



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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT-YEAR A

26th 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 27/3	6.30pm
Tuesday 28/3	9.30am & 6.30pm
Wednesday 29/3	7.30am & 9.30am
Thursday 30/3	9.30am
Friday 31/3	9.30am
Stations of the Cross every Friday in Lent	10.00am & 7.00pm
Rosary at 9.00am before 9.30am morning masses	
<u>Sunday Masses - Palm Sunday</u>	
Saturday 1/4	5.00pm
Sunday 2/4	8.30am & 10.30am



Please assemble in Padua Hall for the Blessing of the Palms.

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 27/3	No Mass
Tuesday 28/3	7.30am
Holy Hour	7.30pm
Wednesday 29/3	9.30am
Thursday 30/3	7.30am
Friday 31/3	7.30am
Stations of the Cross	7.30pm
Saturday 25/3	9.00am
<u>Sunday Masses - Palm Sunday</u>	
Saturday 1/4	5.00pm
Sunday 2/4	8.30am & 10.30am

Please assemble in the Parish hall for the Blessing of the Palms

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

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS KOROBET

VIGIL 1/4	6.30pm
Please be advised that there will be <u>no Vigil Mass on Saturday 1st April. Easter Sunday Mass will be 8.30am.</u>	

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

At a funeral for a young sportsman in Sydney, 1400 people were present and I am sure most of them would have been weeping at the sudden death of a seemingly healthy young man, loved by his family and many friends.

Jesus felt the loss of his friend Lazarus, so he did what each of us may have done, weep. I remember years ago during the war in Kosovo, when praying, being aware of the presence of Jesus next to me, head bowed, weeping because of the senseless killing that was happening. Pope Francis said in a homily in 2013, "Jesus' sorrow over Lazarus, symbolises his sorrow over all human pain and suffering, the grief of survivors, the pain of victims, ...the cruelty of war".

God has given us a wonderful gift of free will, enabling us to choose how we act. When use of our free will results in careless driving, drunkenness, anger, violence and abuse, unkind words and actions, dealing in drugs – and we could go on and on – Jesus weeps. This Lent let us become strong and never use our free will to choose to hurt others, to cause Jesus to weep. Let us give him something to smile about!



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

Session will be held on Friday after Stations of the Cross. Session 5 : The seven Last Words: Jesus the Teacher at Calvary.

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 development to the AGM.

SAFEGUARDING WORKSHOP—SAVE THE DATE

DATE: Saturday 29th April TIME: 11:30am VENUE: Padua Hall @ St Anthony's Melton South

This Safeguarding Workshop is intended to provide foundational knowledge in relation to safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable persons from abuse and harm. Also, a clear understanding of one's duty of care and expectations. The workshop is presented by Rosemary Teed from the Professional Safeguarding Unit of the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne.

It is a requirement that all Parish Leaders, Coordinators, current and future volunteers attend this workshop to keep abreast with the updates and newly required processes.

Please bring along your WWCC or VIT card in order to receive a Certificate of Completion.

This invitation is also extended to all parishioners, including parents/carers who have a keen interest in the safety of children and vulnerable adults. Any enquiries, please call Godwin Barton 0425 734 449 or Margaret Love on 0437 247 779.

We look forward to your support—Safeguarding Committee

Do you have a Palm Tree in your garden? We need Palm Fronds for Palm Sunday!

Please contact the respective Parish Offices to arrange a delivery to us.

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 HAVE BEEN MAILED OUT.

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

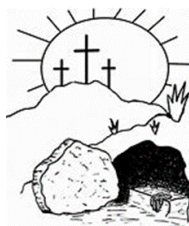
Celebration of the Lord's Passion 3.00pm

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: 1st & 2nd April

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: Coleen & Annonika

8.30am: Julie & Lillian

10.30am: Annonika & Lillian

ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

MINISTERS OF THE WORD : THIS WEEKEND

5.00pm: Vicki Benson

8.30am: Gerard O'Shea

10.30am: Samanatha Butler

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Mary Beaton

MINISTERS OF THE WORD: 1st & 2nd April

5.00pm: Sonia Smith

8.30am: Dominican Sisters

10.30am: Chloe Lindorff

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: John Thorne

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

April: John Thorne

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

We pray for the recently deceased: Leon Pereira

We pray for those whose death anniversaries occur at this time: Angelo DeBrincat, Fayez Haddad,

Vincent Hallsworth, George Hamm, Catherine McLaren, Marina Marano and Charlie Morrison.

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 the recently deceased: Hala Krizmanic

We pray for those whose death anniversaries occur at this time: Brice Lummis & George Hamm.

Please pray for the Sick:

Patricia Allison, 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: 1st & 2nd April

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: Lorraine Tellis
8.30am: Edwina La Rose
10.30am: Judy Van Hoos

CHURCH FLOWERS

April: Ana
(Altar of Repose & Church) TBA

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

*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 : 1st & 2nd April

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: 5.00pm Jackie Tabone
Sunday: 8.30am Lyn Shea

CHURCH FLOWERS

April: Melinda Martin Blooms

PRESBYTERY & CHURCH GROUNDS-MOWING

April: Stephen Millington

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:	Jojo & Wilma Chua	0423 953 843
Group 2:	Elizabeth Underwood	0422 882 562
Group 3:	Angela Saliba	0431 095 885

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

Give me justice, O God,
and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless.
From the deceitful and cunning rescue me,
for you, O God, are my strength.

