



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

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY-YEAR A

4th June 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 of 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 5/06/2023-11/06/2023

MASS TIMES:

Monday 5/6	*6.30pm
Tuesday 6/6	
Week 12 of the St Anthony's Novena	6.15pm
Followed by Mass	6.30pm
Wednesday 7/6	*6.30pm
Thursday 8/6	* 6.30pm
Friday 9/6	*6.30pm

*All Masses are preceded by a Chaplet to St Anthony at 6.15pm

Sunday Masses

Saturday 10/6	4.45pm	Chaplet of St Anthony	5.00pm
Sunday 11/6			8.30am

9.45am Procession begins
10.15am Chaplet of St Anthony
10.30am Mass begins

Confession is available and begins 30 minutes prior to each Mass and will cease 5 minutes before Mass commences.
No Confession on Monday.

ST BERNARD'S BACCHUS MARSH 5/06/2023-11/06/2023

MASS TIMES:

Monday 5/6	No Mass
Tuesday 6/6	7.30am
Holy Hour	6.30pm
Wednesday 7/6	9.30am
Thursday 8/6	7.30am
Friday 9/6	7.30am
Providence Mass	11.00am
Saturday 10/6	9.00am

Sunday Masses

Saturday 10/6	6.30pm
Sunday 11/6	8.30am & 10.30am

(Rosary in the Chapel 10.00am on Sundays)

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

Confession is available and begins 30 minutes prior to each Mass and will cease 5 minutes before Mass commences.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS KOROBET

MASS TIMES

VIGIL	10/6	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 TRINITY SUNDAY 2023 – Mary Fermio rsj

Being part of a family and local community is a precious and life-giving situation. The glue that unites a family is love. Like the ad, it is the kind of love that reads the same story every night without changing a word – not for self, but for the other.

Today's feast of the Blessed Trinity celebrates and reminds us of God's family, formed by love, for God is love. God is a community of love we are privileged to belong to. Pope Francis suggests, "...the action of the three Divine Persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, is a single plan of love that saves humanity and the world. The Trinity is, therefore, Love, all in the service of the world, which God wishes to save and create". God so loved us that Jesus was sent to show us how much, by allowing him to die the death of a criminal.

We need never feel alone, and it is up to each of us to open our hearts to welcome God's love and presence, so that we in turn can show God's love to our family, friends, community and the world. St Paul tells us: *be united, live in peace, help one another, and the God of love and peace will be with you.* Now it is up to you!



PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

2023 CATHOLIC MISSION CHURCH APPEAL-THIS WEEKEND

This weekend we will have a special collection for the 2023 Catholic Mission Church Appeal. This year parishioners are invited to support families from disadvantaged backgrounds through programs like the Maria Auxiliadora Clinic in Timor-Leste run by the Salesian Sisters. With an increase in demand for treatment and care the sisters need your support. Envelopes are also available in the church foyer. Thank you.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Parishioners please note there will be no week day masses Monday 12th – Friday 16th June inclusive at St Anthony's and St Bernard's Parishes. All priests will be attending a Clergy Conference for that period.

The only service that week will be Holy Mass on St Anthony's Feast Day 13th June 2023. Celebrate the Holy Hour with St Anthony's Novena, followed by Mass at 6.30pm. A talk on St Anthony and fellowship will follow Mass.

ST ANTHONY'S

NO MORNING MASSES TUE 6th –FRI 9th JUNE

Parishioners, please note we will not have any morning masses from Tue 6th—Fri 9th June at St Anthony's Church.

We welcome all our Parishioners to attend our evening Novena Masses during the week. With our 40th Anniversary as a Parish nears, it is a special moment to receive graces from our dear patron saint. Let us all join the Novena Masses 3-11 June 2023 in his honour.

CELEBRATE WITH US THE FEAST OF

ST ANTHONY OF PADUA-FLYER

Please collect a flyer from the foyer for a detailed listing of all masses and activities that have been planned for our celebration 3-11 June. Please note Friday 9th June all ex-parishioners and long-term parishioners are invited to attend the celebration of Mass followed by supper. If you know anyone that this would include, please invite them along. All Welcome!

ST ANTHONY'S FEAST DAY CELEBRATIONS

Sunday 11th June 2023

Procession after the 8.30am mass, Chaplet of St Anthony of Padua, followed by the 10.30am Mass.

After the 10.30am Mass we will have a day filled with fellowship, fun, international food fest, live music and games.

CHURCH CLEANERS- VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We need volunteers to help with the cleaning of the Church. If you are able to help please contact Lesley in the Parish Office.

