



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

Third Sunday of Advent

Year A

15th 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
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 : 16th-22nd December		
Monday:	7.30pm	FFS
Tuesday	9.15am	FAA
Tuesday pm:	6.30pm	FLM
Wednesday:	7.45am	FLM
	9.15am	FLM
Thursday:	7.45am	FLM
(in Padua Hall)	9.15am	FFS
Friday:	9.15am	FAA
Saturday:		
Saturday Vigil:	5.30pm	FAA
Sunday:	8.30am	FAA
	10.30am	FAA
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		
Next Mass will be held 31st January 2020		
REFLECTION		
Reflection on significant figures of the Old and New Testament, led by Fr Fabian held at St Anthony's at 5pm on Sundays 15th & 22nd December.		



ST BERNARD'S	BACCHUS MARSH	
MASS TIMES : 16th-22nd December		
All weekday Masses (except Thursday) will be held in the Chapel		
Monday :	No Mass	
Tuesday:	5.30pm	FAA
Wednesday :	9.30am	FAA
Thursday :	9.30am	FAA
Friday:	9.30am	FLM
Providence Mass	11.00am	FFS
Saturday:		
Saturday Vigil :	5.00pm	FLM
Sunday :	8:30am	FFS
	10.00am	FFS
INDIVIDUAL RECONCILIATION		
Saturday: 4.30pm and before and after weekday Mass.		
ROSARY: Prayed every Monday 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 7th February		
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)		
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 15th & 22nd December.		
ADVENT REFLECTION		
The final date for Advent Reflection on the Sunday Readings is: Thursday 19th December at 10.30am Held at the Convent, 68 Lerdererg St, Bacchus Marsh, Contact Sr Mary 5367 2078.		

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS	KOROBET	
MASS TIME		
Saturday Vigil:	6.30pm	FLM

2019 PARISH RENEWAL PROGRAM RESULTS

On behalf of my fellow priests Father Lucas and Father Alexander, members of the Parish Renewal Program team and our entire parish staff, we want you to know how much we appreciate your presence and participation in our parish communities. It's been an eventful past two months and we would not have achieved our Program results without the engagement of parishioners who offered their time and God-given talents and financial pledge commitments.

Effective 24 November 2019, St Bernard's Parish has pledged Stewardship income of \$3,383 per week (an 11% increase) from 306 parishioners. St Anthony's Parish has pledged Stewardship income of \$4,010 per week (a 51% increase) from 361 parishioners.

Your willingness to be part of our Groups and Ministries (i.e. 19 St Bernard's parishioners and 40 St Anthony's parishioners) will also help support everything that we do. Thank you very much.

With Many Blessing, Fr Fabian.

PARISH EVENTS & NOTICES

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.

BINGO

Bingo will finish on the 17th December and return on the 14th January 2020.

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.

MELBOURNE OVERSEAS MISSION APPEAL

This special collection has been rescheduled for next weekend.

CHRISTMAS MASS- TUESDAY 24th Dec 5.30pm

Please note that the Carols begin at 5pm, followed by Mass. Children are invited to come dressed up in costume to the CAROLS during which they will be called to actively take part in and take a special place on the sanctuary. The list of carols has been specifically chosen to reflect a focus on a particular nativity character. As we sing together, I will, call the characters forward, in turn, to take up their place. We will bring the love, joy and peace of Our Christ Child alive in our hearts, families & parish to be celebrated in the Eucharist, which Blessed and Spirit filled we will take with us into our homes and lives. We will also be having a surprise visitor. Please join in St Anthony's Family Christmas Carols and mass and let's make this happen! We need YOU- and your children, as - Mary, Jesus, Joseph, 3wise men angel etc. For any further information call Marian 0400007286.

