



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 13th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME-YEAR A

2nd July 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 03/07/2023-09/07/2023

MASS TIMES:

Monday 3/7	6.30pm
Tuesday 4/7	9.30am & 6.30pm
Wednesday 5/7	9.30am
Thursday 6/7	9.30am
Friday 7/7	9.30am
First Friday Devotions 7/7	7.30pm & Midnight
Rosary at 9.00am prior to 9.30am Masses	

Sunday Masses

Saturday 8/7	5.00pm
Sunday 9/7	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 03/07/2023-09/07/2023

MASS TIMES:

Monday 3/7	No Mass
Tuesday 4/7	9.30am
Holy Hour	6.30pm
Wednesday 5/7	9.30am
Thursday 6/7	9.30am
Friday 7/7	9.30am
Saturday 8/7	9.00am

Sunday Masses

Saturday 8/7	6.30pm
Sunday 9/7	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	8/7	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 13th SUNDAY 2023– Mary Fermio rsj

Family gatherings bring great joy when we welcome members and note those who have grown, those we cannot recognise and those we haven't seen for a long time, new members through marriage and new partners. We take pleasure in sharing food and drink with them and getting to know them.

Jesus tells us that when we welcome others we welcome him – friends, strangers, gay or straight, no matter from what country they have come – for all are made in God's image. In our world today there are hundreds of places where EVERYBODY is welcome to a free meal, free food, free clothing, by Christians and non-Christians. Soul Food members, each week, welcome people to a free meal and food, and in doing so they welcome Jesus. And maybe Jesus is one of them!

There is the story of a Bishop in France riding home in the cold, when he comes across a beggar without a cloak. When he hands his over, the beggar reveals he is Jesus.

How can I follow Jesus? By welcoming him in others, sharing what I have, doing what I can to help ease the cross others might be carrying. What do I do after Mass? Hurry home, or hang around to welcome a new face, someone who may be too shy to speak...Do this and your cross will become lighter and more comfortable.



PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

SAFEGUARDING WORKSHOP - SAVE THE DATE

Date: Saturday, 15 July 2023 Time: 10:00am – 12:00pm Venue: St Anthony's Padua Hall

This Safeguarding Workshop is intended to provide foundational knowledge in relation to safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable persons from abuse and harm. Also, a clear understanding of one's duty of care and expectations. The workshop is presented by Rosemary Teed from the Professional Safeguarding Unit of the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne.

It is a requirement that all Parish Leaders, Coordinators, current and future Volunteers attend this Workshop to keep abreast with the updates and new required processes. Please bring along your WWCC or VIT card in order to receive a certificate of completion.

This invitation is also extended to all Parishioners, including parents/carers, who have a keen interest in the safety of young children and vulnerable adults. Any enquiries, please call, Godwin Barton (St Anthony's Parish) on 0425 734 449, or Margaret Love (St Bernard's Parish) on 0437 247 779. We look forward to your support. Please add your name to the clipboard in the foyer for catering purposes.

Safeguarding Committee

ST VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY-WINTER APPEAL-NEXT WEEKEND

Our parishes will be supporting the St Vincent de Paul Society's Winter Appeal next weekend.. Each year, our Winter Appeal plays a vital role in enabling the good works of the Society and, with your support, we hope to achieve a strong result so we can continue serving our communities. Parishioners are encouraged to donate generously to our special collection to assist us continue the Society's work of helping those most in need. Over the past six months, the Society has provided over \$5 million in material assistance, including food, clothing, furniture and financial support, to families and households in need throughout Victoria. With the current homelessness crisis, the assistance we provide for people experiencing hardship this Winter will be needed more than ever. Please go to our website for more information <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/appeals-vic/winter-appeal-vic> or you can donate to the Bacchus Marsh Conference by calling **13 18 12** or scan the QR code. Thank you.



ST ANTHONY'S

THANK YOU!!!

As we conclude our festivities this month of June, A huge thank you to our Mission Team who organised our St Anthony's 40th Anniversary and St Anthony's Feast Day masses and celebrations.

