



# 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

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**Year A**

**22nd 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: (See Below)**

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 (See Below)

**Parish Office Hours: Tue –Fri** 9.00am-1.00pm(See Below)

**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

**BOTH PARISH OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED FROM THE 24TH DEC-6TH JAN**

*If you need a priest in the case of an emergency please call Father Fabian 0403 435 471*

## MASS AND DEVOTIONS

### ST ANTHONY'S MELTON SOUTH

#### **MASS TIMES : 23rd-29th December**

**Monday:** 7.30pm FFS  
**Tuesday :** 9.15am FLM

Christmas Eve Please see page 3 for Mass times

**Wednesday:** Christmas Day Please see page 3 for Mass times

**Thursday:** St Stephen Feast 9.15am FLM

**Friday:** St John Feast 9.15am FAA

**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:**

Adoration will resume Tuesday 4th February

#### **CRC MELTON CHAPEL: 8.00am**

Next Mass will be held 31st January 2020



### ST BERNARD'S BACCHUS MARSH

#### **MASS TIMES : 23rd-29th December**

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

**Monday :** No Mass

**Tuesday:** Christmas Eve Please see page 3 for Mass Times

**Wednesday :** Christmas Day Please see page 3 for Mass Times

**Thursday :** St Stephen Feast 9.30am FAA

**Friday:** St John Feast 9.30am FLM

**Saturday Vigil :** 5.00pm FAA

**Sunday :** 8:30am FLM  
 10.00am FLM

#### **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 7th February**

#### **ADORATION:**

Adoration will resume Tuesday 4th February

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

Next Mass: **14th February**

#### **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 February**

### OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS KOROBET

#### **MASS TIME**

**Saturday Vigil:** 6.30pm FAA

## NEWS FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE

**A message from Most Rev Peter A Comensoli  
 Archbishop of Melbourne  
 Christmas 2019**

#### **AN EXTRACT FROM THE ARCHBISHOP'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE**

In today's world of change and uncertainty, we long for God to step gently into our lives, lovingly and tenderly reaching out to each one of us. So, as we busily prepare our homes for the arrival perhaps of family and friends at Christmas time, I invite you to take the time to prepare your hearts to welcome Him who offers himself to us.

May I wish you a beautiful, joyful and hope-filled Christmas.

SOURCE: www.cam.org.au

## 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 17<sup>th</sup> December and return on the 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

*Dear Parishioners, please note both Parish Offices will be closed from 24<sup>th</sup> December-6<sup>th</sup> January for the Christmas Holidays. If you would like to place a notice in the newsletter for the newsletter dated the 12<sup>th</sup> January, please email judyparishnews@gmail.com by the 9<sup>th</sup> January 2020.*

*We wish all our Parishioners a very happy and blessed Christmas and a safe and peaceful New Year.*

*Lesley, Dolores, Naim and Judy*



## 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.

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL** The Parish Pastoral Council met on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December. The Council would like to thank Marthese Mercieca for her role on the Council. Marthese will be stepping down from the PPC. Also the PPC would like to thank Aloysious Dacunha for preparing the rosters for our Readers and Extraordinary Ministers, Aloysious will be stepping down from this role. The Minutes for the meeting dated 3<sup>rd</sup> October are available for collection.

**MELBOURNE OVERSEAS MISSION APPEAL** This special collection has been rescheduled for this weekend

**CHRISTMAS MASS- TUESDAY 24<sup>th</sup> Dec 5.30pm** Children are invited to come dressed up in Nativity costume to the Carols which will begin at 5pm and play an active part during the Carols For any further information call Marian 0400 007 286.

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS** The Parish Office will be closed from the 24<sup>th</sup> Dec-6<sup>th</sup> Jan and will reopen on Tuesday the 7<sup>th</sup> Jan.

The office will be open Tuesday—Friday 9am –1pm in January.

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS** There is a box on the Sanctuary for Parishioners who would like to donate towards the cost of the Christmas flowers for our Masses. Thank You.

#### **EXTRAORDINARY MINISTER VOLUNTEERS**

Please find clipboards at the rear of the Church. We require Extraordinary Ministers for all Masses on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and the New Year Masses. Thank you.