Dear parishioners, if you have a few hours to spare from 10am on Friday 20th December to help us make a Christmas gift to give each child who attends the family Christmas Mass on Christmas Eve, put your name down on the list provided at the back. We will meet in the back of Padua hall. Your assistance is greatly appreciated. Any queries contact Marian

LEMON & GRAPEFRUIT AND CRAFT GROUP SALES

The Fund raising Committee would like to thank Marian Muller with the sale of Lemons & Grapefruits which amounted to \$270.55; and the Craft Group whose sale amounted to \$283.45. A big thank you to all those who supported this.

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

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

Bacchus Marsh St Vincent de Paul Conference would like to thank our Parishioners for their donations towards our Christmas Hampers. Your support is greatly appreciated.

ALTAR SERVERS FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES

If any families are available over Christmas, would you please put your name(s) down on the volunteer sheet in the Gathering Space.

KSC RACING GAME – Final Results

Game 1

1st. Sharon Roberts – 89 points

2nd. Carmel Welsh– 83 points

3rd. George Kearney – 78 points

Game 2

1st. Claire Young – 89 points

2nd. Bev Skinner– 83 points

3rd. Matthew Tung – 78 points

Thank you to all who played the game, and have a Merry Christmas.

Results are on the noticeboard in the Gathering Space.

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: 21st & 22nd December MINISTERS OF THE WORD

5.30pm : Lorraine Tellis
8.30am: Michael Higgins
10.30am: Regina Tuala

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.30pm: Ann Tennakoon (P) & Gavin Pereira
8.30am: Ron Howard (P), Sue Alexander
& Geoff Sutton
10.30am: George Bonello (P) & Doris Bonello

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

MASS COORDINATORS

5.30pm: Godwin Barton & Dolores Turcsan
8.30am: Natalie Howard & Ron Howard
10.30am: Leonia Jessop & Josephine German

ALTAR SERVERS

5.30pm: Jonathan Dacunha & Mason Azzopardi
8.30am: Rhys Tuala & Andre Oqueli
10.30am: Nick Taunuu & Ethan Porter

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:

Arthur Abela, Noue Taupi Asiata, Andrea Butcher, Alessandro Di Martino & Anthony Mercieca

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: 21st & 22nd December MINISTERS OF THE WORD

5.00pm: Trish Davine
8.30am: Peter Lafranci & Margaret Love
10.00am: Dianne Corro & James Waters

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Geraldine Vereker
8.30am: Ben Kratochvil
10.00am: John Wilson

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: **To Be Advised**
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 **To Be Advised**

We pray for the death anniversary at this time of:

John Glide, Patrick Green, Kevin Long, Robert Taggart, and Joan Younger.

Please pray for the Sick:

Noah Barlow, Dudley Baddeley, Chaiel Balcombe, 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: 21st & 22nd December

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.30pm: Kristina Scerri
8.30am: Judy Johnson
10.30am: Sally Markulin

CUPPA ROSTER

Cuppa Weekend: **This Weekend**

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: 21st & 22nd December

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: Sean Giani
Sunday: Marj Tung

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 # 1

Allan Comrie

Jim Scott

Peter Mooney

Margot Short

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: **1st & 15th March**

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: **Brian Barker** 0408 974 322

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

Group 3: **Angela Saliba** 0431 095 885



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: **1st & 15th March**

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

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.

FIRST READING Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,
let it rejoice and sing for joy.
The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;
they shall see the glory of the Lord,
the splendour of our God.
Strengthen all weary hands,
steady all trembling knees
and 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 those the Lord has ransomed shall return.
They will come to Zion shouting for joy,
everlasting joy on their faces;
joy and gladness will go with them
and sorrow and lament be ended.
The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM : 145

Comm: Lord, come and save us.

All: Lord, come and save us.

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 protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan.

It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age.

All: Lord, come and save us.

