



St Anthony's Parish

67-75 EXFORD ROAD, MELTON SOUTH, 3338.
P.O BOX 2152 MELTON SOUTH 3338
TEL: 9747 9692



St Bernard's Parish

61 LERDERBERG STREET, BACCHUS MARSH 3340
TEL: 5367 2069
OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS, KOROBET
309 MYRNIONG-KOROBET ROAD 3341

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT-YEAR A

19th March 2023

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Fabian Smith
ASSISTANT PRIESTS: Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint and Fr Samuel Kapani

ST ANTHONY'S PARISH

Parish Secretary: Lesley Morffew
Admin Assistant: Judy Johnson

Parish Office Hours:

Tue-Fri 9.00am-4.00pm

Email: parishsecretary83@gmail.com

Website: www.stanthonyofpadua.com.au

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

St Lawrence of Brindisi School **Principal:** Bill Hill

31 Waterway Boulevard, Weir Views, 3338

Phone: 8099 6699

Email: principal@slweirviews.catholic.edu.au

Website: www.slweirviews.catholic.edu.au

ST BERNARD'S PARISH

Parish Secretary: Dolores Turcsan

Admin Assistant: Judy Johnson

Sacramental Coordinator/ Bookkeeper: Naim Chdid

Parish Office Hours:

Tue 9.00am-11.30am Wed & Thu 9.00am-1.00pm

Email: bacchusmarsh@cam.org.au

Website: www.stbernardsbacchusmarsh.com.au

Facebook link:

<https://www.facebook.com/stbernardsbacchusmarsh>

St Bernard's School **Principal:** Sr Mary Sarah Galbraith

19a Gisborne Rd, Bacchus Marsh VIC 3340

Phone: (03) 5366 5800

Email: principal@sbbacchusmarsh.catholic.edu.au

Website: www.sbbacchusmarsh.catholic.edu.au

St Francis Catholic College- Melton (Years 7-12)

Principal: Marlene Jorgensen **Phone:** 8099 6000

109-141 Bulmans Rd, West Melton, 3337 **Website:** www.crcmelton.com.au

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

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL COUNCIL

Naim Chdid	0437 004 790
Lillian Christian - Vice Chair	0400 441 257
Stephen Fernandes	0439 743 533
Amy Honrade	0457 042 695
Natalie Howard - Chair	0492 947 201
Rose Ma'ae	0460 672 571

EX-OFFICIO: Fr Fabian Smith PP, Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint,
Fr Samuel Kapani, Damien Schuster and Bill Hill
Council Secretary: Judy Johnson

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL COUNCIL

Rob Brennan OLHC	0430 312 684
Shane Cook -School Advisory Board	0419 999 052
Peter Kennedy - Secretary	0407 778 119
Moir Ross	0400 675 056
Aaron Russell - Chair	0401 927 502

EX-OFFICIO:

Fr Fabian Smith PP, Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint and Fr Samuel Kapani
Sr Mary Sarah Galbraith

SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Coordinator/Officer: Godwin Barton (0425 734 449) **Officers:** St Anthony's - Lorraine Tellis 0437 658 423 & Geetha Vincent 0478 112 996
St Bernard's - Margaret Love (0437 247 779) Evana Miesen & Ron Geurts

Items for the newsletter must be submitted by Tuesday 6.00pm. Please email parishsecretary83@gmail.com or call 9747 9692

MASS AND DEVOTIONS

ST ANTHONY'S MELTON SOUTH 20/3/2023-26/3/2023

MASS TIMES:

Monday 20/3	6.30pm
Tuesday 21/3	9.30am & 6.30pm
Wednesday 22/3	7.30am & 9.30am
Thursday 23/3	9.30am
Friday 24/3	9.30am
Stations of the Cross every Friday in Lent	10.00am & 7.00pm

Rosary at 9.00am before 9.30am morning masses



Sunday Masses

Saturday 25/3	5.00pm
Sunday 26/3	8.30am & 10.30am

Holy Hour after 10.30am Mass

Confession available 30 minutes prior to each Mass.
No Confession on Monday.

Please be advised that there will be NO Saturday morning Mass on the 1st April.

