



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

4th SUNDAY OF EASTER-YEAR A

30th 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 9am-4pm
Wed 9am-5.30pm & Thu-Fri 9am-4pm
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 1/5/2023-7/5/2023

MASS TIMES:

Monday 1/5	6.30pm
Tuesday 2/5	9.30am
Week 7 of the St Anthony's Novena	6.15pm
Followed by Mass	6.30pm
Wednesday 3/5	7.30am & 9.30am
Thursday 4/5	9.30am
Friday 5/5	9.30am
First Friday Devotions	7.30pm & Midnight
First Saturday Devotions 6/5	8.30am
Rosary at 9.00am before 9.30am morning masses	

Sunday Masses

Saturday 6/5	5.00pm
Sunday 7/5	8.30am & 10.30am

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

ST BERNARD'S BACCHUS MARSH 1/5/2023-7/5/2023

MASS TIMES:

Monday 1/5	No Mass
Tuesday 2/5	7.30am
Holy Hour	7.30pm
Wednesday 3/5	9.30am
Thursday 4/5	7.30am
Friday 5/5	7.30am
Saturday 6/5	9.00am

Sunday Masses

Saturday 6/5	6.30pm
Sunday 7/5	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	6/5	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 4th SUNDAY OF EASTER– Mary Fermio rsj

Today's Gospel is very much about safety in the world we live, something the Christian community of John's time were experiencing from Jewish and Roman sources, at times even persecution.

In Australia we have not experienced this kind of persecution, yet many across the world are and have, and seek safety in another country as refugees and asylum seekers. Jesus, as the Good Shepherd, is reminding us that he is our security. By calling himself the "Gate of the Sheepfold" Jesus uses a simile the people would understand. The shepherd would lead his sheep, any number maybe from seven to twenty plus, to a fenced area for safety at night. The shepherd himself, might sleep across the opening, to deter predators or thieves.

The dangers we face today are more subtle, stealthily leading us away from Christian values - eg greed, possessions, selfish attitudes. We are called to help the sick, shelter the homeless, feed the hungry etc. Let us reflect on the real things that threaten our personal Christian living. Thieves and brigands would be much easier to fight, than the subtle dangers Christians face today. Let us put our trust in Jesus, our Good Shepherd.



PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE & CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE-GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY APPEAL

Support the training of priests for tomorrow's Church. Your tax-deductible donation will support the costs of Corpus Christi College seminarians. <https://ctc.edu.au/community/good-shepherd-sunday-appeal/> Thank you.

PARISH MASS COUNTS

Dear Parishioners our annual mass count will be held in the month of May, this count is important for the Archdiocese pastoral planning activities. The count will be done at all weekend masses in the month of May.

NEW PARISH PRIEST AND NEW ASSISTANT PRIEST

St Anthony's and St Bernard's Parishes warmly welcome our new Parish Priest Fr Alex Clemente and Assistant Priest Fr Wilford Urmaza, from the Rogationist Congregation. Our new Priests will begin their appointment on the 3rd May 2023.

Please see our monthly Mission Newsletter. Fr Alex and Fr Wilfred have written articles in this month's magazine.

ST ANTHONY'S

WOMEN'S RECOLLECTION

A recollection-a sort of mini-retreat-provides an opportunity to review your life, to renew your relationship with God, and to make firm resolutions for the future. It is a means of deepening the spiritual life to help lay women to answer their own call to holiness.

May Theme: Docility to the Holy Spirit,

Accompanied by Mary

Thursday 4th May 7pm-9pm

BINGO

Bingo is held every Tuesday night at 7pm in the Padua Hall, St Anthony's Parish. Complimentary tea and coffee available. Canteen services available. Come along and enjoy a great night, and with a bit of luck you could be one of our lucky winners!

ST BERNARD'S

MOTHER'S DAY CAKE and CRAFT STALL

Calling on all cooks and crafters in our parish!

Please make, create or donate a craft item, or bake a cake, slice or biscuits to sell at our stall at all Masses on the weekend of 6th/7th of May.

