



# 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

**23rd Sunday In Ordinary Time**

**Year B**

**9th 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

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 :**

<b>Monday :</b>	<b>No Mass</b>	
<b>Tuesday morning:</b>	9.15am	FJP
<b>Tuesday evening:</b>	6.30pm	FJP
<b>Wednesday:</b>	9.15am	FFS
<b>Thursday:</b>	9.15am	FJP
<b>Friday:</b>	9.15am	FJP
<b>Saturday Vigil :</b>	5.30pm	FFS
<b>Sunday :</b>	8.30am	FFS
	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.

**During School Term Mass on Mon/Wed/Thur/  
Fri**

**at CRC Melton Chapel:              8.00am**

**OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS**              KOROBET

**MASS TIMES :**

**Saturday:**                      6.30pm Mass                      FJP

**ST BERNARD'S**                      BACCHUS MARSH

**MASS TIMES :**

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

<b>Monday :</b>	<b>No Mass</b>	
<b>Tuesday :</b>	5.30pm	FFS
<b>Wednesday :</b>	9.30am	FJP
<b>Thursday :</b>	9.30am	FFS
<b>Friday :</b>	9.30am	FFS
<b>Saturday :</b>	5:00pm	FJP
<b>Sunday :</b>	8:30am	FJP
	10:00am	FJP

**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.



**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: **21st September**

**PROVIDENCE MASS**

Is held on the second Friday of the month at 11.00am

The Village 5-7 Griffin St, Maddingley

Next Mass: **14th September**                      FFS

## NEWS FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE



**Palms Australia**

**ARE YOU A MECHANIC WITH A MISSION? ALL SKILLS NEEDED!**

Could you make a wheel difference mentoring local mechanics in Myanmar?

Contact Christine on 02 9560 5333.

For more mission opportunities, visit [palms.org.au/volunteer](http://palms.org.au/volunteer)

Can't commit just yet? Check out [palms.org.au/encounters](http://palms.org.au/encounters)

**THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM – AIRS 16 September 2018**

Just a reminder, that all Journey Catholic Radio information is always a week in advance

This week on The Journey, Sr Hilda Scott shares Wisdom from the Abbey with her reflection on Cardinal Basil Hume, Bruce Downes, The Catholic Guy encourages us to "Surrender To God", and Francine Pirolas shares her vision and "Willingness to Grow". We are blessed to have amazing talented musicians sharing their gifts with us, it is also where faith, hope, love and life live together in the Journey Catholic Radio Program. Go to [WWW.jcr.org.au](http://WWW.jcr.org.au) or [www.itunes.jcr.org.au](http://www.itunes.jcr.org.au) where you can listen

## PARISH EVENTS & NOTICES

### THE SPIRIT OF TWO HEARTS YOUTH GROUP

**Youth and Family BBQ and Fun Night!** Introducing **The Spirit of the Two Hearts Youth Group** *Sharing the Spirit of God through Faith, Friendship and Fun* **When:** Sunday, 16th Sept 2018 @ 3:30pm **Where:** Two Hearts Centre 274 La Cote Road, Greendale, Vic 3341 **Cost:** Free - snacks, BBQ and sweets galore provided! **RSVP:** Monday, 10th September 2018 **Contact:** Sister Clare **Mobile:** 0415 806 217 or **Email:** [twoheartscentre@bigpond.com](mailto:twoheartscentre@bigpond.com)  
Coordinated by The Missionaries of Love and Peace.

### CHILDREN'S CATECHISM

Catechism sessions are being held from 6:30 -7:30pm, after Saturday evening Vigil Mass in St Anthony's Padua Hall, with the Brothers and Sisters of the Two Hearts. All children are welcome to join for the last two sessions: Sept 8, and Sept 15, 2018. Parents and family members are invited to join for a special last session on Sept 15, 2018. Coordinated by The Alliance of the Two Hearts.

### WATAN—A FILM BY JAMES L BROWN

Watan seeks to inspire action through connection, empathy, and recognition. It shines a much needed light on the human stories at the centre of the global debates of immigration and asylum. **When:** Tuesday 11th September 7pm -8pm **Where:** CRC Melton PAC 109-141 Bulmans Rd Melton West **Cost:** Gold coin donation. Money raised will go to Asylum Seekers Resource Centre.

## 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](tel:0425734449).

#### YOUNG WOMEN'S GROUP

We are starting a young women's group (aged 16 and above) every first and third Sundays. Our first meeting will be a meet and greet over CAKES and tea at 5pm on the third Sunday of September (16th of September). Come and join us for a fellowship with like-minded sisters in Christ! Please put your name and number on the clip board at the back of the Church.

#### THANK YOU – MALTESE COMMUNITY

The Fund Raising Committee would like to thank the Maltese Community for raising \$185.30 with their sale of various cakes. Special thanks to all those who supported this. The proceeds will go towards the extension of the Church.

#### MELTON JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES

Final meeting of Introductory program will be in the Parish meeting Room St Dominic's  
Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September at 10.30 a.m.