ST BERNARD'S BACCHUS MARSH 20/3/2023-26/3/2023

MASS TIMES:

Monday 20/3	No Mass
Tuesday 21/3	7.30am
Holy Hour	7.30pm
Wednesday 22/3	9.30am
Thursday 23/3	7.30am
Friday 24/3	7.30am
Stations of the Cross	7.30pm
Saturday 25/3	9.00am

Sunday Masses

Saturday 25/3	5.00pm
Sunday 26/3	8.30am & 10.30am

Holy Hour after 10.30am Mass

Please be advised that there will be NO Saturday morning Mass on the 1st April

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS KOROBET

VIGIL 25/3	6.30pm
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Please be advised that there will be **no Vigil Mass on Saturday 1st April. Easter Sunday Mass will be 8.30am.**

Please be advised change of Mass times for Saturday Vigil Mass. Starting Saturday 15th April, Mass time at St Bernard's will be 6.30pm and Our Lady Help of Christians Korobeit will be at 5.00pm

PARISHIONER'S FIRST COLLECTION/SECOND COLLECTION

Parishioners who normally give cash each weekend for the collections, if they wish to donate, are now able to go to the link below and make their payments online.

The link to the St Anthony's Parish is: <https://bit.ly/CDFpayMeltonSouth>

The link to the St Bernard's Parish is: <https://bit.ly/CDFpayBacchusMarsh>

Please put your name and thanksgiving number if you know it as a reference. Thank you.

REFLECTION ON ST JOSEPH 4th SUNDAY LENT 2023– Sr Mary Fermio

Being a Father, is probably one of the most challenging and privileged roles any man can face. For Joseph, this must have been more challenging than most, requiring of him to place his trust in dreams to live his life with the girl he loved and her child, who was not his. Joseph thought he had his life sorted out – life with the girl he loved, Mary, to whom he was already promised, with marriage to come. Then to have his life turned upside down, when he learned that she was pregnant, and he knew he was not the father. His love led him to decide to free her, as she apparently loved someone else. In the midst of all this, an angel comes in a dream assuring him all was okay. The Child was the Son of God! To go ahead and marry Mary. That was only the start of amazing events. A trip to Bethlehem, the birth of a child, the naming him Jesus as Joseph was told to; visitors such as a group of Shepherds with an amazing story; three Magi from the East with astounding gifts; a dream telling him to get up and hurry to Egypt to save the child and then another dream to return home. Would Joseph have said: God, give me a break!

That is a dangerous journey – bandits, wild animals, hard travelling etc. But Joseph listened, obeyed, was selfless, had courage, and did his best to care for his wife and child.

No wonder St Mary MacKillop and Fr Woods placed their infant congregation under his care – the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart.



PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

FAITH FORMATION : Our Faith Formation sessions begin at 7.00pm every Tuesday at St Anthony's Church of Padua, 67-75 Exford Road, Melton South (Age 16+)

LENTEN PREPARATION – DR GERARD O'SHEA

Dr Gerard O'Shea will hold a series of talks on the History of the Church-Every Wednesday evening in March, St Bernard's Parish Hall 7.30pm-8.30pm.

LENTEN TALKS - FR SAMUEL : Fr Samuel will hold Lenten Talks every Thursday evening in March in the MacKillop Room, St Anthony's.

LENTEN PROGRAM - NO GREATER LOVE: A BIBLICAL WALK THROUGH CHRIST PASSION - NAIM CHDID

Sessions will be held on Fridays after Stations of the Cross. Session 4 : Death of the Messiah

ST BERNARD'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

Hopefully our parishioners have commenced documenting your families involvement in parish life from pre 1874 when our present church was built to the present day. Photos reflecting this involvement will enhance written information. If you have contact with families no longer living in our parish, please pass this message on to them. As soon as notes and photos are ready send them to bammlove129@outlook.com

ST BERNARD'S PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE

The recent meeting endorsed the statement prepared for the Parish AGM. In spite of minimising expenditure the operating deficit was \$67771.04. Thanksgiving offerings will not financially sustain the parish. The sale of land bordering the school has been authorised by the Archbishop. Hopefully this will allow development on church land of income-producing facilities. Given the slowness of this process, the parish is faced with some difficult years. Fr Fabian reported on land sale progress and Property Co deliberations re land

Archbishop Peter has invited the Archdiocese of Melbourne to unite for a weekend of prayer from Friday 24 March to Sunday 26 March 2023. Parishes, communities and movements will be hosting hours of prayer across the Archdiocese, meditating on Mary's fiat, her total 'yes'. There will be a Holy Hour after the 10.30am Mass on Sunday 26 March.

ST ANTHONY'S

MEN'S RECOLLECTION - Tuesday 28th March

This month's subject is "Lenten Practices in the Sermon on the Mount" 7.30pm to 9.30m in the MacKillop Room.

THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES

The Thanksgiving envelopes are now available for collection in the Church Foyer. I am sorry for the delay in getting them to you.

PRIME TIMERS

March lunch will be at Castello's Victorian Tavern, 22 Aitken St. Gisborne. Tuesday 28th at 12 o'clock. Seniors menu available. Please RSVP by 24th March to confirm numbers. Enquiries contact Ineke 0400120401, ineke49@yahoo.com.

ST BERNARD'S

SOUP AND STATIONS Every Friday during Lent: Soup at 6.30pm
Confessions 7.00pm-7.30pm Stations of the Cross 7.30pm

ST. BERNARD'S EASTER RAFFLE! We are holding an Easter Raffle on Sunday 2nd April to raise funds for a much needed new stove in our Parish Centre. Donations of Easter-themed items would be greatly appreciated. Please place them in the marked basket in the foyer. Thank You

FROM THE FUNDRAISING TEAM

St. Bernard's Social and Fundraising Group are holding a stall after the 8.30am and 10.30am Mass on April 2nd. One of our parishioners will be selling her hand-painted Easter rocks. These would make a great gift for family or friends, or in your own home. 20% of total sales will be donated towards the new oven in the Parish centre

HOLY WEEK TIME TABLE-St Anthony's Parish

Monday 3rd April Mass at 6.30pm

Tuesday 4th April Mass at 9:30am & 6:30pm

First Rite of Reconciliation Tuesday 4th April, 6.00pm – 7.30pm

Wednesday 5th April Mass at 9.30am

Holy Thursday 6th April No morning Mass
Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7.30pm
followed by adoration until Night Prayer 10.00pm

Good Friday 7th April

Stations of the Cross 10.00am

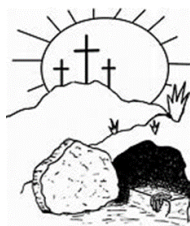
Celebration of the Lord's Passion 3.00pm

Veneration of the Cross 7.00pm

Evening Prayer 7.30pm

Holy Saturday 8th April **Easter Vigil Mass** at 8.00pm

Easter Sunday 9th April Mass at 8.30am & 10.30am



HOLY WEEK TIME TABLE-St Bernard's Parish

Tuesday 4th April Mass at 7.30am

Tuesday no Holy Hour in the Evening

Wednesday 5th April Mass at 9:30am

First Rite of Reconciliation

Wednesday 6.30pm – 7.30pm

Holy Thursday 6th April No morning Mass

Mass of the Lord's Supper 7.30pm
followed by adoration until Night Prayer 10.00pm

Good Friday 7th April

Stations of the Cross 10.00am

Celebration of the Lord's Passion 3.00pm

Holy Saturday 8th April **Easter Vigil Mass** 7.30pm

Easter Sunday 9th April

Mass of Easter Sunday (**Korobeit**) 8.30am

Mass of Easter Sunday (**St Bernard's**) 8.30am

Mass of Easter Sunday (**St Bernard's**) 10.30am



WORSHIP NEWS

ALL VOLUNTEERS IN OUR PARISH MUST HAVE A CURRENT VALID WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK AND A CODE OF CONDUCT FORM SIGNED.

ST ANTHONY'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 25th & 26th March

Please present yourself to the Mass Coordinator

15 minutes before the scheduled Mass time or a replacement will be found. Thank you.

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

5.00pm: Rebecca Comini

8.30am: Amy Honrade

10.30am: Susan Malinov

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Dolores Turcsan

8.30am: Philip Anyayahan

10.30am: Cita Carreon

If you are unavailable for these dates please contact Lesley at the Parish Office Thank you

MASS COORDINATORS

5.00pm: Natalie & Ron

8.30am: Jun Viray & Godwin

10.30am: Godwin & Lillian

ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

MINISTERS OF THE WORD : THIS WEEKEND

5.00pm: Maureen Zahra

8.30am: Margaret Love

10.30am: Beatrice Younger

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Vicki Benson

MINISTERS OF THE WORD: 25th & 26th March

5.00pm: Vicki Benson

8.30am: Gerard O'Shea

10.30am: Samantha Butler

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Mary Beaton

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

March: Cheryl Stevens

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

We pray for the recently deceased:

Renaldo Andres Bugayong.

We pray for those whose death anniversaries occur at

this time: Marija Dolores Borg, Anthony Samy, Teresa D'Silva, Paolo Giordamanja, John Khazaal, Lila Morrison, Teddy Namuswe, Juanita Panganiban and Kit Richards.

