



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

PALM SUNDAY -YEAR A

2nd April 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 0409 110 259 & 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 3/4/2023-9/4/2023

MASS TIMES: HOLY WEEK

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 (Visiting Priest)
& 10.30am

ST BERNARD'S BACCHUS MARSH 3/4/2023-9/4/2023

MASS TIMES: HOLY WEEK

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



OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS KOROBET

9th 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>

REFLECTION ON ST JOSEPH PALM SUNDAY 2023– Sr Mary Fermio

Archbishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador was assassinated while offering Mass in 1980. He had written: "...if they kill me, from this moment I offer my blood to God for the redemption and resurrection of El Salvador...and for the liberation of my people." In his final Sunday homily, just one day before his assassination, he said: "I have no ambition of power and because of that I freely tell those in power what is good and what is bad, and I do the same with any political group—it is my duty."

Jesus, on entering Jerusalem, knew that despite all the cheering and branch waving, that others were planning and scheming for his death. Yet he did not hesitate to keep teaching, to keep visible in the temple, to continue what the Father had sent him to do. The Gospel reading completes the story – Jesus dies to bring redemption and resurrection to all, and he does this by dying, rather than the use of power. By encouraging the good in people, and revealing what was not.

Being Christian is not easy for we are called to be like Jesus, "to put on the mind and heart" of one who gave his life. We will probably not be called upon to die for our faith, but to die to oneself, to choose to follow Jesus by loving as he did, to continue living faithfully and standing up for what is true and good.



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+)

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

ST ANTHONY'S

THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES HAVE BEEN MAILED OUT.

ST. ANTHONY'S BINGO

Don't forget Bingo will be continuing through Easter on Tuesday Night!! Eyes down at 7.00pm. Enjoy some great hot food from the canteen prepared by our Social Committee. And good company from our parishioners. Remember you have to be in it to win it!!



ST ANTHONY'S SOCIAL CLUB

We are selling Easter Raffle Tickets this weekend, our amazing prizes are on display in the foyer. You can buy 1 for \$5 or 3 for \$10! What a bargain!

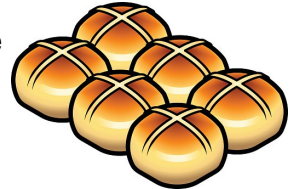
DID YOU KNOW THAT OUR PARISH IS GOING TO BE CELEBRATING OUR 40TH ANNIVERSARY THIS YEAR?

WATCH THIS SPACE!!!!

ST BERNARD'S

HOT CROSS BUNS

Hot cross buns and a cuppa available in the parish centre after Stations of the Cross on Good Friday. All welcome.



MORNING TEA

There will be no monthly morning tea after the 8.30 and 10.30 Masses next weekend due to it being Easter Sunday. We will resume in May.

PARISHIONERS AND FRIENDS

Parishioners are invited to our monthly Providence and Friends Mass on Friday 14th April at 11.00am.

Please bring a plate for morning tea/lunch.

If transport is required please let the Parish Office know or call Margot Short 0419 507 438.

ST BERNARD'S SOCIAL & FUNDRAISING GROUP

We are holding a stall after the 8.30am & 10.30am Mass this weekend (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.

We are also selling hand-made cards beautifully created and donated by another parishioner.

COLLECTIONS THIS WEEK

THIS WEEKEND 1/2 APRIL

It is customary to take up a collection to cover the cost of the Floral Arrangements in the Church & Altar of Repose over the Easter period. This collection will take place at all Masses.

HOLY THURSDAY

We will be conducting our Annual Appeal for Project Compassion during the Mass of the Lord's Supper. **PLEASE RETURN YOUR BOXES & ENVELOPES AT THIS MASS.**

GOOD FRIDAY

On Good Friday, the Catholic Church throughout the world will take up a very special collection - the "**Collection for the Holy Land.**" This special collection originated from the Popes' wishes to maintain a strong bond between the Holy Places of the Holy Land and all Christians of the world.

PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY!



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: 8th & 9th April

Please present yourself to the Mass Coordinator 15 minutes before the scheduled Mass time or a replacement will be found. Thank you.

