



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, KOROBEIT
309 MYRNIONG-KOROBEIT ROAD 3341

2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER-DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY -YEAR A

16th 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:

Mon 9am-12noon 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
Annette Marum	0417 525 617
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 judyparishnews@gmail.com or call 0414 007 009

Judy Johnson's Office Hours 9.00am-1.00pm Monday-Wednesday

MASS AND DEVOTIONS

ST ANTHONY'S MELTON SOUTH 17/4/2023-23/4/2023

MASS TIMES:

Monday 17/4	6.30pm
Tuesday 18/4	9.30am & 6.30pm
Wednesday 19/4	9.30am
Thursday 20/4	9.30am
Friday 21/4	9.30am

Rosary at 9.00am before 9.30am morning masses

Sunday Masses

Saturday 22/4	5.00pm
Sunday 23/4	8.30am & 10.30am

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

ST BERNARD'S BACCHUS MARSH 17/4/2023-23/4/2023

MASS TIMES:

Monday 17/4	No Mass
Tuesday 18/4	9.30am
Holy Hour	7.30pm
Wednesday 19/4	9.30am
Thursday 20/4	9.30am
Friday 21/4	9.30am
Saturday 22/4	9.00am

Sunday Masses

Saturday 22/4	6.30pm
Sunday 23/4	8.30am & 10.30am

(Rosary in the Chapel 10.00am on Sundays)

Every Monday-Rosary and Adoration 7pm-8pm in the church.

Confession available 30 minutes prior to each Mass.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS KOROBEIT

MASS TIMES

VIGIL	22/4	5.00pm
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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 2ND SUNDAY EASTER 2023-Sr Mary Fermio rsi

We come to events in our lives that we can either deny, ignore, acknowledge or let it transform our lives. In Rome, in 1947, Bruno, a Protestant and avowed enemy of the Catholic Church, was sitting preparing a talk to attack the dogmas of the Mother of God. His three sons, playing ball nearby, alerted him to the "Beautiful Lady" in a grotto. Mary, dressed in white with a pink sash, and holding a book, spoke to him, "I am the one in the Divine Trinity...you are persecuting me. Now enough. Enter into the sheepfold." Bruno's whole life was turned around – seeing was believing.

Thomas had a similar experience. He would not believe what his mates were telling him and demanded to touch Jesus, to feel his flesh before he would accept that Jesus was alive. What a shock he must have had – Jesus actually knew what he had said, though not present! It brought him to his knees to a faith able to say, "My Lord, and my God!"

Seeing was believing!

Jesus praised Thomas for his faith, but more importantly Jesus praised all those who would never see or touch him, but would believe on the word of others, many who died for their faith.

You are one of those! "Blessed are those who believe but have not seen". Alleluia!



PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

HISTORY HELP Any information on St Bernard's folk who became nuns, priests or brothers is being sought for the 150th book. We have information on Srs Carmel, Francis, Francis Clare, Adrian (Josephites), Maree Holt (Brigidine), Mary Ward (Mercy). Please take a green history help notice (with contact details) from the foyer and seek family input for our anniversary book.

Remember all of Melton was part of St Bernard's Parish for much of its history.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY 16th April 2023—ST ANTHONY'S CHURCH MELTON SOUTH

2.00pm Confession, Adoration, Holy Rosary, Litany and Meditations

3.00pm 3 o'clock Prayer, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Benediction and Holy Mass.

(Blessing of Divine Mercy Images towards end of Mass).

ST ANTHONY'S

FR FABIAN'S FAREWELL

Brothers and Sisters

A great Priest is hard to find

And even harder to forget.

Please join us to Farewell the Great

Fr Fabian Smith

At any of the following functions

Saturday 29th April after the 5pm Mass

at Padua Hall for Dinner

Sunday 30th April for Morning Tea

After each of the morning Masses.

Please note the Parish Council is coordinating the Events

If you would like to assist, please place your name on the clipboard

at the back of the church

There will be another clip board

For catering numbers also.

