



St Anthony's Parish



St Bernard's Parish

67-75 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
OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS, KOROBET
309 MYRNIONG-KOROBET ROAD 3341

Second Sunday of Advent

Year A

8th December 2019

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Fabian Smith

ASSISTANT PRIESTS: Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint & Fr Alexander Athanas SAC

ST ANTHONY'S PARISH

Parish Secretary: Lesley Morffew

Admin Assistant: Judy Johnson

Parish Office Hours:

Mon 9.00am-4.00pm Tue 1.00pm-5.00pm

Wed—Thurs 9.00am-5.00pm Friday 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: 8099 7800

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 –Fri 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 |
| Lillian Christian - Vice Chair | 0400 441 257 |
| Stephen Fernandes | 0439 743 533 |
| Amy Honrade | 03 9747 0078 |
| Natalie Howard - Chair | 0410 478 046 |
| Villy Julita | 0403 751 343 |
| Rose Ma'ae | 0431 386 473 |
| Marthese Mercieca | 0421 378 691 |
| Kim Nguyen | 0431 035 980 |
| EX-OFFICIO: | |
| Fr Fabian Smith PP, Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint, Fr Alexander Athanas and Damien Schuster | Council Secretary: Judy Johnson |

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL COUNCIL

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Cathy Belcher - Vice Chair | 0431 082 886 |
| Shane Cook -School Advisory Board | 0419 999 052 |
| Peter Farren | 0418 594 501 |
| Moira Ross | 0400 675 056 |
| Aaron Russell | 0401 927 502 |
| Emilio Scalzo | 5366 5800 |
| John Thorne - Secretary | 5310 6692 |
| James Waters - Chair | 0403 822 795 |
| EX-OFFICIO: | |
| Fr Fabian Smith PP, Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint, Fr Alexander Athanas 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

If you need a Priest in the case of an emergency please call 0403 435 471

MASS AND DEVOTIONS

ST ANTHONY'S MELTON SOUTH

MASS TIMES : 9th-15th December

| | | |
|---|---------|-----|
| Monday: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary | 7.30pm | FFS |
| Tuesday | 9.15am | FAA |
| Tuesday pm: | 6.30pm | FFS |
| Wednesday: | 7.45am | FAA |
| | 9.15am | FAA |
| Thursday: | 7.45am | FAA |
| | 9.15am | FAA |
| Friday: St Lucy Memorial | 9.15am | FFS |
| Saturday: St John of the Cross Memorial | | |
| Saturday Vigil: | 5.30pm | FFS |
| Sunday: | 8.30am | FFS |
| | 10.30am | FFS |

INDIVIDUAL RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 4.45pm and before and weekday Mass.

ROSARY:

Prayed at 9.00am before every weekday Mass.

ADORATION:

No Adoration during the Church Renovations.

CRC MELTON CHAPEL: 8.00am

Mass held on Fridays during school term.



OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS KOROBET

| | | |
|------------------------|--------|-----|
| MASS TIME | | |
| Saturday Vigil: | 6.30pm | FAA |

ST BERNARD'S BACCHUS MARSH

MASS TIMES : 9th-15th December

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

| | | |
|--|---------|---------|
| Monday : The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary | | No Mass |
| Tuesday: | 5.30pm | FAA |
| Wednesday : | 9.30am | FFS |
| Thursday : | No Mass | |
| Friday: St Lucy Memorial | 9.30am | FAA |
| Senior's Christmas Mass: | 10.30am | FAA |
| Saturday: St John of the Cross Memorial | | |
| Saturday Vigil : | 5.00pm | FAA |
| Sunday : | 8:30am | FAA |
| | 10.00am | FAA |

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 : **Friday 3rd January**

ADORATION: 30 minutes before every weekday Mass.

Adoration is held every first Friday 10.00am until 4.00pm

Next Date: **Friday 3rd January**

PROVIDENCE MASS: Is held on the second Friday of the month at 11.00am The Village 5-7 Griffith St, Maddingley.