#### PRIME TIMERS

Prime Timers next outing will be to Houdini's Cafe, 52-56 Old Calder Hwy, Diggers Rest, 12 o'clock Tuesday 25th September. Lunch prices vary from approx. \$16 to \$30. Please confirm attendance by Friday 21st September. If you need a lift be at St Anthony's Church car park at 11.15am.

### ST BERNARD'S

#### KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS

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

#### COLUMBAN CALENDARS 2019

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



### SPIRIT OF THE TWO HEARTS YOUTH GROUP

Sharing the Spirit of God through Faith, Friendship and Fun. 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:** 11 years +

**When:** Every 4th Thursday of the month,  
7:00pm - 9:00pm Starting in September 2018

**Where:** Two Hearts Centre, 274 La Cote Road, Greendale, Vic 3341 **Contact:** Sister Clare

**Mobile:** 0415 806 217 or

**Email:** [twoheartscentre@bigpond.com](mailto:twoheartscentre@bigpond.com)



# WORSHIP NEWS

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

## ST ANTHONY'S MINISTRIES

**NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER:** 15th & 16th September

### MINISTERS OF THE WORD:

5.30pm: Liza Fernandes

8.30am: John Brewis

10.30am: Rosabella Tuala

### EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.30pm : Ann Tennakoon (P) & Anne Peramuna

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.

### ALTAR SERVERS

5.30pm: Kieran Grech & Mason Azzopardi

8.30am: Rhys Tuala

10.30am: Gavin Maitre & Nick Taunuu

### MASS COORDINATORS

5.30pm: Dolores Turcsan & Alina Tsakonas

8.30am: Natalie Howard & Ron Howard

10.30am: Ken Dumandan & Carmen Vella

## ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

### **We pray for the recently deceased:**

John Montgomery & Mary Attard

### **We pray for the death anniversary at this time of:**

A.N Antony, James Cabrerros, Concetta Chircop, Dorothy Davis, Emanaul Debrincat, Richard D'Souza, Helen Mary Hurtis, Mavis McBain, Genoveffa Michallef & Josephine Schembri.

**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 MINISTRIES

**NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER:** 15th & 16th September

### MINISTERS OF THE WORD:

5.00pm: Trish Davine

8.30am: Moira Ross & Marj Tung

10.00am: Carole Ryder & Baddeley's

### EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Vikki Benson

8.30am: Volunteer Please

10.00am: Roy Ryder

### ALTAR SERVERS

5.00pm:

8.30am: Roster Pending

10.00am:

## ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

### **We pray for the death anniversary at this time of:**

Leonard Condon, Hormankia Grixti, Ashley Hine, Joan Kervin, Denis Leahy, Phillip Lennox, Rosa Pollino, Fr Peter Taffe, Robert Taylor & Brian Ward.

### **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, 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:** 15th & 16th September

#### **PIETY STALLS VOLUNTEERS**

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

#### **CUPPA ROSTER**

Next Cuppa Weekend: **22nd & 23rd September**

**5.30pm:** Judy Van Hoos & Gladys Clarke  
**8.30am:** Geoff Sutton & Skye James  
**10.30am:** Mangala Rowell & Doris Bonello



#### **CHURCH FLOWERS**

Doris Bonello &  
Josephine German



#### **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.

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 :** 15th & 16th September

#### **PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS**

**Saturday:** Sean Giani  
**Sunday:** Marj Tung

#### **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**

Frances McDaid



#### **COUNTING TEAM # 6**

Gerard Shelly  
Jill Geurts  
Kate Maurer  
Michael Larkin  
Ron Geurts

#### **PRESBYTERY & CHURCH GROUNDS- (September)**

Front Garden: Volunteer Please

Back/Side Garden: Volunteer Please

Parish Centre: Volunteer Please

Carpark/Pines: Volunteer Please

Back Paddock: Colm Carragher

#### **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

#### **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 27th Sept**

Baptisms are held on the 1st and 3rd

Sunday of the month: **Sunday 7th & 21st October.**

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: **Uili & Lagi Maiava**                      **0405 330 160**

Group 2: **George & Doris Bonello**              **0431 459 668**



### ST BERNARD'S

#### BAPTISM PREPARATION PROGRAM

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

Next program: **Sunday 23rd September**

Baptisms are held on the 1st and 3rd

Sunday of the month: **Sunday 7th & 21st October**

Registration forms can be downloaded from our website [www.pol.cam.org.au/bacchusmarsh](http://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 : Justin & Katie**

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

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right;  
treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

### FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*Then the ears of the deaf shall be opened and the  
tongues of the dumb speak.*

Say to all faint hearts,  
'Courage! Do not be afraid.

'Look, your God is coming,  
vengeance is coming,  
the retribution of God;  
he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
the ears of the deaf unsealed,  
then the lame shall leap like a deer  
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy;

for water gushes in the desert,  
streams in the wasteland,  
the scorched earth becomes a lake,  
the parched land springs of water.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 145

**Comm:** Praise the Lord, my soul!

**All:** Praise the Lord, my soul!

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,  
who is just to those who are oppressed.  
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,  
the Lord, who sets prisoners free.