FR FABIAN'S FAREWELL COLLECTION

Fr Fabian will be leaving our Parish. His last weekend Masses at St Anthony's will be on the 29th & 30th April. We will have a farewell collection for Father on the weekend 22nd and 23rd April. This collection will be presented to Father at his Farewell function.

FR LUCAS ' 70TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Please join us after the 5.00pm Vigil Mass on Saturday 22nd April and help us celebrate Fr Lucas 70th Birthday. Please bring a plate to share.



ST. ANTHONY'S BINGO 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!!

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

ST BERNARD'S

FR FABIAN'S FAREWELL AND FR LUCAS' 70TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Please join us to farewell Fr Fabian and to celebrate Fr Lucas's 70th Birthday. join us in the Parish Centre after the 10.30am Mass on Sunday 23rd April. We will be having a POT LUCK LUNCH. Please bring a plate to share!

FR FABIAN'S FAREWELL COLLECTION

Fr Fabian will be leaving our Parish. His last weekend Masses at St Bernard's will be on the 22nd and 23rd April. We will have a farewell collection for Father on the weekend 15th & 16th April. This collection will be presented to him at his farewell function.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

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.

ROSARY & ADORATION

Every Monday from 17th April, Rosary and Adoration resumes 7pm-8pm in the church.

CRAFT AND CUPPA DAY

Please join us for a Craft and Cuppa Day, Thursday 20th April in the Parish centre from 10.00am.

Bring along your sewing, knitting, painting, or other craft project, or come to watch and learn as we create items to be sold at our Mother's Day Stall. Bring a plate to share for morning tea/lunch. Tea and coffee provided. All Welcome!



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: 22nd & 23rd 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: Aloysious Dacunha

8.30am: Mercy Seufatu

10.30am: Anastasia Mavaega

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Gavin Pereira

8.30am: Ron Howard

10.30am: Doris Bonello

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

MASS COORDINATORS

5.00pm: Annonika & Coleen

8.30am: Julie & Lillian

10.30am: Godwin & Lillian

ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

MINISTERS OF THE WORD-THIS WEEKEND

6.30pm: Evana Miesen

8.30am: Maggie Kratochvil

10.30am: Dominic Van Der Linden

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS-THIS WEEKEND

6.30pm: Colin Remedios

MINISTERS OF THE WORD 22nd & 23rd April

6.30pm: Maureen Zahra

8.30am: Margaret Love

10.30am: Samantha Butler

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS 22nd & 23rd April

6.30pm: Mary Beaton

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

April: John Thorne

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Joseph Aquilina, Susan Boslem, George Firth, Caroline Galanti, Charles Giordmaina, Fred Pullicino, Josephine Pullicino & Tony Pullicino.

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:

Marie Maher

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

Leslie Crowe, Barbara Cywinski, Val Dickson, Bob McGregor, Lawrence Mizzi, Margaret Moloney, Melva O'Brien, Sam Reale, James (Ray) Rogers, Heather Ryan & Theo Van Alkemade.

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, 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: 22nd & 23rd April

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

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

CHURCH FLOWERS

April: Ana

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 : 22nd & 23rd April

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: 6.30pm Jan Farmelo
Sunday: 8.30am Jan & Colm

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 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](#) or [St Bernard's Catholic Parish | Bacchus Marsh \(stbernardsbacchusmarsh.com.au\)](#) 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:	Stephen & Liza Fernandes	0439 743 533
Group 2:	Elaine & Edward Rodrigues	0405 956 724
Group 3:	Lyndon & Nequita Pereira	0430 782 212

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

1st Sunday of the month 3pm.



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.



LITURGY OF THE WORD

ENTRANCE PROCESSION

Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

FIRST READING Acts 2:42-47

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.

The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone.

The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed.

They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM : 117

Commentator: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

All: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

Let the sons of Israel say:

'His love has no end.'

Let the sons of Aaron say:

'His love has no end.'

Let those who fear the Lord say:

'His love has no end.'

I was thrust, thrust down and falling
but the Lord was my helper.

The Lord is my strength and my song;
he was my saviour.

There are shouts of joy and victory
in the tents of the just.