Next Mass: **Friday 20th December (please note date)**

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: **Friday 13th December—Christmas Mass (please note date)**

NEWS FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE

SIMBANG GABI SA MELTON': THE NINE DAWN CHRISTMAS NOVENA MASSES

Monday 16 December – Tuesday 24 December, 5am-6am

St Catherine Siena Church Bulmans Rd, Melton West

The Parish of Melton would like to invite you to join 'Simbang Gabi sa Melton', The Nine Dawn Christmas Masses. All are welcome to this Advent celebration and spiritual preparation for the Lord's coming on Christmas Day.

ADVENT CONCERT 2019: MAGNIFICAT

Sunday 22 December, 3pm

St Patrick's Church, Mentone

Come and listen to music of Advent season with St Patrick's Choir directed by the concert's organist Myfanwy McIndoe, with Evgeny Chebykin on the French horn as guest conductor.

Free admission.

PARISH EVENTS & NOTICES

REFLECTION

Reflection on significant figures of the Old and New Testament, led by Fr Fabian held at St Anthony's at 5pm on Sundays 8th, 15th & 22nd December.

LECTIO DIVINA

Reflection on the Sunday Gospels of Advent and on the Christmas Gospel, led by Fr Alexander and Naim Chdid, held at St Bernard's Parish Centre 5pm on the 8th 15th & 22nd December.

ADVENT REFLECTION

Dates for Advent Reflection on the Sunday Readings:

Thursday 12th December & Thursday 19th December at 10.30am

Held at the Convent, 68 Lerderberg St, Bacchus Marsh, Contact Sr Mary 5367 2078.

MELBOURNE OVERSEAS MISSION APPEAL – NEXT WEEKEND

The Appeal assists communities in some of the world's most remote and undeveloped countries. Please give generously. Thank you.

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

ST ANTHONY'S

DONATIONS FOR HEATING AND COOLING FOR CHURCH

If you would like to make a direct online donation to the heating and cooling fund you can do so with the following details

Account Name: St Anthony's Parish Annual Appeals

Account No: 083347/025471925

Reference: 110116461. Thank You.

MONDAY MASSES DURING ADVENT

Please note they will be no Monday morning Masses during Advent. We will have an evening Mass every Monday at 7.30pm.

CHRISTMAS MASS- TUESDAY 24th DECEMBER 5.30pm

It's with great joy that we announce that the 5:30pm Christmas mass on Tuesday 24th December will be especially dedicated to the children of our parish who are encouraged to come dressed up as a nativity character e.g. Mary, Joseph, Baby Jesus, King, Shepherd, Angel, drummer boy, star etc. Start thinking about who you'd like to come dressed up as. More details to follow!

CUPPA WEEKEND AND AUSSIE FOOD STALL

Next weekend we will have a cuppa after all Masses and the Aussie Food stall will be selling lots of great food. Funds raised will go towards the Heating and Cooling for the Church.

CHRISTMAS 2019

Christmas Eve 24th December

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

Christmas Day—25th December

9.00am (preceded by Carols)

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

New Years Eve 31st December

11.00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with Rosary

11.50pm Benediction followed by Midnight Mass for the Feast of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

New Years Day 1st January 2020

9.00am Mass

RECONCILIATION

Fri 20th Dec 6pm-8pm

3 Priests from the Parish and 2 visiting Priests.

ST BERNARD'S

KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS

KSC Meeting will be held on Monday 9th December 2019 at 8:00pm in the Parish Centre.



SENIOR'S PARISHIONERS MASS GROUP

The Senior's final Mass for this year will be celebrated on the 2nd Friday of the month, 13th December at 11.30am in the Parish Centre. This will be the Senior's Christmas Mass and as usual will be followed by a Christmas luncheon. For catering purposes bookings for the luncheon are necessary and may be made by phoning Elizabeth Lummis 5310 6320 or Mary Flanagan 5367 3309. The cost of the luncheon is \$20 per head (traditional 3 course meal). Bookings will close Monday 9th December at 12 noon.



ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS HAMPER

GIVING TREE

The St Vincent de Paul Giving Tree is in the Gathering Space and we are hoping you are able to make a donation towards the Christmas hampers that we will be providing to needy families in our community. (Last year we gave 35 hampers) The items needed are: Tinned Ham, Plum Pudding, Christmas Cake, Canned Fruit, Can of Potatoes, Can of Peas, Cordial 1Ltr, Coffee (small jar), Tea bags (25). If you would prefer to make a cash donation, this can be placed in the St Vincent de Paul poor box located towards the back of the Church.

Can items be returned to the donation box by Sunday 8th December.



CHRISTMAS 2019

Please note change in Christmas Mass times

(all Christmas Masses preceded by Carols)

St Bernard's

Christmas Eve - 24th December

6.30pm & 10.00pm

Christmas Day - 25th December

8.30am & 10.00am

Our Lady Help of Christians

Christmas Eve - 24th December

8.30pm

New Year's Day 1st January 2020

9.00am Mass

RECONCILIATION

Thur 19th Dec 7pm-8pm

3 Priests from the Parish and 2 visiting Priests.

WORSHIP NEWS

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

ST ANTHONY'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 14th & 15th December MINISTERS OF THE WORD

5.30pm : Pat Fernandez
8.30am: Ineke Allen
10.30am: Leonia Jessop

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.30pm: Dolores Turcsan (P) & Philip Anayahan
8.30am: Geoff Sutton (P), Lois Brewis
& Lillian Christian
10.30am: Sally Markulin (P) & Elaine Lacey

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: Godwin Barton & Lina Calleja
10.30am: Godwin Barton & Josephine German

ALTAR SERVERS

5.30pm: Kieran Grech & Jedi Anyayahan
8.30am: Nixon, Thytus & Aaron Ben
10.30am: Nick Taunuu & Anakin Anderson
If you are unavailable please contact Ben Kratochvil 0423 076 305

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

We pray for the death anniversary at this time of:

Mark Clarke, Greta Mascarenhas, Lafaale (Ralph) Mataia, Frederick Radford & Felix Scotto,

Please pray for the Sick:

Jean Barnett, Nickolia & Klara Butkovic, Maria Caruana, Mary Caruana, Judy Layton, Peter Manicaro, Reg Marslen, Brendan Michael, Veronica Michael, Wanda Novak, John Osborne, Peter Poole, Irene Rahilly, Catherine Roberts, Peter Roberts, Pat Roberts, Charlie Spiteri, Clint Abela Wadge, & 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

Father we lift up all those who are facing illness. We ask that You bring healing, comfort and peace to their bodies. Calm their fears and let them experience the healing power of your love.
Amen



ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 14th & 15th December MINISTERS OF THE WORD

5.00pm: Miesen Family
8.30am: Kratochvil Family
10.00am: Lindorff Family

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: John Thorne
8.30am: Carol Jones
10.00am: Dianne Corro

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL ROSTER

December: Diane Corro

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

ST BERNARD'S YOUTH GROUP

Growing in the Spirit of Faith, Friendship and Fun
Age group: 11-30yrs Where: St Bernard's Church chapel and Parish Centre
61 Lerderberg Street, Bacchus Marsh VIC 3340
When: Fortnightly, Thursday's 7:15pm - 9:15pm
Next Youth Group meet up: **12th December**
Email contact: saintbernardsyouthgroup@gmail.com

FAITH ON FIRE PRAYER GROUP

Every fortnight on Thursday 7.15pm - 9.15pm. Prayers in the Church followed by fellowship in the Parish Centre.
Next meeting **12th December**

We pray for the recently deceased:

Andrew Connell

We pray for the death anniversary at this time of:

Brian Barry, Agnes Anne Bourke, Betty Condon, Laurie Cumper, Kevin Leonard, Gnaire Lockman, Peter Mullins, Myra O'Leary, and Roma Webster.