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,  
who raises up those who are bowed down,  
the Lord who loves the just,  
the Lord, who protects the stranger.

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

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

**All:** Praise the Lord, my soul!

### SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St James

*Has not God chosen the poor of the world to inherit the  
kingdom?*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom  
and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

### GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

*He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.*

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Like the deer that yearns for running streams,  
so my soul is yearning for you, my God;  
my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.

### NEXT WEEKS READINGS

**First Reading:** Is 50:5-9;

**Second Reading:** James 2:14-18

**Gospel:** Mk 8:27-35

# 2018 the Year of Youth: World Youth Day Cracow, Poland, July 2016

The 31st World Youth Day was held in the Polish city of Cracow. As well as celebrating the closing Mass for the pilgrims, Pope Francis also celebrated Mass near the Shrine of Czestochowa on Thursday July 28, 2016, to celebrate 1050 years of Christianity in Poland. This is the first half of his homily on that occasion.

From the readings of this Liturgy a divine thread emerges, one that passes through human history and weaves the history of salvation.

The Apostle Paul tells us of God's great plan: "When the fullness of time had come, God sent his son, born of a woman" (Galatians 4:4). But history tells us that, when this "fullness of time" came, when God became man, humanity was not especially well disposed, nor was there even a period of stability and peace: there was no "Golden Age".

The scenario of this world did not merit the coming of God; indeed, "his own received him not" (John 1:11). The fullness of time was thus a gift of grace: God filled our time out of the abundance of his mercy. Out of sheer love, he inaugurated the fullness of time.

It is particularly striking *how* the coming of God into history came about: he was "born of a woman". There was no triumphal entrance or striking epiphany of the Almighty. He did not reveal himself as a brilliantly rising sun, but entered the world in the simplest of ways, as a child from his mother, with that "style" that Scripture tells us is like a rain-fall upon the land (cf. Isaiah 55:10), like the smallest of seeds which sprouts and grows (cf. Mark 4:31-32).

Thus, contrary to our expectations and perhaps even our desires, the kingdom of God, now as then, "does not come in a way that attracts attention" (Luke 17:20), but rather *in littleness, in humility*.

Today's Gospel takes up this divine thread delicately passing through history: from the fullness of time we come to the "third day" of Jesus' ministry (cf. John 2:1) and the proclamation of the "hour" of salvation (cf. v. 4). Time shortens, God always shows himself in littleness. And so we come to "the first of the signs that Jesus did" (v. 11), in Cana of Galilee.

There is no amazing deed done before the crowd, or even a word to settle a heated political question like that

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

of the subjection of the people to the power of Rome. Instead, in a small village, a simple miracle takes place and brings joy to the wedding of a young and completely anonymous family.

At the same time, the water that became wine at the wedding banquet is a great sign, for it reveals to us the spousal face of God, a God who sits at table with us, who dreams and holds communion with us. It tells us that the Lord does not keep his distance, but is *near* and *real*. He is in our midst and he takes care of us, without making decisions in our place and without troubling himself with issues of power.

He prefers to let himself be contained in little things, unlike ourselves, who always want to possess something greater. To be attracted by power, by grandeur, by appearances, is tragically human. It is a great temptation that tries to insinuate itself everywhere. But to give oneself to others, eliminating distances, dwelling in littleness and living the reality of one's everyday life: this is exquisitely divine.

God saves us, then, by making himself *little, near* and *real*. First God makes himself *little*. The Lord, who is "meek and humble of heart" (Matthew 11:29), especially loves the little ones, to whom the kingdom of God is revealed; they are great in his eyes and he looks to them (cf. Isaiah 66:2). He especially loves them because they are opposed to the "pride of life" that belongs to the world (cf. 1 John 2:16). The little ones speak his own language, that of the humble love that brings freedom. So he calls the simple and receptive to be his spokespersons; he entrusts to them the revelation of his name and the secrets of his heart.

Our minds turn to so many sons and daughters of your own [Polish] people, like the martyrs made the defenceless power of the Gospel shine forth, like those ordinary yet remarkable people who bore witness to the Lord's love amid great trials, and those meek and powerful heralds of mercy who were Saint John Paul II and Saint Faustina. Through these "channels" of his love, the Lord has granted priceless gifts to the whole Church and to all mankind. It is significant that this anniversary of the baptism of your people exactly coincides with the Jubilee of mercy.

Then too, God is *near*, his kingdom is at hand (cf. Mark 1:15). The Lord does not want to be feared like a powerful and aloof sovereign. He does not want to remain on his throne in heaven or in history books, but loves to come down to our everyday affairs, to walk with us. As we think of the gift of a millennium so filled with faith, we do well before all else to thank God for having walked with your people, having taken you by the hand, as a father takes the hand of his child, and accompanied you in so many situations.

That is what we too, in the Church, are constantly called to do: to listen, to get involved and be neighbours, sharing in people's joys and struggles, so that the Gospel can spread every more consistently and fruitfully: radiating goodness through the transparency of our lives.