson
8.30am: Brendan Harrison
10.00am: Jenny Kearney

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL ROSTER

November: John Thorne

ALTAR SERVERS

5.00pm:
8.30am:
10.00am: Lindorff

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

We pray for the death anniversary at this time of:

Donald Abela, Francisco Alatrasta, Alvin John, Muriel Kratochvil, Karen Micallef, Joy Nicholls, Leo Noonan, Keith Rowe Joe Stellini, Vernon Soares, Mara Topich, Charles Van Hoos & Lilly & Patrick Wakefield.

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 (Kath) Doran, John Schifferle

We pray for the death anniversary at this time of:

Fr John Aldag, Mark Henry, Therese Hilton, Marj Holt, Sr Marilyn Knolder, Fr Chris Reay, Millie Thompson, William Vallence.

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, 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: 10th & 11th November

PIETY STALLS VOLUNTEERS

5.30pm: Lorraine Tellis

8.30am: Ineke Allen

10.30am: Imalsha 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, Church Cleaning, 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 : 10th & 11th November

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: **4th November**

Host: Parents & Friends



CHURCH FLOWERS

Tip Shea



COUNTING TEAM # 4

Gerard Harrington

Chris Eggleston

Dianne Shelly

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: **Aloysious & Michelle Dacunha**

0469 863 253

Group 2: **Margaret Williams**



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

Forsake me not, O Lord, my God;
be not far from me!
Make haste and come to my help,
O Lord, my strong salvation!

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

Hear Israel, you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart.

Moses said to the people: 'If you fear the Lord your God all the days of your life and if you keep all his laws and commandments which I lay on you, you will have a long life, you and your son and your grandson. Listen then, Israel, keep and observe what will make you prosper and give you great increase, as the Lord God of your fathers has promised you, giving you a land where milk and honey flow.

'Listen, Israel: The Lord our God is the one Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength. Let these words I urge on you today be written on your heart.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 17

COMM: I love you, Lord, my strength.

ALL: I love you, Lord, my strength.

My rock, my fortress, my saviour.
My God is the rock where I take refuge;
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.
The Lord is worthy of all praise:
when I call I am saved from my foes.

Long life to the Lord, my rock!
Praised be the God who saves me.
He has given great victories to his king
and shown his love for his anointed.

ALL: I love you, Lord, my strength.

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

This one, because he remains for ever, has an eternal priesthood.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we will come to them.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

This is the first commandment, and the second is similar to it.

One of the scribes came up to Jesus and put a question to him, 'Which is the first of all the commandments?' Jesus replied, 'This is the first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.' The scribe said to him, 'Well spoken, master; what you have said is true: that he is one and there is no other. To love with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength and to love your neighbour as yourself, this is far more important than any holocaust or sacrifice.' Jesus, seeing how wisely he had spoken said, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' And after that no one dared to question him anymore.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence, O Lord.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS-- 32nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: 1Kg 17:10-16;

Second Reading: Heb 9:24-28;

Gospel: Mk 12:38-44



2018 the Year of Youth:

Models of holiness IV: the Child Martyrs of Tlaxcala part I

Pope Francis, the first Latin-American pope, decided he would fast-track to sainthood three Mexican indigenous children who died in the early decades of the 1500s.

The Christian names of the three who would be known to the world as the “Child Martyrs of Tlaxcala” were Cristobal, Antonio and Juan. The case for sainthood for these three began on January 7, 1982, when Pope John Paul II declared them to be “Servants of God.”

On his second visit to Mexico in May of 1990, Pope John Paul II furthered the cause of the Tlaxcalan martyrs and announced their beatification at the Basilica of the Virgin of Guadalupe in Mexico City. The Congregation for the Causes of Saints met in Vatican City on March 4, 2017, to approve the cause and to continue the children along the path to sainthood. This would require further investigation into their lives and whether or not they were associated with any miracles.

The Congregation knew that Pope Francis had taken a special interest in the cause of sainthood for these children and its members were not surprised when the Holy Father bypassed the normal route taken for Catholic saints by issuing a papal decree stating that no customary confirmation of associated miracles would be required. The children had been killed in what is termed *in odium fidei*—in hatred of the faith—and had thus become the first people in the New World to die as martyrs for Christendom.

To understand the Three Martyred Children of Tlaxcala, it is important to examine the world in which they lived. Where did they come from? What was life like in the area known as Tlaxcala? What was it like to be an indigenous child in the early days of colonial New Spain (Mexico)?

At the time of the first Spanish contact in 1519, Tlaxcala was an independent state and had been for about 150 years. It consisted of the cities of Tepetícpac Texcallan—also called Tlaxcala—Ocotelulco and Tizatlán, just east of the Valley of Mexico, and the city of Quiahuitzlan, within the boundaries of the Valley of Mexico.

The surrounding lands were fertile and supported a large population. The Tlaxcalan people were originally a conglomeration of three ethnic groups speaking Nahuatl, Otomi and Pinome. Early on, the Nahua people dominated the state of Tlaxcala. This group was closely related to the Aztecs, whose empire nearly surrounded them.

Tlaxcalan government was a very early example of a republic. As in the Aztec Empire, there existed

two classes in Tlaxcalan society: the pilli, or noble class; and the macehualli, or commoners.

Whether pilli or macehualli, Tlaxcalans could be elected to the government council of teteuctin, which consisted of between 50 and 200 men who proved their loyalty through service to the state.

The Tlaxcalan council of teteuctin made a variety of decisions based on popular vote and is one of the earliest examples of representative government in the Americas. A constant in pre-Hispanic Tlaxcalan society was perpetual war with the Aztecs.

The Aztecs could easily have gobbled up the small state of Tlaxcala. The Aztecs had one of the most powerful military forces in the world, but the Aztec Empire preferred the never-ending state of war with their smaller neighbour. One of the captains of Spanish conquistador Hernán Cortés, named Andres de Tapia, once asked Emperor Montezuma why his empire just didn't defeat this small state and be done with them. The Aztec emperor replied that wars with Tlaxcala provided excellent military training for his soldiers and ample captives for human sacrifices.

Anthropologists refer to these series of conflicts between the Aztecs and Tlaxcalans as the “Flower Wars”. Both sides would fight according to a set of conventions, including predetermined spots for battles and limited use of weapons so that fighters would engage in more hand-to-hand combat.

For whatever reasons these wars occurred, the Tlaxcalans were worn down by them and, when the Spanish arrived in their territory asking for men to march to the Aztec capital of Tenochtitlán to take on the Aztec Empire, thousands of Tlaxcalans volunteered to join the fight. With Tlaxcalan help, the Spanish were the ultimate victors.

Colonial life in Tlaxcala, the context in which we find the three martyred children, was slightly different from the rest of New Spain. As a reward for their help during the conquest of the Aztecs, the Spanish king granted the Tlaxcalans special privileges. The old republic of Tlaxcala remained intact for the next 300 years with the practice of limited self-government within the structure of the teteuctin, which was allowed to continue.

The Spanish had divided the Tlaxcalan homeland into four fiefdoms (*señoríos* in Spanish) based loosely on the administrative regions that already existed in connection to the main cities of the old independent Tlaxcalan state and renamed the capital city of Tepetícpac Texcallan, Nuestra Señora de la Asunción.