



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

5th SUNDAY OF EASTER-YEAR A

7th 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

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 8/5/2023-14/5/2023

MASS TIMES:

Monday 8/5	6.30pm
Tuesday 9/5	9.30am
Week 8 of the St Anthony's Novena	6.15pm
Followed by Mass	6.30pm
Wednesday 10/5	7.30am & 9.30am
Thursday 11/5	9.30am
Friday 12/5	9.30am

Rosary at 9.00am before 9.30am morning masses

Sunday Masses

Saturday 13/5	5.00pm
Sunday 14/5	8.30am & 10.30am

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

ST BERNARD'S BACCHUS MARSH 8/5/2023-14/5/2023

MASS TIMES:

Monday 8/5	No Mass
Tuesday 9/5	7.30am
Holy Hour	7.30pm
Wednesday 10/5	9.30am
Thursday 11/5	7.30am
Friday 12/5	7.30am
Providence And Friends Mass	11.00am
Saturday 13/5	9.00am

Sunday Masses

Saturday 13/5	6.30pm
Sunday 14/5	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 KOROBET

MASS TIMES

VIGIL	13/5	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>

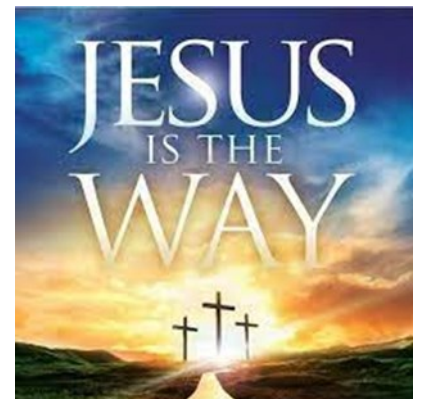
Please put your name and thanksgiving number if you know it as a reference. Thank you.

REFLECTION 5th SUNDAY OF EASTER– Mary Fermio rsj

Homelessness is something rife in our society of today – and in today's world seems to threaten more people than ever before. Millions of refugees are homeless – victims of war are homeless – victims of those demanding high rents often end up homeless or hungry – those who end up with homes reposessed can become homeless.

Today's Gospel is a familiar one often used at funerals and I am sure it is because Jesus assures us we are part of God's household, where there are many mansions. Even though life beyond death is an unknown, it is assuring to know God, the Father, will care for us – we will not be homeless. But how do we find the way? Jesus said: **I am the Way**. How simple that sounds, yet many of us struggle living the way. The first reading shows how the early Christian community cared for others, how they lived **THE WAY** – by appointing a group of Deacons to distribute the goods available.

Our society has many groups who distribute the overflow of food, clothing etc. to those who need them and who attempt to find accommodation for those who are homeless, living in a car, sleeping on someone's couch, on a park bench. Where do I fit into this picture? How am I living **THE WAY**? Have I stuff that I never use that someone may be in need of?



PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

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.

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

ST FRANCIS CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Enrolment applications for Year 7 2025 at St Francis Catholic College are now open. You can apply online at www.sfcc.vic.edu.au/join-us/enrolment applications close Friday 19 August 2023. The college welcomes you to join one of their College tours. Reserve your place at www.sfcc.vic.edu.au/join-us/college-tour.

ST ANTHONY'S

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST ANTHONY OF PADUA MELTON SOUTH

Dear Parishioners please note we will be celebrating the 40th Anniversary of St Anthony of Padua, Melton South with a celebration that will be held over the period of the **3rd June-11th June 2023**. We will have many events over the days. Please see upcoming newsletters for more information.

FR FABIAN'S FAREWELL

Over 500 Parishioners and friends of the St Anthony's Parish attended a memorable night to wish Fr Fabian farewell last Saturday. It was an enjoyable evening with lots of entertainment, heartfelt speeches and fantastic food. Thank you to all our amazing Parishioners who helped make this evening a night Fr Fabian will always remember!