Please pray for the Sick:

Hazel Michael, Nickolia & Klara Butkovic, Maria Caruana, Mary Caruana, Christabelle, Lydia De Vega, Melanie Fue, Bruce Hynes, Kotinis Cornelia Kani, Judy Layton, Peter Manicaro, Lisa Melia, Damien Michael, Tony Michael, Veronica Michael, Nickol, Caleb O'Brien, John Osborne, Vaivasa Ruth Perez, Catherine Roberts, Peter Roberts, Pat Roberts, Anna Samy, Samantha Smith, Charlie Spiteri, Janko Stojanovic, Christina Tuigamala, Uatoa Tuigamala, Clint Abela Wadge, Wai Walsh and all those who have requested our prayers. **PLEASE LET US KNOW WHEN YOUR LOVED ONE IS NO LONGER REQUIRED ON THIS LIST.**

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

We pray for those whose death anniversaries occur at this time:

Michael Brady, Veronica Butler, Wendy Diacono, Leigh Gray, Annie (Nancy) Holloway, Christopher Mugavin, Sheila Prendergast, Domenico Sgarbossa, Frank Shanahan, Joan Shanahan, Peter Ward and Bernard Wilkie.

Please pray for the Sick:

Patricia Allison, Susan Alvarez, Noah Barlow, Chaiel Balcombe, Michael Barrett, Peter Bennett, Carmel Berry, Steven Braszel, Tina Bower, Fred Capuano, Gary Ching, Chris, Josephine Cilia, Robyn Cola, Ted Cooling, Lindsay & Kathleen Dally, Judy Delahey, Theresa Dockter, Allison Evans, Helen Evans, George Farrell, Justin Fernandez, Pasquale Gagliardi, Mario Galea, Cynthia Goodyear, Gwen Green, Joe Gristi, Adam Hillier, Leonie Kervin, Elle Hillman, Kiahni Holamotutama, Alicia Holborn, Chaiel Jackson, Matthew Jansen, David Kasprzak, Michael Larkin, Marie Maloney, Patricia Marechal, Brian Marshall, Debbie Marshall, Jordanis Mary Pauline McDonald, Ian McKechnie, Marie Maher, Marcus Meno, Paul Mullin, Arthur Pape, Michael Paterson, Georgia Peacock, Mitchell Prendergast, Peter Roberts, Ken Shaw, Terry Sims, Marian Smith, Elizabeth Stehmann, Colin Taffe, Catherine Time, Susan Trist, Stephen Van Eede, John Van Orsouw, Angela Vicum, Louis Vogels, Barry Walsh, Cath Wheelahan, Jayne Wilkins, Patricia Yazbek, Betty Young 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



SERVICE / COMMUNITY

ALL VOLUNTEERS IN OUR PARISH MUST HAVE A CURRENT VALID WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK AND A CODE OF CONDUCT FORM SIGNED.

ST ANTHONY'S

WEEKEND VOLUNTEERS: 25th & 26th March

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: Liza Fernandez
8.30am: Mercy Seufatu
10.30am: Elizabeth Underwood

CUPPA VOLUNTEERS 25th & 26th March

5.00pm: To be advised
8.30am: To be advised
10.30am: **NO CUPPA AFTER MASS**

CHURCH FLOWERS

March: No Flowers-Lent

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Welfare Number: 1800 305 330
The Melton South Conference meet every 3rd Tuesday morning in the Meeting Room 10.30am.
New members most welcome, training provided.

Non perishable items within the use by date can be left in the 'drop box' in the Church foyer.

We cannot accept re-packaged food.

COMBINED CHURCHES CARING MELTON INC

We're here to support City of Melton residents get ahead through access to our foodbank and other community programs. It's never just about the food or the budget help, it's about recognising the beauty that is in the person and bringing it out so they can be their best.
Address: 100 Coburn Road Melton South 9747 6811

WELCOME DEACON STEPHEN

The Archbishop has appointed Rev Deacon Stephen Fernandes as Permanent Deacon of St Anthony of Padua Parish, Melton South and St Bernard's Parish, Bacchus Marsh. Deacon Stephen's appointment will commence on 18 March 2023 and conclude on 17 May 2023, upon which time he will take up appointment as Permanent Deacon at Our Lady of Carmel Parish, Sunbury.

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

WEEKEND VOLUNTEERS : 25th & 26th March

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: 5.00pm Jan & Colm
Sunday: 8.30am Jan Farmelo

CHURCH FLOWERS

March: No Flowers-Lent

PRESBYTERY & CHURCH GROUNDS-MOWING

March: Colm Carragher & Ron Geurts

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY:

Welfare Number is 1800 305 330.