BINGO VOLUNTEERS NEEDED -URGENTLY

St Anthony's Bingo needs volunteers to help pack up each Tuesday night after Bingo 9.50pm-10.15pm. Your help would be greatly appreciated. Please call Rose 0460 672 571.

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!

PLEASE NOTE-NO BINGO ON TUESDAY 13th JUNE 2023-

ST ANTHONY'S FEAST DAY

32nd Annual Feast in Honour of The Sacred Heart of Jesus

Saturday 17th June 2023

Josefina Maria's Two Hearts Chapel

274 La Cote Rd, Greendale 3341

11.00am Holy Rosary 11.30am Holy Mass

Followed by light lunch

Main Celebrant: Fr Fabian Smith

Coordinated by the Missionaries of Love and Peace Community

For further details please contact

Sr Maria Faustina 0425 882 470

Or Email twoheartscentre@bigpond.com

ST BERNARD'S

COULD YOU WATCH ONE HOUR WITH ME?

St Bernard's Prayer Group wish to resume First Friday 24 Hour Adoration Roster.

If you want to commit to one hour each month, please contact Colm on 0413 223 400.

KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS

The Knights of the Southern Cross meeting will be in the Parish Centre on Monday, June 5 at 8pm.

MORNING TEA

There will be a morning tea held after the 8.30am and 10.30am masses on Sunday June 11th. All Welcome.

PROVIDENCE AND FRIENDS MASS

Parishioners are invited to our monthly Providence and Friends Mass on Friday 9th June at 11am. 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.

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.

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: 10th & 11th June

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: Liza Fernandes

8.30am: Amy Honrade

10.30am: Nikshita D'Souza

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Dolores Turcsan

8.30am: Philip Anyayahan

10.30am: Cita Carreon

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

MASS COORDINATORS

5.00pm: Godwin & Coleen

8.30am: Jun & Julie

10.30am: Annonika & Godwin

ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

MINISTERS OF THE WORD-THIS WEEKEND

6.30pm: Sonia Smith

8.30am: Maggie Kratochvil

10.30am: Samantha Butler

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS-THIS WEEKEND

6.30pm: John Thorne

MINISTERS OF THE WORD 10th & 11th June

6.30pm: John Thorne

8.30am: Margaret Love

10.30am: Charlotte Lindorff

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS 10th June

6.30pm: Vicki Benson

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

June: Margaret Love

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Seloti Alainuuese, Philip Giordamnja & Alfred Grech.

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.**

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Joan Blood, Kathleen Corrigan, Bill Dudley, Kevin Monagle, Peter Mullins, Norma Nichol, Frank O'Malley Georgina Simic & Paul Stokie

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: 10th & 11th June

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

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

CHURCH FLOWERS

June: Gloria

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

*The Harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few;
Pray therefore (**Rogate Ergo...**) to the Lord of the Harvest that He may send Good workers into His vast vineyard. (Mt. 9:37-38).*

Prayer is the answer to the perennial problem of the lack of good evangelical workers. It is a command and not just a simple request or an invitation. The Church needs holy workers. She needs committed, faithful, and zealous ministers of the Gospel. But if we will not beg the Lord, we will never be blessed with Good and Holy Vocations.

St. Hannibal Ma. Di Francia, the Patron of Vocations said; Vocations come from on High, if we do not pray, vocations will not come. Let us therefore implore the Master of the Harvest with this short prayer:

Send, O Lord, Holy Apostles into Your Church!



ST BERNARD'S

WEEKEND VOLUNTEERS : 10th & 11th June

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday:	6.30pm	Marj Tung
Sunday:	8.30am	Dianne Shelly
	10.30am	Natalia Klenkowski

CHURCH FLOWERS

June: Natalia Klenkowski

PRESBYTERY & CHURCH GROUNDS-MOWING

June: Colm Carragher & Ron Geurts

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](#) 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:	Wayne & Marian Muller	0400 007 286
Group 2:	Gregory McCutcheon	0455 457 645
Group 3:	Louise Sciberras	0401 413 439

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

Blest be God the Father,
and the Only Begotten Son of God,
and also the Holy Spirit,
for he has shown us his merciful love.

FIRST READING Exodus 34:4-6, 8-9

With the two tablets of stone in his hands, Moses went up the mountain of Sinai in the early morning as the Lord had commanded him. And the Lord descended in the form of a cloud, and Moses stood with him there.

He called on the name of the Lord. The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, 'Lord, Lord, a God of tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, rich in kindness and faithfulness.' And Moses bowed down to the ground at once and worshipped. 'If I have indeed won your favour, Lord,' he said 'let my Lord come with us, I beg. True, they are a headstrong people, but forgive us our faults and our sins, and adopt us as your heritage.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM : 3

You are blest, Lord God of our fathers.