SECOND READING James 5:7-10

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer:
how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it
has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be
patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon.
Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not
to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be
seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in
submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name
of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 11:2-11

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his
disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we
got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell
John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame
walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are
raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and
happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the
people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to
see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out
to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine
clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for?
To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet:
he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my
messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell
you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than
John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom
of heaven is greater than he is.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.
Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS –

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: Is 7:10-14;

Second Reading: Rom 1:1-7;

Gospel: Mt 1:18-24



The life of Catholic worship and piety III

Types of sacramentals

Healing services

It is licit for every member of the faithful to pray to God for healing. When this is organised in a church or other sacred place, it is appropriate that such prayers be led by an ordained minister.

Prayers for healing are considered to be liturgical if they are part of the liturgical books approved by the Church's competent authority; otherwise, they are non-liturgical.

Those who direct healing services, whether the service be liturgical or non-liturgical, are to strive to maintain a climate of peaceful devotion in the assembly and to exercise the necessary prudence if healings should take place among those present. When the celebration is over, any testimony can be collected with honesty and accuracy, and submitted to the proper ecclesiastical authority.

In no instance may a non-ordained person perform anointings, neither with the oil of the sick nor any other oil. Only a priest may act as minister of the sacrament of Anointing.

(It must be kept in mind that there are only three blessed oils used in the Roman Ritual: namely, the Oil of Catechumens, the Oil of the Sick, and Sacred Chrism. No other oil is licit.)

The use of means of communication (meaning, for example, television, radio or internet) in connection with prayers for healing, falls under the vigilance of the Archbishop.

Without prejudice to what is established regarding the celebration of the anointing of the sick within Mass or to other celebrations for the sick provided in the Church's liturgical books, prayers for healing — whether liturgical or non-liturgical — must not be introduced into the celebration of the Holy Mass, the sacraments, or the Liturgy of the Hours. In the celebrations referred to, the only exceptions are the special prayer intentions for the healing of the sick may be included in the Prayer of the Faithful.

Liturgical Healing Services

The Archbishop has the right to issue norms for his Archdiocese regarding liturgical services of healing. Those who conduct liturgical services of healing must request permission from the appropriate archdiocesan office for each case.

Permission to hold such services must be given explicitly, even if they are organised by bishops or cardinals, or include such as participants. Given a just and proportionate reason, the Archbishop has

the right to forbid even the participation of a particular bishop.

Liturgical prayers for healing are to be celebrated only according to the rite prescribed in the Book of Blessings, and with the proper sacred vestments indicated therein.

Non-Liturgical Healing Services

Non-liturgical prayers for healing are distinct from liturgical celebrations. Confusion between such free non-liturgical prayer meetings and liturgical celebrations properly so-called is to be carefully avoided.

Those who direct non-liturgical healing services are to ensure that anything resembling hysteria, artificiality, theatricality or sensationalism not take place.

Exorcisms

The Lord Jesus Christ performed exorcisms, and from him the Church has received the power and office of exorcising. When the Church asks publicly and authoritatively in the name of Jesus Christ that a person or object be protected against the power of the Evil One and withdrawn from his dominion, it is called exorcism. In a simple form, exorcisms are performed at the celebration of baptism.

The solemn exorcism, called a "major exorcism", is directed at the expulsion of demons or liberation from demonic possession through the spiritual authority which Jesus entrusted to his Church.

The ministry of exorcism must be carried out in strict dependence on the Archbishop, and in keeping with the norms of canon law, the instructions of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, and the Rite of Exorcism. No one can perform an exorcism legitimately upon the possessed unless he has obtained special and express permission from the local ordinary. Any hint of superstition is to be avoided.

The local ordinary is to give permission to perform an exorcism only to a priest who has piety, knowledge, prudence, and integrity of life.

It is absolutely forbidden to insert prayers of exorcism into the celebration of the Holy Mass, the sacraments, or the Liturgy of the Hours.

The prayers of exorcism contained in the Roman Ritual must remain separate from healing services, whether liturgical or non-liturgical.

The Moderator of the Curia should be contacted in regard to requests for exorcisms, after pastors have considered the circumstances.