Craft donations can be put in the labelled basket in the foyer.

Proceeds go towards the oven in the Parish centre.

Thank you!

Lord, make me grateful for the magnificent treasure that is the Mass. Help me prepare to take part in it worthily and to let its fruits multiply in my life.



Thank You!

Caritas Australia would like to **THANK YOU** for supporting Project Compassion 2023. If you still have your Project Compassion box or set of envelopes at home, please bring them back next week or visit caritas.org.au/project-compassion and donate online. **Your generosity will empower the world's most vulnerable communities to grow stronger and lift themselves out of poverty.**

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **For All Future Generations**. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes/envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion, or by calling 1800 024 413.

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: 6th & 7th May

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: Marian Muller

8.30am: Leonia Jessop

10.30am: Annonica Mavaega

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Ann Tennakoon

8.30am: Roa Seufatu

10.30am: Cita Carreon

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

MASS COORDINATORS

5.00pm:

8.30am: To be advised

10.30am:

ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

MINISTERS OF THE WORD-THIS WEEKEND

6.30pm: John Thorne

8.30am: Gerard O'Shea

10.30am: Charlotte Lindorff

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS-THIS WEEKEND

6.30pm: Volunteer needed

MINISTERS OF THE WORD 6th & 7th May

6.30pm: Sonia Smith

8.30am: Dominican Sisters

10.30am: Volunteer needed

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS 6th & 7th May

6.30pm: John Thorne

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

May: Maureen Zahra

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Nina Bugeja, Tony Carberry, Annie Fernandes, Linda Anne Finch, Walter German, George Mercieca, Georgia Mercieca, Phyllis Michael, Noel Saunders, Anne Singleton, Alan Tovio & Frank Xiberras.

Please pray for the Sick:

David Bonello, 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, Hazel Michael, Tony Michael, Veronica Michael, Nickol, Caleb O'Brien, John Osborne, 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 (Pat) Roberts

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

Joan Blood, Carmen Calvito, Carmen Flores, Jeffrey Galea, Ted Hold, Mary & Merv Howard, Lee O'Hehir, Michael O'Keefe, Val Ratkowski, Judi Sherri & Mary Wadeson.

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, 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: 6th & 7th May

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: Volunteer needed
8.30am: Edwina La Rose
10.30am: Judy Van Hoos

CHURCH FLOWERS

May: Rosabella Tuala

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 : 6th & 7th May

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: 6.30pm Carmel Shea
Sunday: 8.30am Margot Short

CHURCH FLOWERS

May: Frances McDaid

PRESBYTERY & CHURCH GROUNDS-MOWING

May: Stuart Robertson & Sean Giani

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: Mark & Edwina La Rose
Group 2: Richelle & Mike Lorenzo 0475 887 149
Group 3: Joseph & Carmen Cilia 0418 201 027

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

The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth;
by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

FIRST READING Acts 2:14, 36-41

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the eleven and addressed the crowd with a loud voice: 'The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.' Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, 'What must we do, brothers?' 'You must repent,' Peter answered 'and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.' He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments, and he urged them, 'Save yourselves from this perverse generation.' They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM : 22

Commentator: The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.

All: 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.

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:20-25

The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing punishment patiently when you are punished after doing your duty. This, in fact, is what you were called to do, because Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way he took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth. He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; through his wounds you have been healed. You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my sheep, and mine know me.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 10:1-10

Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.'

Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them.

So Jesus spoke to them again:

'I tell you most solemnly,
I am the gate of the sheepfold.

All others who have come
are thieves and brigands;
but the sheep took no notice of them.
I am the gate.

Anyone who enters through me will be safe:
he will go freely in and out
and be sure of finding pasture.

The thief comes
only to steal and kill and destroy.

I have come
so that they may have life
and have it to the full.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Good Shepherd has risen,
who laid down his life for his sheep
and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.



NEXT WEEKEND 'S READINGS –FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading: Acts 6:1-7

Second Reading: 1 Pet 2:4-9

Gospel: Jn 14:1-12-1

The Holy Eucharist X

Eucharistic miracles (1)

At every Catholic Mass, following the command of Jesus himself, the celebrant raises the host and says: "Take this, all of you, and eat it: This is my body, which will be given up for you."

