



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

First Sunday of Advent

Year A

1st 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 : 2nd –8th December

Monday:	7.30pm	FFS
Tuesday	St Francis Xavier Memorial 9.15am	FLM
Tuesday pm:	6.30pm	FLM
Wednesday:	7.45am	FAA
	9.15am	FFS
Thursday:	7.45am	FLM
	9.15am	FAA
Friday:	9.15am	FFS
1st Friday Devotions	7.30pm Midnight	FAA FLM
Saturday: St Ambrose Memorial		
1st Saturday Devotions	9.15am	FFS
Saturday Vigil:	5.30pm	FAA
Sunday:	8.30am 10.30am	FAA 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
 Mass held on Fridays during school term.



OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS KOROBET

MASS TIME

Saturday Vigil:	6.30pm	FLM
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ST BERNARD'S BACCHUS MARSH

MASS TIMES : 2nd—8th December
 All weekday Masses (except Thursday) will be held in the Chapel

Monday :	No Mass	
Tuesday: St Francis Xavier Memorial	5.30pm	FAA
Wednesday :	9.30am	FLM
Thursday :	9.30am	FFS
Friday:	9.30am	FLM
Saturday: St Ambrose Memorial		
Saturday Vigil :	5.00pm	FFS
Sunday :	8:30am	FFS
	10.00am	FFS

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.

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM – AIRS 08 December 2019
 As always, these notices are one week in advance.
 Here on the Journey this week, we have nothing but the best to continue the Advent Season. You'll hear from Fr Antony Jukes, straight from the Advent program as well as the wonderful Mother Hilda Scott, Bruce Downes and Sam Clear, just to name a few. Go to WWW.jcr.org.au or www.itunes.jcr.org.au and to ensure that you never miss a show it can be sent to you each week as a podcast via email – for free. If you love the show, let your local radio station know that you'd like to hear it broadcast locally each week.

PARISH EVENTS & NOTICES

JOSEPH'S CORNER GENERAL APPEAL

Last weekend we had a special collection for the Joseph's Corner General Appeal. St Anthony's collected \$552.00 and St Bernard's collected \$341.00. Thank you for your generosity.

REFLECTION

Reflection on significant figures of the Old and New Testament, led by Fr Fabian held at St Anthony's at 5pm on Sundays 1st, 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 1st, 8th 15th & 22nd December.

ADVENT REFLECTION

Dates for Advent Reflection on the Sunday Readings:

Thursday 5th December at 10.30am

Thursday 19th December at 10.30am

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

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!

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

Once again we have the opportunity to help those less fortunate than ourselves this Christmas. The St Vincent De Paul Giving Tree will be set up with tags to help us provide a gift for a person in need. Gifts can be brought to Mass on the weekends and also dropped off at the Parish Office through the week. Thank you.



St Ambrose-Memorial

7th December

ST BERNARD'S

PIETY STALL Christmas cards are available in the Piety Stall \$9 for a pack of 10. Also don't forget to purchase your Columban Calendar from the stall.

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.**



St Ambrose Quote

*"When we speak about wisdom, we are speaking of Christ.
When we speak about virtue, we are speaking of Christ.
When we speak about justice, we are speaking of Christ.
When we speak about peace, we are speaking of Christ.
When we speak about truth and life and redemption, we are speaking of Christ. "*

WORSHIP NEWS

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

ST ANTHONY'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 7th & 8th December MINISTERS OF THE WORD

5.30pm : Patrick Ilustrisimo
8.30am: Mercy Seifatu
10.30am: Elaine Lacey

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.30pm: Gavin Pereira (P) & Ann Tennakoon
8.30am: Ineke Allen (P), Ron Howard
& Sue Alexander
10.30am: Richard Tuala (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 & Anthea Scerri

ALTAR SERVERS

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

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: 7th & 8th December MINISTERS OF THE WORD

5.00pm: Maureen Zahra
8.30am: Gerard Harrington & Jenny Hooper
10.00am: Cathy Belcher

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Mary Beaton
8.30am: Peter Lafranchi
10.00am: Tup Shea

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:

Antonio Battaglia and Patricia Haire.

We pray for the death anniversary at this time of:

Ann Bourke, Bill Cassar, Guinness Connell, John Dodd, Leo Flanagan, Elizabeth Kuczyinski, Ray Marshall, Marita Miesen, Helen Rayner, Con Rigby, Jane Sammut, and Gavan Shea.

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, 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 Maryo, Pauline 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: 7th & 8th December

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.30pm: Lorriane Tellis
8.30am: Ineke Allen
10.30am: Imalsha 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 : 7th & 8th December

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: Jan Farnelo
Sunday: Carmel Shea

MORNING TEA ROSTER

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

Next Morning Tea: **1st December**

Host: Parish Pastoral Council



CHURCH FLOWERS—December

Melinda Martin



COUNTING TEAM # 8

Colm Carragher
Maggie Carragher
Jill Braithwaite
Marj Tung

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.