Please pray for the Sick:

Noah Barlow, Dudley Baddeley, Michael Barrett, Peter Bennett, Steven Braszel, Kevin Bridges, Tina Bower, John Canty, Fred Capuano, Gary Ching, Ted Cooling, Marianne Cuskelly, 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 Johnson David Kasprzak, Loretta Kervin, Michael Larkin, Marie Maloney, Patricia Marechal, Debbie Marshall, Jordanis MaryPauline McDonald, Ian McKechnie, Marcus Meno, Paul Mullin, Arthur Pape, Michael Paterson, Georgia Peacock, Bev Pickett, Mitchell Prendergast, Peter Roberts, Ken Shaw, Terry Sims, Marian Smith, Elizabeth Stehmann, Susan Trist, Hayden Tung, Mitchell Tung, Stephen Van Eede, John Van Orsouw, Angela Vicum, Louis Vogels, Barry Walsh, Mary Walsh, 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: 14th & 15th December

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

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

CUPPA ROSTER

Cuppa Weekend: 14th & 15th December

5.30pm: Visna & Oshadie
8.30am: Geoff Sutton & Sky James
10.30am: Charlie & Lina Vasallo



CHURCH FLOWERS

No fresh flowers during renovation



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 10.30am.

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

God, strengthen and sustain all those who volunteer in our Churches; that with patience and understanding they may love and care for your people; and grant that together they may follow with Jesus Christ offering to you their gifts and talents.



Amen

ST BERNARD'S

VOLUNTEERS WEEKEND: 14th & 15th December

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: Trish Davine
Sunday: Margot Short

MORNING TEA ROSTER

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

Next Morning Tea: 2nd February 2020

Host: Parish Pastoral Council



CHURCH FLOWERS—December

Melinda Martin



COUNTING TEAM # 9

Kath Connell

Val Dickson

Michael Duffy

Mary Delahey

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 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.

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 23rd Jan**

Baptisms are held on the 1st and 3rd

Sunday of the month: **2nd & 16th Feb**

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. **Please be advised that Baptism applications must be submitted 2 months in advance.** Contact Fr Fabian, Fr Alexander, Fr Lucas 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 Alexander or Fr Lucas .

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: **Stephen & Liza Fernandes** 0439 743 533

Group 2: **Leonia Jessop** 0450 371 965

Group 3: **Josephine Vella** 0411 568 012



ST BERNARD'S

BAPTISM PREPARATION PROGRAM

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

Next program: **Sunday 26th January**

Baptisms are held on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month: **2nd & 16th Feb**

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. **Please be advised that Baptism applications must be submitted 2 months in advance.** Contact Fr Fabian, Fr Alexander, Fr Lucas 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 Alexander or Fr Lucas.

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 PROCESSION

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 Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse,
a scion thrusts from his roots:
on him the spirit of the Lord rests,
a spirit of wisdom and insight,
a spirit of counsel and power,
a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.
(The fear of the Lord is his breath.)
He does not judge by appearances,
he gives no verdict on hearsay,
but judges the wretched with integrity,
and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land.
His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless;
his sentences bring death to the wicked.

Integrity is the loincloth round his waist,
faithfulness the belt about his hips.

The wolf lives with the lamb,
the panther lies down with the kid,
calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them.
The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together.
The lion eats straw like the ox.

The infant plays over the cobra's hole;
into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand.
They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain,
for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters swell the sea.

That day, the root of Jesse
shall stand as a signal to the peoples.
It will be sought out by the nations
and its home will be glorious.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM : 71

Comm: Justice shall flourish in his time,
and fullness of peace for ever.

All: Justice shall flourish in his time,
and fullness of peace for ever.

O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement.

In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails:
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to earth's bounds.

For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor.

May his name be blessed for ever
and endure like the sun.
Every tribe shall be blessed in him,
all nations bless his name.

