



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

2nd Sunday of Advent

Year C

9th 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

MASS TIMES : 10/12/18-16/12/18

Monday :	7.30pm	FFS
Tuesday morning:	9.15am	FJP
Tuesday evening:	6.30pm	FJP
Wednesday:	9.15am	FFS
Thursday:	9.15am	FJP
Friday:	9.15am	FJP
Saturday morning:		
Saturday Vigil :	5.30pm	FPB
Sunday :	8.30am	FJP
	10.30am	FFS

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.



CRC MELTON CHAPEL—8.00am

This week Mass will be held on Wednesday 12th, Thursday 13th & Friday 14th December.

This is the last week for Masses at the CRC Chapel this year. Masses will resume 4th February 2019

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS KOROBET

MASS TIMES :

Saturday:	6.30pm Mass	FJP
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ST BERNARD'S BACCHUS MARSH

MASS TIMES : 10/12/18-16/12/18

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

Monday :	No Mass	
Tuesday :	5.30pm	FPB
Wednesday :	9.30am	FPB
Thursday :	9.30am	FFS
Friday :	9.30am	FPB
Seniors Christmas Mass:	11.30am	
Saturday Vigil :	5:00pm	FFS
Sunday :	8:30am	FPB
	10.00am	FPB

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. Next Senior's Mass: **14th December- (11.30am) Christmas Mass**

NEWS FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE

ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Wednesday 12 December, 7pm

St Patrick's Cathedral, corner Gisborne Street and Cathedral Place, East Melbourne

A Christmas Concert in the glorious setting of St Patrick's Cathedral. Featuring Anthony Halliday (organ) and Joel Brennan (trumpet). Works by Handel, Bach, Corelli, Daquin and Halliday.

Bookings: <https://www.trybooking.com/ZEUH>

SPARC WORSHIP NIGHT

Saturday 15 December at 7pm (after the evening Mass)

Mary Help of Christians Church, 95A Railway Street North, Altona

You are warmly invited to a very special, free Advent worship night. December is a month filled with preparing our homes for the Christmas celebration. We invite you to carve out some time to join us in preparing our hearts for the birth of Jesus, the true reason for this season. Centred on the theme of Advent, the worship night will encourage us to meditate on God's constant, unconditional and ever present love for us, through song, prayer and time spent with him in adoration.

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.

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—SPECIAL COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND

This weekend we will have a special collection to support the Melbourne Overseas Mission. The Mission assists developing countries. The programs are based on the Christian motivation of commitment to the poor with strong objectives to encourage self-help and self-reliance. Please give generously.

RCIA 2019

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 0414 007 009

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

ST ANTHONY'S

MEMORIAL BOOK ENTRY - WITHOUT DATES

There have been a few requests from family members for names of their loved ones who have passed away prior to the last entry, to be entered into the memorial book.

Since the pages are printed in chronological order (27/11/1951 to 04/01/2017) we are unable to insert names into the existing pages. It has been suggested that a new page with only names (without dates) be printed, as is on the first page of the memorial book. Anyone who wants to have their loved ones in the memorial book, please contact Godwin on 0425 734 449.

PLENARY COUNCIL CONVERSATIONS 2020

Facilitator: Fr Fabian **Date:** Mon 10th Dec
Time: 8.00pm **Venue:** Holy Family Room

NEW YEAR'S EVE BALL—RAFFLE TICKETS

Raffle tickets will be available soon. All proceeds will go towards the New Adoration Chapel.

CHRISTMAS TREE-GIVING TREE

Celebrating the birth of Christ—It is the season that spreads Love, Peace and Joy around and brings out the best in everyone. Our Parish 'Giving Tree' represents this sign of Giving and provides us with an opportunity to enable another who is struggling to feel loved, appreciated and remembered. Please select a tag placed under the Christmas Tree, purchase a suitable gift for the child and place your gift under the Christmas Tree by Sunday 16/12/2018.

Thank you for your Kind Generosity and wishing you a Holy and Blessed Christmas.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES—2018

Christmas Vigil Monday 24th December
5.30pm, 8.00pm & Midnight
Christmas Day—25th December
9.00am

ST BERNARD'S

PLENARY COUNCIL CONVERSATIONS 2020

Facilitator: Dominican Sisters **Date:** Tue 11th Dec
Time: After 5.30pm Mass
Venue: Parish Centre

ST VINCENT DE PAUL GIVING TREE

We are again seeking food donations for our Christmas Hampers. If you are able to assist, please take labels from the Giving Tree which is located in the Gathering Space.