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: **Jojo & Wilma Chua** **0423 953 843**

Group 2: **David & Anne Leheny** **0405 621 232**

Group 3: **Godfrey & Vilma Pinto** **0400 070 263**



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. 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

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.
Nor let my enemies exult over me;
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

FIRST READING Isaiah 2:1-5

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In the days to come
the mountain of the Temple of the Lord
shall tower above the mountains
and be lifted higher than the hills.
All the nations will stream to it,
peoples without number will come to it; and they will say:
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the Temple of the God of Jacob
that he may teach us his ways
so that we may walk in his paths;
since the Law will go out from Zion,
and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.'

He will wield authority over the nations
and adjudicate between many peoples;
these will hammer their swords into ploughshares,
their spears into sickles.

Nation will not lift sword against nation,
there will be no more training for war

O House of Jacob, come,
let us walk in the light of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM :121

Comm: Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

All: Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

I rejoiced when I heard them say:
'Let us go to God's house.'

And now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.

It is there that the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord.

For Israel's law it is,
there to praise the Lord's name.

There were set the thrones of judgement
of the house of David.

For the peace of Jerusalem pray:
'Peace be to your homes!

May peace reign in your walls,
in your palaces, peace!

For love of my brethren and friends

I say: 'Peace upon you!'

For love of the house of the Lord

I will ask for your good.

All: Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

SECOND READING Romans 13:11-14

You know 'the time' has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon - let us give up all the things we prefer to do under cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 24:37-44

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.

'So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS – SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: Is 11:1-10;

Second Reading: Rom 15:4-9;

Gospel: Mt 3:1-12



The life of Catholic worship and piety I

Sacramentals: What are they?

Sacramentals are a deeply-rooted presence in the lives of Catholics. They include rosaries, holy water, scapulars, medals, devotions. Yet many people do not understand this aspect of the Catholic Faith.

To some, sacramentals seem like an array of meaningless trinkets and gestures; to others, they seem like talismans and superstitions. Of course sacramentals are neither of these things, but are in fact “sacred signs which bear a resemblance to the sacraments” (Catechism, No. 1667). This guide will help you to understand the types, significance, and theological basis of sacramentals.

What is a sacramental?

Sacramentals are associated with or imitate the Church’s official rituals. They are sacred signs which remind us of the sacraments. Sacramentals can include physical objects such as rosary beads, chaplets, scapulars, devotional medals, statues, and other objects. They can also be non-physical, including music, gestures such as genuflecting and making the sign of the cross, and novenas and other devotional prayers. Some sacramentals are exclusively part of official Church rituals — such as sacred oils — while others are commonly (but not necessarily exclusively) used in parishioners’ private lives — such as candles and rosaries.

The difference between sacramentals and sacraments

Sacramentals are related to and remind us of the sacraments. The sacraments were instituted by Jesus, while most sacramentals were instituted by the Church.

Sacramentals are not “lucky” rabbits’ feet or spiritual “get out of jail free” cards. Sacraments give grace themselves but sacramentals do not. Rather, sacramentals excite and encourage pious dispositions and are made effective through faithful devotion, love of God, prayer, and sorrow for sin.



The Miraculous Medal, left, and the Scapular and Medal, right are examples



Theology of Catholic sacramentals

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* describes the theology of the sacramental in this way:

“Holy Mother Church has, moreover, instituted sacramentals. These are sacred signs which bear a resemblance to the sacraments. They signify effects, particularly of a spiritual nature, which are obtained through the intercession of the Church. By them the people are disposed to receive the chief effect of the sacraments, and various occasions in life are rendered holy.

“Sacramentals are instituted for the sanctification of certain ministries of the Church, certain states of life, a great variety of circumstances in Christian life, and the use of many things helpful to mankind. In accordance with bishops’ pastoral decisions, they can also respond to the needs, culture, and special history of the Christian people of a particular region or time.

“They always include a prayer, often accompanied by a specific sign, such as the laying on of hands, the sign of the cross, or the sprinkling of holy water (which recalls Baptism).

“Sacramentals derive from the baptismal priesthood: every baptised person is called to be a “blessing”, and to bless. Hence lay people may preside at certain blessings; however, the more a blessing concerns ecclesial and sacramental life, the more is its administration reserved to the ordained ministry (bishops, priests, or deacons).

“Sacramentals do not confer the grace of the Holy Spirit in the way that the sacraments do but, by the Church’s prayer, they prepare us to receive grace and dispose us to cooperate with it. ‘For well-disposed members of the faithful, the liturgy of the sacraments and sacramentals sanctifies almost every event of their lives with the divine grace which flows from the Paschal mystery of the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Christ.

“From this source all sacraments and sacramentals draw their power. There is scarcely any proper use of material things which cannot be thus directed toward the sanctification of men and the praise of God.’ (*Sacrosanctum Concilium*)” (CCC, 1667–1670)