Thank you to all our parish committees that worked together to make it such a special time for our community. Thank you to all our groups that hosted supper after all our evening services.

A big thank you to everyone that supported our International Festival and all our activities.

The Social Committee once again organised a fantastic and successful Masquerade Dance on 3rd June.

Thank you to all our volunteers who provided such beautiful flower arrangements for the whole week, and on our Feast Day.

Thanks to our altar servers and our choirs for making the Novena Masses and Feast Masses extra special.

Thank you to all our Priests and visiting Priests that created such a wonderful and strong faith filled week for us.

Congratulations St Anthony's on 40 years of Parish Life!!!

PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION

Last weekend we had the Peter's Pence Collection. St Anthony's collected \$741.15. Thank you for your generosity in supporting this special collection.

ST BERNARD'S

WEEKDAY MASSES-SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Parishioners please note our weekday masses will be held at 9.30am during the two week school holiday period.

PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION

Last weekend we had the Peter's Pence Collection. St Bernard's collected \$675.00. Thank you for your generosity in supporting this special collection.

MORNING TEA

There will be a morning tea held after the 8.30am and 10.30am Masses next Sunday, July 9th. All welcome.

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.



A new life in Christ.....

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday 2 July 2023

Every year, on the first Sunday in July, Catholics come together across Australia to acknowledge and celebrate the gifts of Australia's First Peoples in the Catholic Church. As we approach the Indigenous Voice to Parliament, it has never been more important for Catholics to come together and listen to Australia's First Peoples.

[2023 ATSI Sunday \(natsicc.org.au\)](https://natsicc.org.au)



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: 8th & 9th July

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: Leonia Jessop

10.30am: Rhys Tuala

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Gavin Pereira

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: Ron & Natalie

8.30am: Jun & Julie

10.30am: Leonia & Olen

ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

MINISTERS OF THE WORD-THIS WEEKEND

6.30pm: Sonia Smith

8.30am: Nathan Costin

10.30am: Chloe Lindorff

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS-THIS WEEKEND

6.30pm: John Thorne

MINISTERS OF THE WORD 8th & 9th July

6.30pm: Maureen Zahra

8.30am: Moira Ross

10.30am: Dominic Van Der Linden

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

6.30pm: Vicki Benson

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

July: Josephite Companions C/- L Wheelahan

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

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

William Austin Ainsworth, John Debrincat,
Allan McBain, Bianca McCurry, Chantelle Medhurst,
& Clarrie Rietschel.

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 the recently deceased:

Gloria Maria Jones

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

Spiro Abela, Odino Antonello, Thomas Blood, Damian Condon,
Frank Condon, Lorna Condon, Alice Cook, Leo Flanagan,
Mary Glenane, Raymond Hare, Michael Marshall, Eddie Mullane,
Imelda Pace, Hector Papworth, Jack Papworth, Sophie Papworth,
Pat Pigott, Ivy (Pat) Ragan, Vicki Riddell, Brian Shanahan,
Edward Skinner, Alice Sloan & Patricia Wittick.

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,
Josephine Cilia, Brendan Coburn, 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, 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: 8th & 9th July

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

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

CHURCH FLOWERS

July: 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 : 8th & 9th July

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

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

CHURCH FLOWERS

July: Tup Shea

PRESBYTERY & CHURCH GROUNDS-MOWING

July: Stephen Millington

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:	Robert & Angela Lacono	0424 801 928
Group 2:	Maria & Jun Dumandan	0402 177 623
Group 3:	Godwin & Kim Barton	0425 734 449

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

All peoples, clap your hands.
Cry to God with shouts of joy!

FIRST READING 2 Kings 4:8-11, 14-16

One day as Elisha was on his way to Shunem, a woman of rank who lived there pressed him to stay and eat there. After this he always broke his journey for a meal when he passed that way. She said to her husband, 'Look, I am sure the man who is constantly passing our way must be a holy man of God. Let us build him a small room on the roof, and put him a bed in it, and a table and chair and lamp; whenever he comes to us he can rest there.'