Please return your donations by Sunday December 8.

(If further information is required please contact Margot 0419 507 438)

KSC MEETING

KSC meeting this Monday 10th December. 8pm Parish Centre

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES—2018

St Bernard's
Christmas Vigil—Monday 24th December
7.00pm—Vigil Family Mass (preceded with Carols at 6.30pm)
10.30pm—Mass (preceded with 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 with Carols at 7.30pm)

WORSHIP NEWS

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

ST ANTHONY'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 15th & 16th December

MINISTERS OF THE WORD:

5.30pm: Liza Fernandes
8.30am: John Brewis
10.30am: Rosabella Tuala

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.30pm : Ann Tennakoon (P) & Mila Little
8.30am : Sue Alexander (P), Lois Brewis & Michael Higgins
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: Dolores Turcsan & Carmen Vella
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: 15th & 16th December

MINISTERS OF THE WORD:

5.00pm: Sandra Ibrahim
8.30am: Gerard Harrington & Jenny Hooper
10.00am: Cathy Belcher & Carole Ryder

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

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

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL ROSTER

December: Diane Corro

ALTAR SERVERS

5.00pm:
8.30am: Shea X 2
10.00am: Vereker/Byham

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

We pray for the recently deceased:
Franco Respondino

We pray for the death anniversary at this time of:
Mark Clarke, Greta Mascarenhas,
Lafaele (Ralph) Mataia, Lucia Pardinan,
Fredrick Radford, Mercedes Sacris & Felix Scotto

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:

Sr. Venerina Borg (Sicily)

We pray for the death anniversary at this time of:

Annie Abraham, Otylia Adamcyeck, Ronald Bowyer, Kathleen Dillon, Rebecca Duncan, John Glide, Duncan McConnell, Sheila Rice, Olga Rodrigues & Verna White.

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: 15th & 16th December

PIETY STALLS VOLUNTEERS

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

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 : 15th & 16th December

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: Margot Short
Sunday: Kay Lafranchi

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

Tup Shea



COUNTING TEAM # 9

Roy & Carole Ryder
Henry & Chris Gasior

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 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 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

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: **Tuala Family** 0422 390 617

Group 2: **Tony & Stella Cochrane** 9743 6340



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

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

O people of Sion, behold,
the Lord will come to save the nations,
and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard
in the joy of your heart.

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Baruch

Jerusalem - God will show you splendour.

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress,
put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever,
wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you,
put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head:
since God means to show your splendour to every nation under
heaven,
since the name God gives you for ever will be,
'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness'.
Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights
and turn your eyes to the east:
see your sons reassembled from west and east
at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered
them.

Though they left you on foot,
with enemies for an escort,
now God brings them back to you
like royal princes carried back in glory.

For God has decreed the flattening
of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills,
the filling of the valleys to make the ground level
so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God.
And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade
for Israel at the command of God;
for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory
with his mercy and integrity for escort.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 125

Comm: The Lord has done great things for us;
we are filled with joy.

All: The Lord has done great things for us;
we are filled with joy.

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage,
it seemed like a dream.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
on our lips there were songs.

The heathens themselves said:

'What marvels the Lord worked for them!'

What marvels the Lord worked for us!

Indeed we were glad.

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage
as streams in dry land.

Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap.

They go out, they go out, full of tears
carrying seed for the sowing;
they come back, they come back, full of song,
carrying their sheaves.

All: The Lord has done great things for us;
we are filled with joy.

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

Show yourself sinless and without blame in the day of Christ.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke

All people shall see the salvation of God.

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate
was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother
Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias
tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas,
the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness.
He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of
repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of
the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.

Every valley will be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low,
winding ways will be straightened
and rough roads made smooth.

