



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

6th SUNDAY OF EASTER-YEAR A

14th May 2023

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Alex Clemente
ASSISTANT PRIESTS: Fr Wilford Urmaza and Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint

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 / Bridge Rd, Cobblebank 3338 **Website:** www.crcmelton.com.au

In the case urgent situations-sickness etc. please call 0422 869 646

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 Alex Clemente PP, Fr Wilford Urmaza,
Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint, 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 Alex Clemente PP, Fr Wilford Urmaza, Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint and
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 15/5/2023-21/5/2023

MASS TIMES:

Monday 15/5	6.30pm
Tuesday 16/5	9.30am
Week 9 of the St Anthony's Novena	6.15pm
Followed by Mass	6.30pm
Wednesday 17/5	7.30am & 9.30am
Thursday 18/5	9.30am
Friday 19/5	9.30am

Rosary at 9.00am before 9.30am morning masses

Sunday Masses

Saturday 20/5	5.00pm
Sunday 21/5	8.30am & 10.30am

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

ST BERNARD'S BACCHUS MARSH 15/5/2023-21/5/2023

MASS TIMES:

Monday 15/5	No Mass
Tuesday 16/5	7.30am
Holy Hour	6.30pm
Wednesday 17/5	9.30am
Thursday 18/5	7.30am
Friday 19/5	7.30am
Saturday 20/5	9.00am

Sunday Masses

Saturday 20/5	6.30pm
Sunday 21/5	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	20/5	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 6th SUNDAY OF EASTER– Mary Fermio rsj

How many times I wonder have we used one of our parents as an Advocate, e.g. Mum will you ask Dad can I go to the football – a dance – to... The role of Saints, e.g. St Mary MacKillop, is to be an advocate between us and God. One elderly East Timorese lady would ask Mary MacKillop “to pull God’s ear”, to give support, to be an Advocate.

Jesus talks to his disciples about the “Paraclete”, the “Advocate” who will come. Advocate is a legal term meaning one who is called on for support. The Advocate Jesus is speaking of is the Holy Spirit, the one who will answer their call, and offer support. And when we read the Acts of the Apostles, we are amazed at how that support became evident, to strengthen them, take away their fear, give them the right words to say, to perform healing etc.

We still need the Holy Spirit today to offer guidance and advice as we struggle with the complex moral times of today. We still need to be witnesses to the Gospel by our words and our example, by the way we follow Jesus words: Love one another. We still need to lose our fear, to speak up, to stand up for what is right. And for all this we need an Advocate – the Holy Spirit.

Today let us thank our Mothers for their support during our lives – either through prayer or personally.



PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

INFORMATION SESSION FOR THE PERMANENT DIACONATE DO YOU FEEL LIKE BEING CALLED TO SERVE?

The Permanent Diaconate is open to single and married men who want to serve God and the Church as ordained ministers. COME & SEE! An Information Session about the Permanent Diaconate will be held on Saturday 3 June 2023, 10:00 -11.45 am at the Catholic Theological College (CTC), 278 Victorian Parade, East Melbourne.

Contact: Office of the Permanent Diaconate Ph. 03 9412 3357 / Email diaconate@cam.org.au

LAMPS ALIGHT SPEAKER SERIES 2023

Anima Women's Network and the Dominican Sisters are hosting our fourth mini-retreat for women next Saturday.

For the month of May, Fr Marcus Goulding will speak on the role of Our Lady in forming our understanding of true femininity in a talk entitled: "She pondered all these things in Her Heart: Cultivating the Interior Life," at St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Parish, Keilor Downs, on Saturday 20 May. We'll begin at 9 with Holy Mass followed by Adoration and an opportunity for Confession.

Father's talk and discussion begins at 10:30 and concludes at midday. No cost, donations gratefully accepted.

Please book using the Trybooking code <https://www.trybooking.com/1057344> to register.

THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF OUR CHURCH AND FEAST OF ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA

Do you know that this year our Parish turns 40! How much have we grown over 4 decades. Surely many of you can attest to that.