ALL READERS FOR THE EASTER WEEKEND WILL BE CONTACTED PERSONALLY

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

ALL EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS WILL BE CONTACTED PERSONALLY

MASS COORDINATORS

ALL MASS CO-ORDINATORS WILL BE CONTACTED PERSONALLY

DIIVNE MERCY SUNDAY SERVICE: 16th April 2.30pm

ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

MINISTERS OF THE WORD : THIS WEEKEND

5.00pm: Reader: Sonia Smith
Narrator – John Thorne **Other** – Evana Miesen
8.30am: Reader: Dominican sisters
Narrator: Nathan Costin **Other:** Gerard O'Shea
10.30am: Reader: Chloe Lindorff
Narrator: Dominic Van der Linden
Other: Charlotte Lindorff

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS THIS WEEKEND

5.00pm: Vikki Benson
8.30am: Colm Gallagher
10.30am: John Wilson

ALL MINISTRIES FOR THE EASTER WEEKEND WILL BE CONTACTED PERSONALLY.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

April: John Thorne

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

We pray for the recently deceased: Jehanne Pardinan.

We pray for those whose death anniversaries occur at this time: Emmanuel Bajada, Jerosel Caina, Virginia Caina, Manuel Calleja, Felipe Mallillan, Mario Mallillan, Virginia Okolo, Abong Isabelo Olaye and Francis Schembri.

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 Manicaró, 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.**

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 PASTORAL CARE

We pray for the recently deceased:

We pray for those whose death anniversaries occur at this time: Franca Cinel, Marie Dromey, Irene & Br Brendan Gaynor, Myrna Jones, Brenden Love and Bill Shea.

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 Gagliarbi, 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.

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: 8th & 9th April

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: Kim Barton
8.30am: Pat Chiles
10.30am: Geetha Vincent

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 : 8th & 9th April

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: 5.00pm Margot Short
Sunday: 8.30am Carmel Shea

CHURCH FLOWERS

April: Melinda Martin Blooms

PRESBYTERY & CHURCH GROUNDS-MOWING

April: Stephen Millington

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY:

Welfare number 1800 305 330.
Bacchus Marsh Vinnies Store 164-190 Main Street is in urgent need of donations. All donations gratefully appreciated and can be dropped at the Store 7 days a week. Any enquiries 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 \$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

GOSPEL Matthew 21:1-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

When they drew near to Jerusalem
and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives,
Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them,
'Go into the village opposite you,
and immediately you will find an ass tied,
and a colt with her;
untie them and bring them to me.
If anyone says anything to you, you shall say,
"The Lord has need of them,"
and he will send them immediately'.
This took place to fulfil
what was spoken by the prophet, saying,
'Tell the daughter of Zion,
Behold, your king is coming to you,
humble and mounted on an ass,
and on a colt, the foal of an ass'.
The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them;
they brought the ass and the colt,
and put their garments on them, and he sat thereon.
Most of the crowd spread their garments on the road,
and others cut branches from the trees
and spread them on the road.
And the crowds that went before him
and that followed him shouted,
'Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest!'
And when he entered Jerusalem
all the city was stirred, saying, 'Who is this?'
And the crowds said,
'This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth of Galilee'.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

FIRST READING Isaiah 50:4-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue.
So that I may know how to reply to the wearied
he provides me with speech.
Each morning he wakes me to hear,
to listen like a disciple.
The Lord has opened my ear.
For my part, I made no resistance,
neither did I turn away.
I offered my back to those who struck me,
my cheeks to those who tore at my beard;
I did not cover my face
against insult and spittle.
The Lord comes to my help,
so that I am untouched by the insults.
So, too, I set my face like flint;
I know I shall not be shamed.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 21

COMMENTATOR:

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

ALL:

My God, My God, why have you abandoned me?

All who see me deride me.
They curl their lips, they toss their heads.
'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him;
let him release him if this is his friend.'

Many dogs have surrounded me,
a band of the wicked beset me.
They tear holes in my hands and my feet.
I can count every one of my bones.

They divide my clothing among them.
They cast lots for my robe.
O Lord, do not leave me alone,
my strength, make haste to help me!