#### **CHRISTMAS 2019**

*Christmas Eve 24<sup>th</sup> December*

**5.30pm, FAA 8.00pm FAA & Midnight FFS/ FAA** (all Masses preceded by Carols )

*Christmas Day—25<sup>th</sup> December*

**9.00am** FFS (preceded by Carols )

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

*New Years Eve 31<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 9.00am Mass*

### **ST BERNARD'S**

#### **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.

#### **MELBOURNE OVERSEAS MISSION APPEAL**

On the weekend of the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> December our Parish held a special collection for the Melbourne Overseas Mission Appeal. The collection raised \$405.00. Thank you for your generosity.

#### **JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES**

Due to unforeseen circumstances the Christmas get together has been cancelled. Wishing all Associates a happy Christmas season.

#### **CHRISTMAS 2019**

***Please note change in Christmas Mass times***

(all Christmas Masses preceded by Carols)

#### ***St Bernard's***

*Christmas Eve - 24<sup>th</sup> December*

**6.30pm FFS & 10.00pm FFS**

*Christmas Day - 25<sup>th</sup> December*

**8.30am FLM & 10.00am FAA**

#### ***Our Lady Help of Christians***

*Christmas Eve - 24<sup>th</sup> December*

**8.30pm FLM**

*New Year's Day 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020*

**9.00am Mass**

#### **St Stephen Feast Day 26<sup>th</sup> December**

*Saint Stephen was one of the first ordained deacons of the Church.*

*He was also the first Christian martyr.*

*The Greek word from which we derive the English word martyr literally means witness. In that sense, every Christian is called to bear witness to Jesus Christ, in both their words and their actions.*



## WORSHIP NEWS

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

### ST ANTHONY'S MINISTRIES

#### NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 28th & 29th December MINISTERS OF THE WORD

**5.30pm :** Patrick Ilustrisimo  
**8.30am:** Dolores Turcsan  
**10.30am:** Romeo Sacris

#### EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

**5.30pm:** Gavin Pereira (P) & Lorraine Tellis  
**8.30am:** Edwina La Rose (P), Villy Julita  
& Michael Higgins  
**10.30am:** Doris Bonello (P) & Richard Tuala

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

#### MASS COORDINATORS

**5.30pm:** Pat Fernandez & Dolores Turcsan  
**8.30am:** Natalie Howard & Lina Calleja  
**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:**

Consilya Bonnici, Charlu Chua, Don Hassett, Sam Micallef & Ronald Wolfe

#### **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: 28th & 29th December MINISTERS OF THE WORD

**5.00pm:** Vikki Benson  
**8.30am:** Moira Ross & Marj Tung  
**10.00am:** Sr Mary Fermio

#### EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

**5.00pm:** Vikki Benson  
**8.30am:** Colm Carragher  
**10.00am:** Jenny Kearney

#### 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](mailto: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 recently deceased:**

Damien McConnell and Sarah Tonkin.

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

Walter Ibbs, Ronald Bowyer, Michael Kenny, Eddie Mullane, Pat Pigott, Brian Shanahan, and Alice Sloane.

#### **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 Gagliardi, 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:** 28th & 29th December

#### PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.30pm: Marthese Mercieca

8.30am: Chris Fitzgerald

10.30am: John Scerri

#### CUPPA ROSTER

Next Cuppa Date : To be advised



#### CHURCH FLOWERS

Ana Taunuu & Roperta Mavaega



#### 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 :** 28th & 29th December

#### PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

**Saturday:** Mandy Harrington

**Sunday:** Jan & Colm

#### 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 # 2

John Tung

Lucille Wheelahan

#### 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@inet.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: **Uili & Lagi Maiava** 0405 330 160

Group 2: **Angelos & Rita Harino** 0434 368 221

Group 3: **Joseph & Carmen Cilia** 9747 1594



### 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](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. **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 : Steve & Geraldine**

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

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,  
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;  
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

### FIRST READING *Isaiah 7:10-14*

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No,' Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David:

are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men  
without trying the patience of my God, too?

The Lord himself, therefore,  
will give you a sign.

It is this: the maiden is with child  
and will soon give birth to a son

whom she will call Emmanuel,  
a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM : 23

**Comm:** Let the Lord enter;  
he is king of glory.

**All:** Let the Lord enter;  
he is king of glory.

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,  
the world and all its peoples.

It is he who set it on the seas;  
on the waters he made it firm.

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?  
Who shall stand in his holy place?  
The man with clean hands and pure heart,  
who desires not worthless things.