The Vinnies Store is now located at Shop 19, The Village, 164-190 Main 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

The Neighbours' Place is a Christian not-for-profit organisation whose aim is to serve people of the **Moorabool Shire**, west of Melbourne Australia, who are disadvantaged, at risk or temporarily unable to feed themselves or their family and who are in need of emergency food relief.

NILS is a **No Interest Loans Scheme** for assistance of up to \$1500 for things like white goods, furniture and minor car repairs to keep life going.

We are located at [77 Main Street, Bacchus Marsh](#)

Phone: 03 5367 6222

Email: neighbourspl@iinet.net.au

Hours of Operation: Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9.30am-12.30pm. Closed on public holidays.

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.

PARISH CENTRE BOOKING

Tel: 5367 3427 Mon—Fri 9.00am to 6.00pm

Hall Managers: Marie & Terry Casey

FAITH FORMATION

ST ANTHONY'S AND ST BERNARD'S

BAPTISM PREPARATION PROGRAM– ST ANTHONY'S AND ST BERNARD'S

Dear Parishioners, the Parishes of St Anthony's and St Bernard's have updated their Baptism Preparation Program.

Baptisms will be held at St Anthony's on the 1st & 3rd Saturdays of the month at 11.00am and Baptisms will be held at St Bernard's on the 2nd & 4th Saturdays of the month at 11.00am.

Please go to [St Anthony of Padua Catholic Parish | Melton South](#) click on 'Faith Formation' and then 'Baptism of Infants' for all the information and the application form.

Please contact the Parish Offices if you need any assistance. Thank you.



ADULT PREPARATION Adult preparation for the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist or Confirmation are through the R.C.I.A Program. Please see Fr Fabian, Fr Samuel or Fr Lucas .

FATIMA STATUE—ST ANTHONY'S

These families are praying together for the mission of the Parish:

Group 1:	Allen & Ellen Johnson	0418 200 144
Group 2:	Frank & Cita Carreon	0431 206 357
Group 3:	Vilma Pinto	0400 070 263

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

16th April (2nd Sunday of Easter)



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.



NEO-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

Lord, we ask you to continue

to be with us as we

' TAKE THE WAY OF THE GOSPEL '

together in prayer.

May we open ourselves to you
with a new depth of trust and conviction
in your guiding hand,
so that we may discern our journey
with compassionate and humble hearts
and come to know your Holy Spirit
Moving within and amongst us,
And so be transformed Amen.

MISSION NEWSLETTER TEAM

We would like to form a team of 24 parishioners, 12 people from each Parish to help coordinate the Monthly Mission Newsletter.

The task of the coordinator for each month will be to source 4-5 Articles from parishioners according to the monthly theme of each edition and forward them to:

missionnewssubmissions@gmail.com to be published.

Parishioners who can help coordinate each edition please put your name and contact details on the clipboard in the foyer of the Church.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

ENTRANCE PROCESSION

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

FIRST READING Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13 17:3-7

A reading from the first book of Samuel

go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 22

Commentator: The Lord is my Shepherd,
There is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit.

He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort.

You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing.

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever.

Commentator: The Lord is my Shepherd,
There is nothing I shall want.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL John 9:1-41

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, for him to have been born blind?' 'Neither he nor his parents sinned,' Jesus answered, 'he was born blind so that the works of God might be displayed in him. 'As long as the day lasts I must carry out the work of the one who sent me; the night will soon be here when no one can work. As long as I am in the world I am the light of the world.'

Having said this, he spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.' So they said to him, 'Then how do your eyes come to be open?' 'The man called Jesus' he answered 'made a paste, daubed my eyes with it and said to me, "Go and wash at Siloam"; so I went, and when I washed I could see.' They asked, 'Where is he?' 'I don't know' he answered.

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a Sabbath Day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man.

However, the Jews would not believe that the man had been blind and had gained his sight, without first sending for his parents and asking them, 'Is this man really your son who you say was born blind? If so, how is it that he is now able to see?' His parents answered, 'We know he is our son and we know he was born blind, but we don't know how it is that he can see now, or who opened his eyes. He is old enough: let him speak for himself.' His parents spoke like this out of fear of the Jews, who had already agreed to expel from the synagogue anyone who should acknowledge Jesus as the Christ. This was why his parents said, 'He is old enough; ask him.'