The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.

This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes.

This day was made by the Lord;
we rejoice and are glad.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
his love is everlasting.

NEXT WEEKEND 'S READINGS -THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading: Acts 2:14,22-33

Second Reading: 1 Pet 1:17-21

Gospel: Lk 24:13-35



SECOND READING: 1 Peter 1:3-9

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoilt or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens. Through your faith, God's power will guard you until the salvation which had been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold - only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire - and then you will have praise and glory and honour. You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me;
happy those who have not seen me, but still believe!

Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 20:19-31

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.

'As the Father sent me,

so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.

For those whose sins you forgive,

they are forgiven;

for those whose sins you retain,

they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord,' he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you,' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me,

Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails,
and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.

The Holy Eucharist VIII

The Eucharist and Mass (3)

2. The Mass (continued)

As we saw last Sunday, the people can be said to exercise their royal priesthood, to offer the Mass with the priest, in so far as the priest offers the sacrifice in the name of all Christ's members, and the people are members of Christ's body. Second, the people can be said to offer since they join their hearts in praise, petition, expiation and thanksgiving with the prayers or intention of the priest.

We can call this a royal priesthood, since to live this way is to reign, instead of being a slave to vices (2 Peter 2:19).

Saint Augustine explains this well in his exegesis of the Book of Revelation/Apocalypse 20:5-6 (*City of God* 20:7-9), which tells how the holy ones rise from sin — which is the first resurrection — and reign by not consenting to the works of the Beast, the Antichrist and his minions. Saint Augustine writes: "But they will be priests of God and of Christ, and will reign with Him for that thousand years"; that is, all the time from His ascension to His return at the end of time.

It would be good to take a moment before each Mass to see what one has to join with the obedience of Christ, soon to be offered on the altar. Then Mass cannot be without meaning; rather, it dominates all of life, for we should bring our past obediences, and look ahead to the obedience of the near future.

We can see easily how Vatican II could call the Mass the renewal of the New Covenant: in the making of that New Covenant, the essential condition that gives it all its value is obedience, the obedience of Jesus, which is to be re-presented again on the altar, so we may join with it.

It is good to recall, too, that His Mother shared in this sacrifice by her obedience on Calvary, and now, as John Paul II taught (Angelus Homily of February 12, 1984) she "is at every altar" because "she was present at the original sacrifice", sharing in it, and now from heaven, she still joins her will to His, as He offers the flesh and blood He received from her.

By Father William Most, catholicculture.org

The graces of the Mass are communicated in accord with how often the Mass is offered for a certain intention, the dispositions of the priest, the dispositions of the faithful who join with him, the dispositions of those for whom it is offered, and God's Providence.

We say we offer the Mass in honour of Our Lady, the angels, particular saints. In it we thank God for what He has done for them, and for us through them. But we offer the Mass to God alone.

The chief liturgical divisions of the Mass are: the Penitential Rite, the Liturgy of the Word, the Liturgy of the Eucharist, the Communion Rite, and the Concluding Rite.

For the sacrifice as such, only the double consecration is essential. Hence Pius XII taught: "When the consecration of the bread and wine is validly brought about, the whole action of Christ is actually accomplished.

"Even if all that remains could not be completed, still, nothing essential would be lacking to the Lord's offering" (*Vous nous avez*, To the Liturgical Conference of Assisi, September 22, 1956).

Hence the Great Amen is not the offering, it is a sort of extension, to give us further opportunity to join with Christ. The Communion follows up, giving us a share in the Divine Victim as He has commanded.

The Mass brings forgiveness for venial sins for which there is sorrow, and for temporal punishment commonly left over after forgiveness of sins.

Mass may be offered for the living or the dead. Its general benefits go to the whole Church, living and dead.

Special benefits are for the priest who offers, and those for whom a Mass is specially offered, and for those who actively participate at the Mass.

In the Mass we recall not only Jesus' death, but also His Resurrection, as Eucharistic Prayer I reminds us.

Even with the changes in the laws, Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation remains an obligation binding under grave sin each time.

To be continued