To celebrate our growth as a Parish, the Mission Team is organizing the combined celebration of the 40th Anniversary of St Anthony's Parish and St Anthony's Feast Day from 3 to 11 June 2023. There will also be a special Holy Mass on St. Anthony's Feast Day on 13 June 2023. See flyer for more details, please collect the flyer from the foyer.

During the feast week, St. Anthony's bread will be blessed and distributed to parishioners after daily mass. Parishioners are welcomed to contribute St. Anthony's Bread in thanksgiving for blessings received through the intercession of St. Anthony. For those wishing to do so, please place your cash offerings in the box on the sanctuary.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

GOD BLESS!



ST BERNARD'S

MORNING TEA -THIS WEEKEND

Morning tea will be held in the church foyer after both the 8.30am and 10.30am Masses this Sunday. All welcome.

CELEBRATING MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS FEAST DAY.

Please come and join us in honouring and begging for the intercession of Australia's most powerful patron saint - Mary Help of Christians, on Wednesday 24th May. Mass at 9.30am, beginning with a procession of all children attending, to Mary with flowers and candles. Morning tea held in the Parish centre following Mass.

THANK YOU

A big THANK YOU to everyone who participated and supported the Mother's Day stall at St. Bernard's.

We raised \$424.90 to go towards our much needed stove in the Parish centre.

HOLY HOUR

Parishioners please note that Holy Hour will now be held at 6.30pm on Tuesday evenings.

SAVE THE DATE

We are hosting a fundraiser trivia night in the parish hall on Saturday 22nd July. Get a team together and join us for a night of fun and games.

Further details to be printed in the newsletter in coming weeks.



St. Bernard's
Trivia Night
Saturday 22nd July

ST ANTHONY'S

SCHOOL BREAKFAST CLUB PROGRAM-SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

Staughton College, 24-26 Wilson Rd, Melton South is seeking volunteers (preferably with a Working with Children's Check to assist with their Breakfast Club program. Tuesdays & Thursdays 7.30am-9.30am. Please contact Alois Tuariki (College Chaplain) 0411 875 5060 for more information.

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!

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: 20th & 21st 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: Gavin Pereira

8.30am: Amy Honrade

10.30am: Susan Malinov

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Dolores Turcsan

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: Ron & Natalie

8.30am: Julie & Lillian

10.30am: Annonica & Olen

ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

MINISTERS OF THE WORD-THIS WEEKEND

6.30pm: Vikki Benson

8.30am: Nathan Costin

10.30am: Beatrice Younger

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS-THIS WEEKEND

6.30pm: Volunteer needed

MINISTERS OF THE WORD 20th & 21st May

6.30pm: Evana Miesen

8.30am: Moira Ross

10.30am: Chloe Lindorff

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS 20th May

6.30pm: Colin Remedios

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

May: Maureen Zahra

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Taumasino Pela Amoa, Emilia Borges, Annie Bowland, Emidia Buhagiar, Ivan Cornelisz, Josphine Giodamanja, Alistair Knox, Robert Marley & Fuatino Taulapapa.

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, 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 those whose death anniversaries occur at this time:

John Raymond Carr, Gwyneth Davies, Jeffrey Galea, Theresa Gibson, Jay Lawless, John Scott Massey, Val Ratkowski, Gloria Rogers, Fr Herb Steele, & Ray Stevens.

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.**

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: 20th & 21st May

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: Julie Sequiera
8.30am: Ineke Allen
10.30am: Giles Maitre

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 : 20th & 21st May

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

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

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 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@inet.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 Alex, Fr Wilford or Fr Lucas .

FATIMA STATUE—ST ANTHONY'S

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

Group 1:	Brian Barker	0408 974 322
Group 2:	Nimala Meegama	0452 200 344
Group 3:	Mary & Tony Galea	0401 169 224

DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

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

Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard;
proclaim to the ends of the earth:
The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

FIRST READING Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town. When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM : 65

Commentator: Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

All: Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

Cry out with joy to God all the earth,
O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise.
Say to God: 'How tremendous your deeds!

'Before you all the earth shall bow;
shall sing to you, sing to your name!'
Come and see the works of God,
tremendous his deeds among men.

