



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, KOROBET
309 MYRNIONG-KOROBET ROAD 3341

THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST-YEAR A

11th 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) & 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 12/06/2023-18/06/2023

MASS TIMES:

Monday 12/6 No Mass

Tuesday 13/6

Week 13 of the St Anthony's Novena 6.15pm

Followed by Mass 6.30pm

Wednesday 14/6 No Mass

Thursday 15/6 No Mass

Friday 16/6 No Mass

No weekday masses due to the Priests attending a Clergy Conference this week.

Sunday Masses

Saturday 17/6 5.00pm

Sunday 18/6 8.30am & 10.30am

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 12/06/2023-18/06/2023

MASS TIMES:

Monday 12/6 No Mass

Tuesday 13/6 No Mass

No Holy Hour

Wednesday 14/6 No Mass

Thursday 15/6 No Mass

Friday 16/6 No Mass

No weekday masses due to the Priests attending a Clergy Conference this week.

Saturday 17/6 9.00am

Sunday Masses

Saturday 17/6 6.30pm

Sunday 18/6 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 KOROBEIT MASS TIMES

VIGIL 17/6 No Mass

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 CORPUS CHRISTI 2023– Mary Fermio rsj

Everyone loves receiving a gift. We cannot earn one, nor can we say, "I deserve a gift!" And a gift is always received in the hands with gratitude and humility and treated with respect.

Jesus gave us a precious gift before he died – the gift of himself to sustain the life given to us at Baptism. We can never earn this gift, and we can never say "I deserve this gift!" because a gift is a sign of unconditional love.

This gift comes to us in the form of bread, no gift wrapping, just a plain ordinary piece of unleavened bread. This wonderful gift was given with the words of Jesus: **TAKE AND EAT...** So we put out our hands and accept this gift with humility and gratitude, recognising the love offered with it. In the early Church St. Cyril of Jerusalem encouraged people to "make your left hand a throne for the right, as for that which is to receive a King." St Augustine wrote: "we are to become what we receive," the Body of Christ.

Let us beware of taking this gift for granted. Let us thank God for the gift of the Son which unites us to Jesus and all those who share this gift with us. May we give of ourselves just as Jesus did, so that others may come to know and experience the life and love that only Jesus can gift us with.

Now there's a challenge!



PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

2023 CATHOLIC MISSION CHURCH APPEAL

Last weekend we had a special collection for the 2023 Catholic Mission Church Appeal. St Anthony's collected \$600.00 and St Bernard's collected \$265.00. Thank you for your generosity.

MASS COUNTS 2023

In the month of May, at every weekend mass our parishes held a mass count. This count is important for the Archdiocese pastoral planning activities. The average attendance over each weekend is as follows St Anthony's 689, St Bernard's and Our Lady Help of Christians 260. Thank you to all our mass co-ordinators, collectors and parishioners who help us gather and record this information for our 2023 Mass Count.

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 during the week will be Holy Mass on St Anthony's Feast Day 13th June 2023, in Melton South. 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.

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 ANTHONY'S

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

Parishioners please note, our Parish Office will be closed on Monday 12th June for the King's Birthday Public Holiday.

The Parish Office will also be closed on Thursday 15th and Friday 16th June.

You can contact Lesley on 0498 595 828.

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

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, contact Colm on 0413 223 400.

MORNING TEA-THIS WEEKEND

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

CASSETTES

Sr Mary has cassettes of music and hymns if anyone would like them, rather than toss them out. Phone 5367 2078. Cases to carry them also available.

ST BERNARD'S YOUTH GROUP (FOR AGES 16-25)

After 10.30am Mass, 11.30am to 1.30pm at St Bernard's Catholic Church Bacchus Marsh. Helena 0437 195 511
Sunday 11th June-This Weekend!

KSC ANNUAL FUNDRAISER RACING GAME 2023

After masses this weekend, you can register in the gathering space for an entry in this year's Racing Game. Our major fundraiser is 100% used to provide scholarships for six students at St Bernard's primary school each year. These scholarships are not academic based, but chosen by St B teachers for those students that have acted in a Christian way in & out of school (kindness, support, volunteering, sharing, respect, etc.) Only 26 participants per 26 week game, with \$350 in prize money. That's 3 chances in 26 of winning cash in time for Christmas. No skill involved; an explanation of the game is printed on the notice board. \$26 for the 26 weeks. Cash or register and pay by EFT or pay next weekend. Thank you. Knights of the Southern Cross - BM Branch

ST. BERNARD'S TRIVIA NIGHT

Tickets are now available for our parish trivia night. Get a team together (or come on your own) and join us for a night of fun and games. Saturday 22nd July 2023 Time: 6:30 p.m.