FIRST READING Ezekiel 37:12-14

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

The Lord says this: I am going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this - it is the Lord who speaks.

SECOND READING Romans 8:8-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Roman

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 129

**With the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption.**

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,
Lord, hear my voice!
O let your ear be attentive
to the voice of my pleading.

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,
Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness:
for this we revere you.

My soul is waiting for the Lord,
I count on his word.
My soul is longing for the Lord
more than watchman for daybreak.
(Let the watchman count on daybreak
and Israel on the Lord.)

Because with the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem
from all its iniquity.

**With the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL John 11:1-45

There was a man named Lazarus who lived in the village of Bethany with the two sisters, Mary and Martha, and he was ill. - It was the same Mary, the sister of the sick man Lazarus, who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair.

The sisters sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.' Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.' The disciples said, 'Rabbi, it is not long since the Jews wanted to stone you; are you going back again?' Jesus replied:

'Are there not twelve hours in the day?

A man can walk in the daytime without stumbling
because he has the light of this world to see by;
but if he walks at night he stumbles,
because there is no light to guide him.'

He said that and then added, 'Our friend Lazarus is resting, I am going to wake him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he is able to rest he is sure to get better.' The phrase Jesus used referred to the death of Lazarus, but they thought that by 'rest' he meant 'sleep', so Jesus put it plainly, 'Lazarus is dead; and for your sake I am glad I was not there because now you will believe. But let us go to him.' Then Thomas - known as the Twin - said to the other disciples, 'Let us go too, and die with him.' On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. Bethany is only about two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to sympathise with them over their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life.

If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live,
and whoever lives and believes in me
will never die.

Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.'

When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in a low voice, 'The Master is here and wants to see you.' Hearing this, Mary got up quickly and went to him. Jesus had not yet come into the village; he was still at the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were in the house sympathising with Mary saw her get up so quickly and go out, they followed her, thinking that she was going to the tomb to weep there. Mary went to Jesus, and as soon as she saw him she threw herself at his feet, saying, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' At the sight of her tears, and those of the Jews who followed her, Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept; and the Jews said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said: 'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.' When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.' Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

The Holy Eucharist V

How to receive the Eucharist (2)

There are certain things that we priests talk about among ourselves (I'm telling the tricks of the trade now), comments we make about certain kinds of communicants.

We say, "That one was a snapping turtle", because he closes his mouth so quickly that the priest is afraid his fingers are going to be cut off by the teeth. You look down some-times and wonder, "Has blood been drawn?" Many a time, I've had the scar of the teeth on my knuckles.

There are also the plungers; they sort of leap forward. Then you have the toe dancers, who come up on their toes, and you never know where they are going to alight.

Others receive on the run; they don't stand squarely in front of you but they stand as if they cannot wait to get away quickly enough.

What is the best way to receive Commu-nion? Come straight forward, face the priest, and do not be too far away, because it is awfully difficult at times to reach.

If you are going to receive in the hand, the best way is to put one hand down and put the other hand on top of it and make, as Tertullian used to say, a kind of throne for the Lord. Usually, if you are right handed, you place the left hand above the right so that the priest places the Host in your left hand. Then, when you consume the Host, you take it from your left hand and consume it using your right hand.

And exactly the other way round if you are left handed.

When the priest puts the Host on your hand, you say, "Amen". Take a step or two to the side to make way for the next commu-nicant, then receive our Lord. Communion should not be received on the run, as you are walking back to your seat; it should be consumed before you leave the area below the altar.

It is helpful to indicate clearly how you wish to receive. Sometimes communicants come up with their hands out and their mouths open, and the priest doesn't know which way to give the Host. How does this person wish to receive? If you

indicate clearly, it's easier. If you are going to receive in the hand, be clear about where the Host should be placed so that it does not accidentally fall.

If you are going to kneel for Communion — and it's all right to kneel — remember that, when you rise, you have people behind you. Sometimes those who kneel to receive take a step or two back when they rise. I've seen at times when an older person stands just behind the one who is rising. A person who uses a cane to steady his walk may come close to being knocked over by some-one rising up. So, remember to rise straight up, thinking about the person right behind you.

Some people ask me at times, "Father, should I genuflect at Communion? And should I genuflect before or after?" Only as a sign of piety; it's not necessary to genuflect, but it is necessary to make some gesture of reverence before receiving the Eucharist. It may be kneeling, bowing, crossing oneself or some other act. What is necessary is to receive with reverence and dignity.

I don't think there should be any genuflections after receiving Holy Eucharist because, at that moment, you don't want to genuflect to the tabernacle, because the Lord is within you; you are the tabernacle.

Let me sum up by repeating the two main dispositions that we need — faith and devotion. Remember that scene, in the Fourth Gospel, that occurs after the Resurrection. The disciples are out fishing, and the boats are coming toward the shore. Peter, as usual, is completely immersed in what he is doing; he has got his outer clothes off so he can work more easily. The beloved disciple sees someone standing on the shore and says to Peter, "It is the Lord." Peter jumps into the water.

That disposition of John, "It is the Lord" — that is what our faith demands. It is the Lord whom we are worshipping. It is the Lord whom we are receiving into ourselves. It is the Lord who is giving us in the Eucharist a special way to participate in divine life. It is the Lord who is sanctifying us. That should be the overwhelming disposition with which we approach Holy Communion: "It is the Lord!"