R. Glory and praise for ever!

Blest your glorious holy name.

R. Glory and praise for ever!

You are blest in the temple of your glory.

R. Glory and praise for ever!

You are blest on the throne of your kingdom.

R. Glory and praise for ever!

You are blest who gaze into the depths.

R. Glory and praise for ever!

You are blest in the firmament of the heaven.

R. Glory and praise for ever!

NEXT WEEKEND 'S READINGS –

THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST– YEAR A

First Reading: Deut 8:2-3,14-16

Second Reading: 1 Cor 10:16-17

Gospel: Jn 6:51-58



SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Brothers, we wish you happiness; try to grow perfect; help one another. Be united; live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you.

Greet one another with the holy kiss. All the saints send you greetings.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the holy Spirit be with you all.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Glory to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit:
to God who is, who was, and who is to come.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 3:16-18

Jesus said to Nicodemus,

'God loved the world so much

that he gave his only Son,

so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost
but may have eternal life.

For God sent his Son into the world

not to condemn the world,

but so that through him the world might be saved.

No one who believes in him will be condemned;

but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already,
because he has refused to believe

in the name of God's only Son.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Since you are children of God,

God has sent into your hearts the Spirit of his Son,
the Spirit who cries out: Abba, Father.

The Holy Eucharist XV

The Real Presence (1)

Divine Revelation is the way that Almighty God personally invites us to know, love, and serve Him. It is God's self-communication of the fullness of truth, revealed in Scripture and Tradition. Being grounded in true doctrine is therefore absolutely necessary for living our precious Faith.

Yet today, we are forced to admit that the Church may not have effectively passed on even some core elements of the Faith to the majority of our members. A shocking example is evidenced by a recent opinion poll that indicates that more than half of today's Catholics may no longer believe in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. This failure in faith and conviction has happened despite the fact that the received teaching goes back to Apostolic times and has always been held as foundational to our Catholic identity. So, I will try to state as clearly as I can some basic truths about the Blessed Sacrament.

We are a Eucharistic Church, whose life and service revolve around the gift of the Eucharist. Just as truly as Christ ascended into heaven, so truly he descends into the Sacraments, *until he comes again in glory*.

The Eucharist is "the Sacrament of sacraments", empowering us to appreciate and then live all the other Sacraments. We are baptised and confirmed into a Eucharistic community. Reconciliation restores us to grace so that we may worthily receive the Eucharist. The Sacrament of Holy Orders is intrinsically connected to Eucharistic service.

The covenant of Holy Matrimony is based upon Christ's spousal love for the Church embodied in the Eucharist. The Anointing of the Sick heals and restores to wholeness in Christ, corporally present in the Eucharist. As Saint Thomas Aquinas once so succinctly summarised: "The Eucharist contains the entire spiritual wealth of the Church."

Certainly the Blessed Sacrament is the richest possible symbol of our Faith, but through the transforming words of Christ and power of the Holy Spirit it also truly makes

By Bishop Daniel Jenky, www.catholicculture.org

present what it signifies. Jesus clearly bestowed enormous importance to the Bread and Wine of the Last Supper. He took pains to prepare for the holy meal, gave special instructions, and invested certain gestures with new meaning. He then gave a personal commandment: *Do this in memory of me*.

His unambiguous words: *This is my body, this is my blood*, rather obviously mean: "This is truly me, this is myself." Rather than speaking metaphorically, he intentionally established for the community of his disciples an outward sign that effected an entirely new reality. After his passion and death, the Risen Christ would continue to abide with them and confirm them by his Real Presence at each and every celebration of the Eucharist.

On the first Easter Sunday, two disciples after travelling with Jesus and even listening to him along the road to Emmaus, only finally recognised him at the *breaking of the bread*. It is this very same awesome reality which today we call the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. It can accurately be stated that Christ's living presence in the Blessed Sacrament is the most real thing men and women of faith may ever experience in this passing world.

As the Apostle Paul teaches, in the earliest New Testament witness to faith in the Real Presence: *The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?* (1 Cor 10:16)

The word Paul uses for participation in the Eucharist is *koinonia*. This term indicates much more than mere social fellowship but rather a new mode of existence. The experience of *koinonia* plunges believers into a true participation in the life of Christ and a sharing of that life with one another.

Again, this sharing is not simply a metaphor but is a truly life-changing encounter with Jesus. Just a "form" of spiritual communion would certainly have been an alien concept to early Christianity where participation in the Body and Blood of Christ was understood as only being possible because bread and wine truly became the Body and Blood of Christ.

To be continued