He turned the sea into dry land,
they passed through the river dry-shod.
Let our joy then be in him;
he rules for ever by his might.

Come and hear, all who fear God.
I will tell what he did for my soul:
Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer
nor withhold his love from me.

Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

NEXT WEEKEND 'S READINGS – THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

First Reading: Acts 1:1-11;
Second Reading: Eph 1:17-23;
Gospel: Mt 28:16-20



SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:15-18

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong. Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we will come to them.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 14:15-21

Jesus said to his disciples:
'If you love me you will keep my commandments.
I shall ask the Father,
and he will give you another Advocate
to be with you for ever,
that Spirit of truth
whom the world can never receive
since it neither sees nor knows him;
but you know him,
because he is with you, he is in you.
I will not leave your orphans;
I will come back to you.
In a short time the world will no longer see me;
but you will see me,
because I live and you will live.
On that day
you will understand that I am in my Father
and you in me and I in you.
Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them
will be one who loves me;
and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father,
and I shall love him and show myself to him.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord,
and I will ask the Father and he will send you another
Paraclete, to abide with you for ever, alleluia.

The Holy Eucharist XII

Eucharistic miracles (3)

Parting the Waters

A totally different type of eucharistic miracle was recorded by St Zosimus of Palestine in the sixth century.

This miracle concerns St Mary of Egypt, who left her parents at the age of 12 and became a prostitute. Seventeen years later, she found herself in Palestine. On the feast day of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, Mary went to the church, looking for customers.

At the door of the church, she saw an image of the Virgin Mary. She was overcome with remorse for the life she had led and asked for our Lady's guidance. A voice told her: "If you cross the Jordan River, you will find peace."

The next day, Mary did so. There, she took up the life of a hermit and lived alone in the desert for 47 years. As the Virgin had promised, she found peace of soul.

One day she saw a monk, St Zosimus of Palestine, who had come to the desert for Lent. Although they had never met, Mary called him by his name. They spoke for a while, and at the end of the conversation, she asked Zosimus to come back the following year and bring the Eucharist for her.

Zosimus did as she requested, but Mary was on the other side of the Jordan. There was no boat for him to cross to her, and Zosimus thought that it would be impossible to give her Communion. St Mary made the sign of the cross and walked across the water to meet him, and he gave her Communion.

She again asked him to return the following year, but when he did, he found that she had died. Next to her corpse was a note asking that he bury her. He reported that he was assisted by a lion in the digging of her grave.

My favourite eucharistic miracle took place in Avignon, France, in November 1433. A small church run by the Grey Penitents of the Franciscan order was exhibiting a consecrated host for perpetual adoration. After

By Ronald Rychlak, www.catholic.com

several days of heavy rain, the Sorgue and Rhône rivers had risen to a dangerous height. On November 30, Avignon was flooded. The head of the order and another friar rowed a boat to the church, certain that their little church had been destroyed. Instead, they saw a miracle.

Although water around the church was over a metre high, a pathway from the doorway to the altar was perfectly dry, and the sacred host was untouched. The water had been held back in the same way the Red Sea had parted.

Amazed by what they had seen, the Friars had others from their order come to the church to verify the miracle. The news spread rapidly, and many townspeople and authorities came to the church, singing songs of praise and of thanks to the Lord.

Still today, the Grey Penitent brothers reunite at the Chapelle des Pénitents Gris every November 30 to celebrate the memory of the miracle. Before the blessing of the sacrament, the brothers perform a sacred chant taken from the Canticle of Moses, which was composed after the parting of the Red Sea.

The Miracle of Mass

The Real Presence Association is currently translating reports of 120 Vatican-approved miracles from Italian into English. The stories of these miracles will be available at www.therealpresence.org.

Faith, of course, should not be based on miracles alone. Several of the recorded miracles are very old, and it may be possible to dismiss them. There is no doubt, though, that the reports of these miracles have strengthened the faith of many in the instructions given by Christ and provided avenues for contemplation of the miracle that takes place at each Mass. The translation of these reports will permit more people to learn of Eucharistic miracles and, like others before them, have their faith in Jesus' teachings strengthened.