I will tell of your name to my brethren
and praise you where they are assembled.
'You who fear the Lord give him praise;
all sons of Jacob, give him glory.
Revere him, Israel's sons.'

My God, My God, why have you abandoned me?

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:6-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians
He humbled himself to become like us and God raised him on high.

His state was divine,
yet Christ Jesus did not cling
to his equality with God
but emptied himself
to assume the condition of a slave,
and became as men are,
and being as all men are,
he was humbler yet,
even to accepting death,
death on a cross.
But God raised him high
and gave him the name
which is above all other names
so that all beings
in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld,
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus
and that every tongue should acclaim
Jesus Christ as Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it,
your will be done.

The Holy Eucharist VI

The Eucharist and Mass (1)

1. The Real Presence

While the other Sacraments give us grace, the Holy Eucharist gives us not only grace but the Author of all grace, Jesus, God and Man. It is the centre of all else the Church has and does.

As St Mark records it, at the Last Supper, Jesus “took bread, blessed and broke it and gave it to them: ‘Take this, this is my Body’” (Mark 14:22). The word “blessed” in Greek is *eucharistesas*, from which the Eucharist derives its name.

Three of the four Gospels record the institution of the Holy Eucharist: Matthew 26:25-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:19-23.

St Paul also records the institution of the Eucharist in I Corinthians 11:23-25. St John’s Gospel does not report this, presumably because he intended chiefly to fill in what the others had not written.

There are small variations in the words, but the essentials are the same in all accounts: This is my body ... this is my blood. St Luke and St Paul tell us that Jesus also said: “Do this in memory of me.” The others do not give those words.

Two of the four, Matthew and Mark, speak of His blood as shed for “many”. The word “many” is *polloi* in Greek, which normally means “many” but is used here to try to convey the thought of Hebrew *rabbim*, which means “the all who are many” (it could not be used of an “all” that would be few).

Thus, St Paul in Romans 5:19 speaks of *polloi* as receiving Original Sin – of course, he means “all”. Every time St Paul uses *polloi* as a noun, he means “all”.

(Jesus probably spoke Hebrew at the Last Supper, for solemnity; if He spoke Aramaic, the word would have been *saggi'in*. Jesus Himself in Mark 10:45 (Matthew 20:28) when probably speaking Aramaic, would have used *saggi'in*, where the Greek in the Gospel has *polloi*. The sense in any case is clearly “all”. Also, the Targum on Isaiah 53:11,12 has Aramaic *saggi'in* to render the Hebrew *rabbim*).

In John 6:53, Jesus says: “Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood you will not have

life in you.” Of course, He did not mean to cut off salvation from those who through no fault of their own do not know or grasp this truth. It is like the case of Baptism: one must receive it if one knows.

The form, that is the words required for the Eucharist, are of course the words of institution. The matter is wheat bread (white or whole wheat) for the host, and natural wine (mixed with a very little water) for the chalice.

Jesus is present wherever the appearances (species) of bread and wine are found after the consecration. Hence, He is found even when the host is divided. The substance of bread and wine is gone, only the appearances remain. The Church calls this change transubstantiation: change of substance.

In John 6:47-67, Jesus did not soften His words about His presence even when many people left Him: had He meant only that bread and wine would signify Him, He could have so easily explained that, and they would not have left.

The Church has always understood a Real Presence. For example, St Ignatius of Antioch, who was eaten by the beasts in Rome around 107 AD, wrote: “The Eucharist is the flesh of our Saviour Jesus Christ” (*To Smyrna*, 7:1). St Justin Martyr wrote around 145 AD: “We have been taught that the food is the flesh and blood of that Jesus who was made flesh” (*Apology*, 1.66.2). The Council of Trent in 1551 defined that Jesus is really present in the Eucharist, body and blood, soul and divinity.

Obviously, this divine presence deserves our worship. Really, someone who believes in it should be much inclined to come before the tabernacle often.

Benediction with the Blessed Sacrament seems to have started in the 15th century. The Church also promotes Forty Hours devotion. In some places there is perpetual adoration. At St Anthony’s here, we have a chapel dedicated to Eucharistic Adoration.

We can correctly speak of other kinds of presence of Jesus but none of them compares to that in the Holy Eucharist. To be continued