Venue: Parish hall Price: \$15

Scan the QR code for more info and to purchase tickets. For any enquiries, please get in touch with Thomas Halloran on 0431 504 402.



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: 17th & 18th 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: Gavin Pereira

8.30am: Leonia Jessop

10.30am: To be advised

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Ann Tennakoon

8.30am: Roa Seufatu

10.30am: Frank Carreon

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

MASS COORDINATORS

5.00pm: Ron & Natalie

8.30am: Lillian & Julie

10.30am: Leonia & Olen

ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

MINISTERS OF THE WORD-THIS WEEKEND

6.30pm: John Thorne

8.30am: Margaret Love

10.30am: Charlotte Lindorff

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS-THIS WEEKEND

6.30pm: Vikki Benson

MINISTERS OF THE WORD 17th & 18th June

6.30pm: Vikki Benson

8.30am: Gerard O'Shea

10.30am: Volunteer needed

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS 17th June

6.30pm: Colin Remedios

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

June: Margaret Love

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Emmanuel Bonnice, Marja Assunta Borg, John Church, Frank Consiglio, Emmanuel & Jane Debrincat, Felicity Galea, Losa McAlpine Tuala & Joan Unferdorben.

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:

Kathleen Canavan, Kathleen Cox, Anna Falzon, John Nabbs, Jack O'Donohue, Sophie Parsons, & Evelyn Walsh.

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: 17th & 18th June

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: Julie Sequiera
8.30am: To be advised
10.30am: Giles Maitre

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 : 17th & 18th June

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

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

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

He fed them with the finest wheat
and satisfied them with honey from the rock.

FIRST READING Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14-16

Moses said to the people: 'Remember how the Lord your God led you for forty years in the wilderness, to humble you, to test you and know your inmost heart - whether you would keep his commandments or not. He humbled you, he made you feel hunger, he fed you with manna which neither you nor your fathers had known, to make you understand that man does not live on bread alone but that man lives on everything that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

'Do not then forget the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery: who guided you through this vast and dreadful wilderness, a land of fiery serpents, scorpions, thirst; who in this waterless place brought you water from the hardest rock; who in this wilderness fed you with manna that your fathers had not known.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM : 147

Commentator: Praise the Lord, Jerusalem.

All: Praise the Lord, Jerusalem.

O praise the Lord, Jerusalem!
Zion, praise your God!
He has strengthened the bars of your gates,
he has blessed the children within you.

He established peace on your borders,
he feeds you with finest wheat.
He sends out his word to the earth
and swiftly runs his command.

He makes his word known to Jacob,
to Israel his laws and decrees.
He has not dealt thus with other nations;
he has not taught them his decrees.

Praise the Lord, Jerusalem.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood
remains in me and I in him, says the Lord.

NEXT WEEKEND 'S READINGS –

11th Sunday in Ordinary Time– YEAR A

First Reading: Ex 19:2-6
Second Reading: 1Rom 5:6-11
Gospel: Mt 9:36-10:8



SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 10:16-17

The blessing-cup that we bless is a communion with the blood of Christ, and the bread that we break is a communion with the body of Christ. The fact that there is only one loaf means that, though there are many of us, we form a single body because we all have a share in this one loaf.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE

Behold the bread of angels, sent
For pilgrims in their banishment,
The bread for God's true children meant,
That may not unto dogs be given:
Oft in the olden types foreshowed;
In Isaac on the altar bowed,
And in the ancient paschal food,
And in the manna sent from heaven.

Come then, good shepherd, bread divine,
Still show to us thy mercy sign;
Oh, feed us still, still keep us thine;
So may we see thy glories shine
In fields of immortality;

O thou, wisest, mightiest, best,
Our present food, our future rest,
Come, make us each thy chosen guest,
Co-heirs of thine, and comrades blest
With saints whose dwelling is with thee.