Then he lifts the cup and says, "Take this, all of you, and drink from it: This is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant. It will be shed for you and for many so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me."

The doctrine of the Real Presence, that bread and wine are converted into the actual flesh and blood of Jesus Christ, is difficult. When Jesus first told his followers of it, many rejected him. But Jesus did not clarify his statement; He simply repeated his command to the disciples at the Last Supper. Some Christians today still have trouble accepting this teaching.

Throughout history, though, many people have reported miracles that brought them back to the truth. The Church has recognised over 100 eucharistic miracles, many of which occurred during times of weakened faith in the Real Presence.

One of the earliest was recorded by the Desert Fathers in Egypt, who were among the first Christian monks. One of these monks had doubts about the Real Presence of Jesus in the consecrated bread and wine. Two of his fellow monks prayed for his faith to be strengthened, and they all attended Mass together.

When the bread was placed on the altar, the three men saw a small child there. When the priest put out his hand to break the bread, an angel descended with a sword and poured the child's blood into the chalice. When the priest cut the bread into small pieces, the angel also cut the child into pieces. When the men drew near to receive Communion, the sceptical man alone received a morsel of bloody flesh. He became afraid and cried out: "Lord, I believe that this bread is your flesh and this chalice your blood." Immediately the flesh became bread, and he took it, giving thanks to God.

The other monks then had a great insight into the miracle that takes place at each Mass. They explained: "God knows human nature and that man cannot eat raw flesh, and that is why he has changed his body into bread and his blood into wine for those who receive it in faith."

Bloodstained Cloths

In 1263, a German priest known as Peter of Prague was struggling with the doctrine of the Real Presence. While he was saying Mass in Bolsena, Italy, blood began to stream out of the

host and onto the corporal at the moment of consecration. This was reported to and investigated by Pope Urban IV, who concluded that the miracle was real. The bloodstained linen is still exhibited at the cathedral in Orvieto, Italy. Many eucharistic miracles are like this one, in which the host turns into flesh and blood.

Pope Urban had already been associated with a eucharistic miracle. Years earlier, Blessed Juliana of Cornillon, in Belgium, had a vision in which she saw a full moon that was darkened in one spot. A heavenly voice told her that the moon represented the Church at that time, and the dark spot showed that a great feast in honour of Corpus Christi was missing from the liturgical calendar. She reported this vision to a local Church official, the archdeacon of Liège, who later became Pope Urban IV.

Remembering Juliana's vision as he verified the bloody miracle reported by Peter of Prague, Urban commissioned St Thomas Aquinas to compose the Office for the Mass and Liturgy of the Hours for a feast dedicated to devotion of the Eucharist. This liturgy of Corpus Christi is pretty much how we celebrate it today.

At Mass on Easter Sunday, 1331, in Blanot, a small village in the middle of France, one of the last people to receive Communion was a woman named Jacquette. The priest placed the host on her tongue, turned, and started walking towards the altar. He did not notice that the host fell from her mouth and landed on a cloth covering her hands.

When he was alerted to it, he went back to the woman, who was still kneeling at the railing. Instead of finding the host on the cloth, the priest saw only a spot of blood.

When Mass was over, the priest took the cloth into the sacristy and placed it in a basin of water. He washed the spot numerous times but found that it became darker and larger, eventually reaching the size and shape of a host. He took a knife and cut the part bearing the bloody imprint of the host from the cloth. He then put it in the tabernacle along with the consecrated hosts that remained after the Mass.

Those consecrated hosts were never distributed. Instead, they were kept in the tabernacle along with the cloth relic. After hundreds of years, they were still perfectly preserved. Unfortunately, they were lost during the French Revolution. The bloodstained cloth, though, was preserved by a parishioner named Dominique Cortet. It is solemnly exposed in St Martin's Church in Blanot every year on the feast of Corpus Christi.

To Be Continued