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 CRAFT AND CAKE STALL

Mother's Day craft and cake stall at all Masses this weekend. Please bring a cake, slice or biscuits, and then buy one! Great Home-made craft items for mum on sale.

MORNING TEA

Morning tea will be held in the church foyer after both the 8.30am and 10.30am Masses on Sunday May 14th. All welcome.

PROVIDENCE AND FRIENDS MASS

Parishioners are invited to our monthly Providence and Friends Mass on Friday at 11am. Please bring a plate for morning tea/ lunch. If transport is required please contact the Parish Office.

KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS

The Knights of the Southern Cross meeting will be held Monday 8th May at 8.00pm in the Parish Centre.

Prayer to Our Lady of Fatima on Her Feast Day-13th May

O Most Holy Virgin Mary, on the day of your feast dedicated to Our Lady of Fatima, I offer my most devoted prayer and heartfelt thanks.

I thank you, Immaculate Heart of Mary, for all you do and have done for us.

On this blessed day of celebration and remembrance, we honour the momentous events that occurred in 1917 at Cova da Iria when you appeared before three shepherd children: Lucia Santos, Francisco Marto, and Jacinta Marto.

Your message was one delivered with love; promote peace through repentance and sacrifices towards greater glory—fervent love as preached by you is still echoed today in people's hearts even amidst adversity like World War II.

Through thy mercy, we beg pardon for our sins committed against Thee.

We stand humbly firm yet confident that You will bring peace to the whole world again! Amen.

Source: 5 Our Lady of Fatima Prayers | Your Prayer Now



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: 13th & 14th 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: Liza Fernandes

8.30am: Mercy Seufatu

10.30am: Romeo Sacris

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Gavin Pereira

8.30am: Geoff Sutton

10.30am: George Bonello

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: Godwin & Leonia

ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

MINISTERS OF THE WORD-THIS WEEKEND

6.30pm: Sonia Smith

8.30am: Dominican Sisters

10.30am: Volunteer needed

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS-THIS WEEKEND

6.30pm: John Thorne

MINISTERS OF THE WORD 13th & 14th May

6.30pm: Vikki Benson

8.30am: Nathan Costin

10.30am: Beatrice Younger

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS 13th May

6.30pm: Volunteer needed

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

May: Maureen Zahra

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Karen Austin, WM Campbell, Evelyn Galea, Lance Finn & Peter Jones.

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:

Gus Baselmans, Josephine Calleja, Patricia Coats-Richardson, Ernest Cosgrove, George Freeman, Bill Grogan, Kevin Heap, Edward Hehir, Neil Loughlin, Dianne Sargent, Mary Walta, Irene West & Peter Wouters.

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: 13th & 14th May

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

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

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 : 13th & 14th May

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

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

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

O sing a new song to the Lord,
for he has worked wonders;
in the sight of the nations
he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

FIRST READING Acts 6:1-7

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM : 32

Commentator: Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.

All: Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.
Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;
for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.
Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp,
with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs.

For the word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love.

The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine.

Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.



NEXT WEEKEND 'S READINGS –SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

Second Reading: 1 Pet 3:15-18

Gospel: Jn 14:15-21

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:4-9

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord;
no one comes to the Father, except through me.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 14:1-12

Jesus said to his disciples:

'Do not let your hearts be troubled.

Trust in God still, and trust in me.

There are many rooms in my Father's house;
if there were not, I should have told you.

I am now going to prepare a place for you,
and after I have gone and prepared you a place,

I shall return to take you with me;

so that where I am you may be too.

You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said:

'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.

No one can come to the Father except through me.

If you know me, you know my Father too.

From this moment you know him and have seen him.'

Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.'

'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me?

'To have seen me is to have seen the Father,

so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"?

Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?

The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself:

it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work.

You must believe me when I say

that I am in the Father and the Father is in me;

believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason.