He shall receive blessings from the Lord  
and reward from the God who saves him.  
Such are the men who seek him,  
seek the face of the God of Jacob.

**All:** Let the Lord enter;  
he is king of glory.



### NEXT WEEK'S READINGS –

#### THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

**First Reading:** Sirach 3:2-6 12-14;

**Second Reading:** Col 3:12-21;

**Gospel:** Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

### SECOND READING *Romans 1:1-7*

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;  
his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.  
Alleluia!

### GOSPEL *Matthew 1:18-24*

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, and said 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son  
and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;  
and his name will be called Emmanuel.

# The life of Catholic worship and piety IV

## Ministers of sacramentals

The minister of sacramentals is a cleric who has been provided with the requisite power. However, lay persons who possess the appropriate qualities can also administer some sacramentals. This is so because sacramentals derive from the baptismal priesthood and every baptised person is called to be a “blessing” and to bless. So, lay persons 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.

In the absence of a priest or deacon, in a case in which a lay person can impart a blessing, preference is to be given to an instituted acolyte or lector. Other laypersons, in virtue of the universal priesthood, may celebrate certain blessings, by use of the rites and formularies designated for a lay minister. Such laypersons exercise this ministry in virtue of their office (for example, parents on behalf of their children) or by reason of some special liturgical ministry or in fulfilment of a particular charge in the Church, as is the case in many places with religious or catechists appointed by decision of the local ordinary.

Sacramentals 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).

## Popular Piety

While the liturgy is “the summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed” and “the font from which all her power flows”, the spiritual life is not limited to participation in the liturgy. Yet the Christian must “pray without ceasing”. Popular devotional practices play a crucial role in helping to permeate everyday life with prayer to God.

Down through the centuries, popular religiosity has given rise to various devotions related to the sacramental life of the Church — the veneration of relics, pilgrimages, visits to sanctuaries, novenas, processions and celebrations in honour of Mary and the other saints, the recitation of the Rosary, the Angelus, the Stations of the Cross; and the use of sacramentals, such as images or icons, statues, holy water, chaplets, medals, and so forth.

These expressions of piety extend the liturgical life of the Church, but do not replace it. They should harmonise with the liturgical seasons and accord with the sacred liturgy, since in fact the liturgy by its very nature is far superior to any of them.

<https://adw.org>

Pastoral discernment is needed to sustain and support popular piety and, if necessary, to purify and correct the religious sense that underlies them so that the faithful may advance in knowledge of the mystery of Christ. Their exercise is subject to the care and judgement of the bishops and to the general norms of the Church. Equipped with a fuller understanding of the proper role of popular devotional practices, the faithful will be better able to avoid misapplications and to recognise devotions whose appropriateness is questionable.

The piety of the people is a storehouse of values that offers answers of Christian wisdom to the great questions of life. The Catholic wisdom of the people is capable of fashioning a vital synthesis. It creatively combines the divine and the human, Christ and Mary, spirit and body, communion and institution, person and community, faith and homeland, intelligence and emotion.

This wisdom is a Christian humanism that radically affirms the dignity of every person as a child of God, establishes a basic fraternity, teaches people to encounter nature and understand work, and provides reasons for joy and humour even in the midst of a hard life.

Popular piety is a true treasure of the People of God. Its source is the constant presence of the Spirit of God in the ecclesial community; the mystery of Christ Our Saviour is its reference point, the glory of God and the salvation of man its object, its historical moment the joyous encounter of the work of evangelisation and culture.

Popular piety has an innate sense of the sacred and the transcendent, manifests a genuine thirst for God and an acute sense of God’s deepest attributes: fatherhood, providence, constant and loving presence, and mercy. Popular piety directs its attention to the Son of God, to the mystery of the afterlife, communion with the saints in Heaven, the Blessed Virgin Mary, the angels, and suffrage for the souls of the dead.

Dangers to piety include: lack of sufficiently Christian elements; disconnection with the Church and the Holy Spirit; a disproportionate interest in saints; lack of contact with Sacred Scriptures; isolation from the sacramental life; the excessive use of signs, gestures and formulae.

To remedy such defects, there is a need to “evangelise” popular piety. Pastoral sensibility recommends that this should proceed patiently and with great prudence, following the methodology adopted by the Church throughout the centuries in matters relating to inculturation of the Christian faith.