So the Jews again sent for the man and said to him, 'Give glory to God! For our part, we know that this man is a sinner.' The man answered, 'I don't know if he is a sinner; I only know that I was blind and now I can see.' They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He replied, 'I have told you once and you wouldn't listen. Why do you want to hear it all again? Do you want to become his disciples too?' At this they hurled abuse at him: 'You can be his disciple,' they said 'we are disciples of Moses: we know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this man, we don't know where he comes from.' The man replied, 'Now here is an astonishing thing! He has opened my eyes, and you don't know where he comes from! We know that God doesn't listen to sinners, but God does listen to men who are devout and do his will. Ever since the world began it is unheard of for anyone to open the eyes of a man who was born blind; if this man were not from God, he couldn't do a thing.' 'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

Jesus said: 'It is for judgement that I have come into this world, so that those without sight may see and those with sight turn blind.' Hearing this, some Pharisees who were present said to him, 'We are not blind, surely?' Jesus replied: 'Blind? If you were, you would not be guilty, but since you say, "We see", your guilt remains.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

The Holy Eucharist IV

How to receive the Eucharist (1)

Often when a priest talks about what I'm going to talk about, people say: "Oh, my goodness, Father has me directly in mind, I know he's directing what he's saying at me."

People get self-conscious or even offended. Recently I spoke to a congregation about the reception of Holy Communion. I began by saying: "There are no flagrant violations or extreme problems here, but it's good always to remind ourselves of what happens when we receive the Eucharist and how we should receive it."

Then I continued in this vein:

We have the adage "Familiarity breeds contempt". Not that we have contempt for the Eucharist, but we receive it so often that we can become slovenly. Even priests can get slovenly in the way they say Mass. As anyone who has been a superior of a community of priests knows, it is a delicate thing to approach the priest and say: "Father, look, you're saying Mass too fast; you're saying Mass too irreverently; you're doing this or that and you ought to correct it."

Several years ago a Jesuit published a book called *How Not to Say Mass*, and when we read it in refectory in the monastery one of the old monks said: "How strange that a Jesuit should write a book on how not to say Mass." Well, here we go.

If you asked me, what two dispositions are absolutely necessary to approach the table of the Lord? I would say without hesitation that the first is faith — deep belief in our Lord, who is truly present, body and soul, humanity and divinity who becomes present at the words of consecration and who comes into our lives, into our very beings, assimilates us into himself, through the reception of the Eucharist. That is whom we are receiving.

We celebrate what Jesus enacted at the Last Supper and on Calvary. We represent that act to the Father and bring its benefits upon ourselves.

The Eucharist, like all the great mysteries of our faith, is not something that one can explain rationally. How can Jesus, how can God, be contained in what appears to be a small wafer of

bread? But that is our strong belief, that Jesus is truly present on our altars.

Once we have received him in the Eucharist, he is present in our very persons, in our bodies. We believe that by the reception of the Eucharist we become tabernacles, with our Lord contained within our very selves. That is a marvellous mystery, and that is the first quality that we have to come with, that deep awareness, that deep faith, that deep belief. That is what really makes Catholics Catholic. Take away the Eucharist, and we are like everyone else. There's no difference.

I think it was one of the French revolutionaries who said: "If I truly believed what the Church wants me to believe, that Christ truly becomes present on the altar at the moment of consecration, I would not walk to the communion rail — I would crawl on my belly. That is how deep my faith and my humility would be."

We don't expect anyone to crawl, but there has to be that depth of faith. Out of that faith there has to come a devotion. You know, each of us is baptised into the priesthood of Jesus, and one of the ways in which ordinary baptised Catholics exercise that priesthood is by receiving Holy Communion. That is the exercise of a power we have from Christ. It is an act of worship and so we do it. We come with devotion, we come with humility. We come with great reverence and respect.

Now, there are two ways in which Communion is received in the Latin Church: We receive either on the tongue or in the hand. The priest holds up the Host and says, "The Body of Christ", and the communicant answers, "Amen". That is not an English word; it is an Aramaic word. It really is pronounced "Ahmeen", and it means, "So be it"; "I agree"; "I believe"; "It is the Body of Christ". That's what the "Amen" means: "I honestly believe that when I receive, it is Christ, and so I say Amen."

No one can dictate how one is to receive Holy Communion. A priest cannot say, "I only give the Eucharist on the tongue." Nor can a priest demand that everyone who comes to Communion receive in the hand. Who decides how one is to receive Holy Communion? The communicant and only the communicant. It is the individual who