



# 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

## The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

29th 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 : 30th December– 5th January**

**Monday:**  
**Tuesday** 6.30pm FLM  
 See Page 3 for New Year Eve Mass Time

**Wednesday:** Mary, the Holy Mother of God Solemnity  
 New Year's Day 9.00am FFS

**Thursday:** Sts Basil the Great and Gregory Memorial FLM  
9.15am

**Friday:** 9.15am FFS

**Saturday Vigil:** 5.30pm FLM

**Sunday:** 8.30am FLM  
10.30am FLM

**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 : 30th December-5th January**

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

**Monday :** No Mass

**Tuesday:** 5.30pm FFS

**Wednesday :** Mary, the Holy Mother of God Solemnity  
 New Year's Day 9.00am FLM

**Thursday :** Sts Basil the Great and Gregory Memorial FFS  
9.30am

**Friday:** 9.30am FLM

**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 7th February**

**ADORATION:**

Adoration will resume Tuesday 4th February

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: **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 FFS

## NEWS FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE

**SIX DAY SILENT DIRECTED RETREAT**

**Friday 17 January, 5pm – Friday 24 January 2020**

**Campion Centre of Ignatian Spirituality, 99 Studley Park Road, Kew**

To deepen your relationship with God, we offer you silence, a peaceful ambience, a spiritual director and ample time for prayer.

**Cost:** \$925 (includes all meals and accommodation)

To book please email [secretary@campion.asn.au](mailto:secretary@campion.asn.au) or phone 03 9854 8110.

## PARISH EVENTS & NOTICES

### **BINGO**

Bingo will finish on the 17<sup>th</sup> December and return on the 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

### **PARISH OFFICES**

*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.*

## 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 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.

#### **NEW YEAR'S MASS**

*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*

#### **Quotes by Gregory of Nazianzus**

##### **Feast Day 2<sup>nd</sup> January**

*"I cannot think on the one without quickly being encircled by the splendour of the three; nor can I discern the three without being straightway carried back to the one."*

*"Give something, however small, to the one in need. For it is not small to one who has nothing. Neither is it small to God, if we have given what we could."*

*"We are not made for ourselves alone, we are made for the good of all our fellow creatures."*

*"Let us become like Christ, since Christ became like us. He assumed the worse that He might give us the better; He became poor that we through His poverty might be rich."*

### **ST BERNARD'S**

#### **NEW YEAR' MASS**

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

**9.00am Mass**

#### **Saint Basil the Great Quotes**

##### **Feast Day- 2<sup>nd</sup> January**

*"A tree is known by its fruit; a man by his deeds. A good deed is never lost; he who sows courtesy reaps friendship, and he who plants kindness gathers love."*

*"If every man took only what was sufficient for his needs, leaving the rest to those in want, there would be no rich and no poor."*

*"Every divine action begins from the Father, proceeds through the Son, and is completed in the Holy Spirit."*

*"They who sow courtesy reap friendship, and they who plant kindness gather love."*

*"O sinner, be not discouraged, but have recourse to Mary in all your necessities.*

*Call her to your assistance, for such is the divine Will that she should help in every kind of necessity."*



## WORSHIP NEWS

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

### ST ANTHONY'S MINISTRIES

**NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER:** 4th & 5th January  
**MINISTERS OF THE WORD**

5.30pm : Marian Muller  
8.30am: Villy Julita  
10.30am: Karina Dunne

#### **EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS**

5.30pm: Philip Anyayahan (P) & Dolores Turcsan  
8.30am: Sue Alexander (P), Lillian Christian  
& Ron Howard  
10.30am: Elaine Lacey (P) & Sally Markulin

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

#### **MASS COORDINATORS**

5.30pm: To be advised  
8.30am: To be advised  
10.30am: To be advised

#### **ALTAR SERVERS**

5.30pm: Kieran Grech & Mason Azzopardi  
8.30am: Nixon, Thytus & Aaron Ben  
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:**

Emanuel Bonnici, Michael Angelo Gatt, Thomas Portelli,  
Leonard Sacco & Colin Thomson

#### **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:** 4th & 5th January  
**MINISTERS OF THE WORD**

5.00pm: John Thorne  
8.30am: Jan Carragher  
10.00am: Carmel Shea

#### **EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS**

5.00pm: Colin Remedios  
8.30am: Theo Franken  
10.00am: Anne Daly

#### **PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL ROSTER**

January: Parish Office Staff

### 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 death anniversary at this time of:**

Lisa Closter, Raymond Hare, Denis Lennox, Imelda Pace,  
and Vicki Riddell.