'I tell you most solemnly,

whoever believes in me

will perform the same works as I do myself,

he will perform even greater works,

because I am going to the Father.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord.
Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty,
alleluia.

The Holy Eucharist XI

Eucharistic miracles (2)

A Bright Light

With some eucharistic miracles, the host emits a bright light. In 1247, for instance, a woman in Santarem, Portugal, was concerned about her husband's faithfulness. She went to a sorceress, who promised the woman that her husband would return to his loving ways if the wife would bring a consecrated host to the sorceress. The woman agreed.

At Mass, the woman managed to obtain a consecrated host and put it in a kerchief, but before she could return to the sorceress, the cloth became bloodstained. This frightened the woman. She hurried home and hid the cloth and host in a drawer in her bedroom.

That night, the drawer emitted a bright light. When her husband saw it, the woman told him what had happened. The following day, many townspeople came to the house, attracted by the light.

The people reported the events to the parish priest, who went to the house. He took the host back to the church and put it in a wax container where it continued to bleed for three days. The host remained in the wax container for four years. One day when the priest opened the tabernacle door, he saw that the wax had broken into numerous pieces. In its place was a crystal container with the blood inside.

The house where the miracle took place was converted into a chapel in 1684. Even today, on the second Sunday of April each year, the incident is re-enacted in the Church of St Stephen in Santarem. The reliquary that houses the miraculous host rests above the tabernacle in that church, and it can be viewed year-round from a set of stairs behind the main altar.

A similar phenomenon took place in the 1300s in the village of Wawel, near Krakow, Poland. Thieves broke into a church, forced their way into the tabernacle, and stole the monstrance containing consecrated hosts. When they determined that the monstrance was not made of gold, they threw it into nearby marshlands.

When darkness fell, a light emanated from the spot where the monstrance and consecrated hosts had been abandoned. The light was visible for several kilometres, and frightened villagers reported it to the bishop of Krakow.

The bishop called for three days of fasting and prayer. On the third day, he led a procession to the marsh. There he found the monstrance and the

consecrated hosts, which were unbroken. Each year on the occasion of the feast of the Corpus Christi, this miracle is celebrated in Corpus Christi Church in Krakow.

The Face of the Christ Child

In some eucharistic miracles, an image appears on the host. The miracle of Eten, Peru, for instance, began on June 2, 1649.

That night, as Fr Jerome de Silva Manrique was about to replace the monstrance in the tabernacle, he saw in the host the image of a child with thick brown curls that fell to his shoulders. He held the host up to show the image to those present. They all agreed that it was an image of the Christ Child.

A second apparition took place the following month. During the exhibition of the Eucharist, the Christ Child appeared again in the host, dressed in a purple habit over a shirt that covered his chest, as was the custom of the local Indians, the Mochicas. It was felt at the time that the divine Child wanted to show his love for the Mochicas.

During this apparition, which lasted about 15 minutes, many people also saw in the host three small white hearts, thought to symbolise the three Persons of the Holy Trinity. The celebration in honour of the Miraculous Child of Eten still attracts thousands of people to Peru each year.

One of the more recent verified miracles was of a similar nature. It began on April 28, 2001, in Trivandrum, India.

Fr Johnson Karoor was saying Mass when he saw three dots on the consecrated host. He stopped reciting the prayers and stared at the Eucharist. He then invited those at Mass to look, and they also saw the dots. He asked the faithful to remain in prayer, and he placed the Holy Eucharist in the tabernacle.

At Mass on May 5, Fr Karoor again noticed an image on the host, this time a human face. During adoration, the figure became clearer.

Fr Karoor later explained: "I didn't have the strength to speak anything to the faithful. I stood aside for some time. I couldn't control my tears.

We had the practice of reading Scripture and reflecting on it during Adoration. The passage that I got that day as I opened the Bible was John 20:24-29, Jesus appearing to St Thomas and asking him to see his wounds." Fr Karoor called a photographer to take photos.

To Be Continued