Amen. Alleluia

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the living bread from heaven, says the Lord;
whoever eats this bread will live for ever.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 6:51-58

Jesus said to the Jews:

'I am the living bread which has come down from heaven.

Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever;
and the bread that I shall give
is my flesh, for the life of the world.'

Then the Jews started arguing with one another: 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?' they said. Jesus replied:

'I tell you most solemnly,
if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man
and drink his blood,
you will not have life in you.

Anyone who does eat my flesh and drink my blood
has eternal life,

and I shall raise him up on the last day.

For my flesh is real food
and my blood is real drink.

He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood
lives in me
and I live in him.

As I, who am sent by the living Father,
myself draw life from the Father,
so whoever eats me will draw life from me.

This is the bread come down from heaven;
not like the bread our ancestors ate:

they are dead,
but anyone who eats this bread will live for ever.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Holy Eucharist XVI

The Real Presence (2)

The institution narratives of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, the rich theology of John regarding the Lord's Supper, as well as the testimony of the Fathers of the Church all give persistent evidence for a shared faith in the Real Presence of the Risen Christ in the Eucharist.

This ancient witness is well exemplified by Saint Ignatius of Antioch: "The Eucharist is the medicine of immortality, the antidote to death, and the gift of everlasting life in Jesus Christ." He explains: "Our way of thinking is attuned to the Eucharist, and the Eucharist in turn confirms our way of thinking."

Saint Augustine observes: "The reason these things, brothers and sisters, are called sacraments, is that one thing is seen, while another is understood." Saint Gregory of Nyssa also expresses the unchanging conviction of the ancient Church: "Through the Eucharist, the body comes into intimate union with its Saviour. The immortal body of God, by entering the one who receives it, transforms his entire being into its own nature."

Or as that eloquent preacher Saint John Chrysostom summarises in shockingly realistic language: "To show the love he has for us, he made it possible for those who desire, not merely to look upon him, but even to touch him and consume him and to fix their teeth in his flesh and to be commingled with him, in short, to fulfill all their love."

It is a defined dogma of the Catholic Church, revealed by the Holy Spirit and preserved from any possibility of error, that the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ are truly and substantially present in the Most Holy Eucharist. This is not an opinion but Divine Revelation as expressed by the absolute authority of Scripture and Tradition.

The Lord said: "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood shall live forever, and I will raise him up on the last day" (John 6:54). So, for any Catholic to deny the Real Presence is in a certain sense to deny Jesus and place himself outside the convictions of our Faith.

The clergy and faithful therefore share a perennial responsibility before Almighty God

to pass on Divine truth to future generations, in season and out of season, uncompromised and undiminished.

As the Second Vatican Council insisted in the Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation (*Dei Verbum*): "The Church in her teaching, life, and worship, hands on and perpetuates to all generations all that she herself is and all that she believes."

There is a long established theological dictum, *lex orandi, lex credendi*, which could be translated as "the law of what is prayed, is the law of what is believed". How we pray is certainly integral to how we believe. I rather suspect, though, that it is not so much our teaching about the Real Presence that has changed during recent decades but that instead there has been a noticeable decline in our ritual reverence and recognition.

What had once been universal practice in any Catholic church regarding attentive silence — and a whole bundle of other rituals such as genuflecting, blessing with holy water, the Sign of the Cross, kneeling, intentional architecture, the location of the Tabernacle, multiple candles, bells rung during the Liturgy, carefully prepared sacristies and sanctuaries, the care of sacred vessels and linens, prayers before and after Mass — all these things encouraged a kind of shared awe before something experienced as numinous and wondrous.

Contemporary Western culture tends to be relentlessly informal and sometimes our churches may seem more like hotel lobbies than an awesome House of God.

The technical theological term for Divine worship is called *latria*: that is, it is the honour and worship we offer exclusively to Almighty God. It is Catholic doctrine that the Most Blessed Sacrament is at all times to be given the *latria* of the Church, because through the power of the Holy Spirit, the consecrated Bread and Wine truly become the glorified Body and Blood of Christ.

We therefore rightly recognise and adore the Most Blessed Sacrament as our Lord and our God.

By Bishop Daniel Jenky, www.catholicculture.org

To be continued