#### **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:** 4th & 5th January

#### PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.30pm: Judy Van Hoos  
8.30am: Pat Chiles  
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 :** 4th & 5th January

#### PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: Carmel Shea  
Sunday: Jan Farnelo

#### 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—January

Silk flowers only- To be advised



#### COUNTING TEAM # 3

Cheryl Rogers

Lyn Shea

Graham Hooper

Michael Love

Sean Gianì

Margaret Love

#### PRESBYTERY & CHURCH GROUNDS- (January)

Front Garden: Stuart Robertson

Back/Side Garden:

Parish Centre: John Tung

Carpark/Pines: John Tung

Back Paddock: Ron Geurts

#### 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: **Julius Caan Can** 0430 880 728

Group 2: **Tune & Epi Kepu** 0410 416 445

Group 3: **Mary & Tony Galea** 0410 285 685



### 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**

The shepherds went in haste,  
and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

### **FIRST READING** *Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14*

The Lord honours the father in his children,  
and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons.  
Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins,  
he who honours his mother is like someone amassing a fortune.  
Whoever respects his father will be happy; with children of his own,  
he shall be heard on the day when he prays.  
Long life comes to him who honours his father,  
he who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience to the Lord.  
My son, support your father in his old age,  
do not grieve him during his life.  
Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy,  
do not despise him in your health and strength;  
for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten  
but will serve as reparation for your sins.  
The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM : 127**

**Comm:** Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

**All** Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

O blessed are those who fear the Lord  
and walk in his ways!  
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.  
You will be happy and prosper.

Your wife like a fruitful vine  
in the heart of your house;  
your children like shoots of the olive,  
around your table.

Indeed thus shall be blessed  
the man who fears the Lord.  
May the Lord bless you from Zion  
all the days of your life!

**All** Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

### **NEXT WEEK'S READINGS – THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

**First Reading:** Is 60:1-6;  
**Second Reading:** Eph 3:2-3,5-6;  
**Gospel:** Mt 2:1-12



### **SECOND READING** *Colossians 3:12-21*

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful. Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what will please the Lord. Parents, never drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated.  
The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
May the peace of Christ rule in our hearts,  
and the fullness of his message live within you.  
Alleluia!

### **GOSPEL** *Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23*

After the wise men had left, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you, and escape into Egypt, and stay there until I tell you, because Herod intends to search for the child and do away with him.' So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, left that night for Egypt, where he stayed until Herod was dead. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken through the prophet:  
I called my son out of Egypt.  
After Herod's death, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you and go back to the land of Israel, for those who wanted to kill the child are dead'. So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, went back to the land of Israel. But when he learnt that Archelaus had succeeded his father Herod as ruler of Judaea he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he left for the region of Galilee. There he settled in a town called Nazareth. In this way the words spoken through the prophets were to be fulfilled:  
He will be called a Nazarene.  
The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### **COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.

# The life of Catholic worship and piety V

## Popular piety (continued)

### Liturgical Year

The celebration of the liturgical year possesses a distinct sacramental force and efficacy because Christ himself in his mysteries and in the memorials of his saints, especially of his mother, continues his mission of infinite mercy.

Therefore his faithful people not only recall and contemplate the mysteries of redemption but also lay hold of them, enter into communion with them, and live by them.

In addition to the celebrations that make up the liturgical year, many regions maintain their own popular customs and devout practices. The bishops as part of their pastoral charge should attach great importance to such practices that build up piety, religious devotion, and an understanding of the mysteries of Christ.

### Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

An excellent form of piety that should be preserved is the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Jesus knew and loved us each and all during his life, his agony and his Passion, and gave himself up for each one of us: "The Son of God ... loved me and gave himself for me." He has loved us all with a human heart. For this reason, the Sacred Heart of Jesus, pierced by our sins and for our salvation, is rightly considered the chief sign and symbol of that love with which the divine Redeemer continually loves the eternal Father and all human beings without exception.

### Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary

To foster the sanctification of the people of God, the Church commends to the reverence of the Christian faithful the Blessed Mary ever Virgin, Mother of God, whom Christ established as the mother of all people.

On Saturdays when the Mass and Office of our Lady is permitted, the prayers and readings may be selected from among the Masses of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the weekday Lectionary, or from the Collection of Masses of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary is intrinsic to Christian worship, and is an excellent form of piety that should be preserved.

The Archbishop will ensure that shrines, many of which are dedicated to the Holy Mother of God, offer an effective contribution to the spiritual life of his diocese. He will oversee the dignity of their liturgical celebrations and the preaching of the Word of God, and will take steps to remove from their vicinity anything that could hinder the devotion of the faithful or suggest undue concern for profit.

Foremost among the Marian devotions is the Rosary, which is a kind of compendium of the Gospel and, as such, it is a profoundly Christian devotion that helps the faithful to contemplate the mysteries of the life of Jesus Christ through the eyes of the Virgin Mary.

The recitation of the Angelus marks the Christian's day with a brief meditation on the Incarnation of the Word.

There is no official rite for a May crowning. Unlike the solemn crowning of an image by the bishop, it would not be liturgically correct to perform the popular devotion of May crowning within Mass. It may be done, however, immediately before or after.

### Veneration of the Saints

The Church promotes the true and authentic veneration of the saints whose example instructs the Christian faithful and whose intercession sustains them. Clement of Alexandria wrote: "[The true Christian] prays in the society of angels, as being already of angelic rank, and he is never out of their holy keeping, and though he pray alone, he has the choir of saints standing with him." And Origen: "But not the high priest [Christ] alone prays for those who pray sincerely, but also the angels ... as also the souls of the saints who have already fallen asleep."

It is permitted to reverence through public veneration only those servants of God whom the authority of the Church has recorded in the list of the saints or the blessed. The local bishop must ensure that inappropriate images or those leading to error or superstition are not exposed for the veneration of the faithful.