All: Justice shall flourish in his time,
and fullness of peace for ever.

SECOND READING Romans 15:4-9

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 3:1-12

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet spoke of when he said: A voice cries in the wilderness:

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

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

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: Is 35:1-6.10;

Second Reading: James 5:7-10;

Gospel: Mt 11:2-11



The life of Catholic worship and piety II

Types of sacramentals: Blessings

Blessings come first among sacramentals. Every blessing praises God and prays for his gifts. In Christ, Christians are blessed by God the Father "with every spiritual blessing". This is why the Church imparts blessings by invoking the name of Jesus, usually while making the holy sign of the cross of Christ.

A blessing is invocative or constitutive.

A blessing is *invocative* if it leaves the juridical status of the person, place, or thing unchanged. For example, the blessing of bees, animals, or fruit, does not make them sacred things; nor does an ordinary priestly blessing make its recipient a sacred person. A blessing is *constitutive* (actually both invocative and constitutive) when it confers a juridical sacred status on a person, place, or thing, as, for example, when a blessing reserves a chalice for liturgical use.

The more a blessing concerns ecclesial and sacramental life, the more is its administration reserved to the ordained ministry of bishops, priests, or deacons.

While lay people may preside at certain blessings, these blessings are not accompanied by the gesture of the sign of the cross.

The fullness of the Church's prayer occurs in the parish, with all the orders represented, ideally including bishop, priest, deacon, and laity. However, a wide range of traditional and contemporary prayers, from the Hail Mary to blessings for special occasions, as well as hymns, can be performed in the home.

These include blessings for family meals, national holidays, wedding anniversaries, moving house, making difficult decisions, grief, and preparation for major events. Study and prayer groups have numerous prayer options, such as prayers to begin a school year or a prayer for students.

Prayers, readings, and blessings are provided for all holy seasons of the Church's liturgical year. The Liturgy of the Hours may also be recited in the home.

Among the liturgical and other books, there are sometimes parallels among liturgical and non-liturgical blessings, or invocative and constitutive blessings, or between invocative and constitutive blessings on the one hand and sacraments on the other.

For example, a couple could marry *sacramentally* in a liturgical rite; years later on an

anniversary they could receive a *liturgical invocative blessing* from a priest using a prayer from the Book of Blessings, and then go to a reception where one of their children could bless them using a *non-liturgical invocative blessing* of some kind.

Similar parallels can be seen among the sacraments and blessings given to children, or to the sick. In case there may be any confusion on such occasions, is necessary to make it clear that these are distinct rites.

Liturgical Blessings

Invocative blessings, which are imparted first of all to Catholics, can also be given to catechumens and even to non-Catholics unless there is a prohibition of the Church to the contrary.

The Roman Missal (Sacramentary) contains invocative blessings — including the blessing of the deacon before he reads the Gospel, and the blessing of the congregation at the end of Mass. The ritual books, such as the Rite of Baptism of Children, contain invocative blessings — in the case of infant baptism, for the parents, godparents, and the congregation. The Book of Blessings contains many invocative blessings of persons, places and things.

Depending on the particular occasion and circumstances, a liturgical invocative blessing may be given by a layperson as well as by a cleric.

Constitutive Liturgical Blessings

Among the *constitutive* blessings that are intended for persons (which are not to be confused with sacramental ordination) are the blessing of the abbot or abbess of a monastery, the consecration of virgins, the rite of religious profession, and the blessing of certain lay ministries of the Church.

The dedication or blessing of a church or an altar, the blessing of holy oils, vessels, and vestments, bells, etc, are examples of constitutive blessings that concern places and things.

Sacred places are those that are designated for divine worship or for the burial of the faithful by a dedication or a blessing that the liturgical books prescribe for this purpose.

Sacred things, which are designated for divine worship by dedication or blessing, are to be treated reverently and are not to be employed for profane or inappropriate use, even if they are owned by private persons.