And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights,
and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS-- THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: Zeph 3:14-18 ;

Second Reading: Phil 4:4-7;

Gospel: Lk 3:10-18



The Catholic family: Raising children in a secular world II

OUR CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

November 30, Feast of St Andrew. We say the following prayer, which becomes part of the night prayers from November 30 to December 24: *Hail and blessed be the hour and the moment when the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin in Bethlehem at midnight in the piercing cold. In that hour vouchsafe, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my petitions through the merits of Jesus Christ and His most holy Mother.*

First Sunday of Advent. Advent wreath: three purple candles and one rose candle, OR three white candles, one rose candle, and a purple ribbon. If you have any kind of evergreens growing around the house, you can cut some to use.

Light one candle when you say your evening prayers. We always sing Advent songs afterwards, ending with "Christmas is coming, the goose is getting fat, please put a penny in the old man's hat (our Dad's old army hat). If you haven't got a penny, a ha' penny will do; if you haven't got a ha' penny, then God bless you." We save up some change at Advent wreath time. By Christmas, we usually have a nice donation for the poor. (St Vincent de Paul or church collection).

Advent Calendar. We use a big (90cm X 120cm) piece of hessian fabric with houses made of felt attached. The doors and windows open to show small pictures of Old Testament scenes. The final one is a stable and a star to be added just before Christmas.

The Jesse Tree is very much like an Advent Calendar. You need a branch that can look like a tree. It can be up to a metre high. You cut out symbols of Old Testament characters or events and hang them on the tree.

Some of the symbols are:

Chi Rho (XP): the first letters for Christ (Greek). Circle: represents eternity or God Who is the only eternal One. Triangle: (or any three-part figure) symbolises the Triune God. Sun: of righteousness (Malachi 4:2). Star of David Tau cross: anticipatory, Old Testament. Salvation promised (Isaiah 53:8,9). Anchor cross, Cross of hope: A cross rises out of the crescent moon, symbol for Mary. Sometimes called *Crux Dissimulata* because, like the fish symbol, it was used by the early Christians to conceal its true significance from spies and informers. Fish: Sign of Jonah. Coat of many colours (Joseph and his brothers): Root of Jesse (ancestor of Jesus). Tablets of the Ten Commandments (Given to Moses). Bitten Apple: Adam and Eve.

That's a start. You'll think of a lot more forerunners of Christ.

Extract from *Teaching the Catholic Faith Effectively*, edited by Father John Hardon SJ

St Nicholas Day, December 6. Santa Claus (another name for St Nicholas, handed down to us from the Dutch children long ago) comes during the night of December 5 and fills the stockings he finds laid out for him. He brings small gifts: mittens, crayons, candy, gum, small toys, tangerines, etc. He takes away the letters that have been written to the Christ Child and carries them up to Heaven. Sometimes he finds that the children have left something for him and his reindeer.

One time, before December 6 each year, I would make a single remark in everyone's hearing that we would be playing the Santa Claus game. Then I was free to play it to the hilt: "I think I hear sleigh bells out there", "Santa Claus won't come unless you get to sleep", etc. When they get older they know I never lied to them and they have fun still because we still play the game.

Mary Candle. On December 8, we set up the Mary Candle. Hollow out a part of the candle, just enough to hold the little figure of Baby Jesus. Wrap netting around the base to conceal the Baby. The candle is unwrapped and lit on Christmas Eve.

Creche scene. Some time before the second Sunday of Advent, we put up the stable with sheep and shepherds. Mary and Joseph are somewhere at a distance, and are moved closer each of the next two Sundays.

The Christmas Tree. We bring the tree into the house and set it up a day or two before Christmas. We trim it on December 23 and cakes are freely served. I must emphasise here: cakes are not liturgical but we've always served them and no one forgets it. The moral is: consider carefully what you are doing when you start your traditions because they are etched in cement!

IMPORTANT: The lights on the Christmas tree are not plugged in until after Midnight. His was NOT a premature delivery. The youngest child puts the Baby in the manger and anyone named for John the Baptist (John, Jane, Jean, Jack, Joan) lights the tree. If no one has that distinction, I suppose the father does the honours.

First, though, we all go to Mass together, Midnight Mass or early morning Mass. When we get back home we line up in a room far from the room where the Christmas tree is. Each has a lighted candle and we sing Christmas carols as we walk through the house. The youngest carries the Baby to be placed in the manger. That is done when we get to the room where the tree is. The tree is lit and then the Mary candle. Then we all kneel for the final Novena prayer.