One day when he came, he retired to the upper room and lay down. 'What can be done for her?' he asked. Gehazi (his servant) answered, 'Well, she has no son and her husband is old.' Elisha said, 'Call her.' The servant called her and she stood at the door. 'This time next year,' Elisha said 'you will hold a son in your arms.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM : 88

Commentator: For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

All: For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;
through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,
that your truth is firmly established as the heavens.

Happy the people who acclaim such a king,
who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face,
who find their joy every day in your name,
who make your justice the source of their bliss.

For it is you, O Lord, who are the glory of their strength;
it is by your favour that our might is exalted:
for our ruler is in the keeping of the Lord;
our king in the keeping of the Holy One of Israel.

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

SECOND READING: Romans 6:3-4, 8-11

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live a new life.

But we believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him: Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over him any more. When he died, he died, once for all, to sin, so his life now is life with God; and in that way, you too must consider yourselves to be dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy people. Praise God who called you out of darkness and into his marvellous light.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 10:37-42

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Anyone who prefers father or mother to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who prefers son or daughter to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who does not take his cross and follow in my footsteps is not worthy of me. Anyone who finds his life will lose it; anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. 'Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me; and those who welcome me welcome the one who sent me. 'Anyone who welcomes a prophet because he is a prophet will have a prophet's reward; and anyone who welcomes a holy man because he is a holy man will have a holy man's reward. 'If anyone gives so much as a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all within me, his holy name.

NEXT WEEKEND 'S READINGS –

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time– YEAR A

First Reading: Zech 9:9-10
Second Reading: Rom 8:9, 11-13
Gospel: Mt 11:25-30



The Holy Eucharist XIX

Perpetual adoration (2)

In the immediate wake of the Second Vatican Council (1962-65), amid much dissention, Eucharistic piety unfortunately fell into some disregard. Yet, Jesus had made it quite clear that he is the “vine” and we are the “branches”. Until we become serious about the absolute need and value of Eucharistic adoration, we will not “produce abundantly”.

The Blessed Sacrament is Jesus living in our midst to fulfill a promise made long ago. “I myself will pasture my sheep. I myself will give them rest, says the Lord God. The lost I will seek out, the strayed I will bring back, the injured I will bind up, the sick I will heal” (Ezekiel 34:15-16).

In his first encyclical letter, *Redemptor Hominis*, Pope Saint John Paul II exhorted that “every member of the Church, especially bishops and priests, must be vigilant in seeing that this Sacrament of love shall be at the centre of the life of the People of God, so that through all the manifestations of worship due to it Christ shall be given back ‘love for love’ and truly become the life of our souls”.

He stated: “Indeed the Eucharist is the ineffable Sacrament! The essential commitment and, above all, the visible grace and source of supernatural strength for the Church as the People of God is to persevere and advance constantly in Eucharistic life and Eucharistic piety and to develop spiritually in the climate of the Eucharist.

“With all the greater reason, then, it is not permissible for us, in thought, life or action, to take away from this truly most holy Sacrament its full magnitude and its essential meaning. It is at one and the same time a Sacrifice-Sacrament, a Communion-Sacrament and a Presence-Sacrament.”

When Jesus gave his Eucharistic discourse in the sixth chapter of John's Gospel, many of his disciples walked away. Peter believed him but failed to proclaim him when he told the servant girl in the courtyard: “I do not even know the man you are talking about!” Jesus has given us a beautiful, modern version of his Eucharistic discourse in *Mysterium*

Fidei, and *On the Mystery and Worship of the Holy Eucharist*. The response to his modern Eucharistic discourse is the same as the response to his first Eucharistic discourse. Through silence we are “walking away”.

The prophecy of Isaiah read on Good Friday continues to be fulfilled as we fail to esteem the Person of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament: “There was in him no stately bearing to make us look to him, nor appearance that would attract us to him. He was spurned and avoided by men, a man of suffering, accustomed to infirmity, one of those from whom men hide their faces, spurned, and we held him in no esteem” (Isaiah 53).

Make room

Can we say that we hold him in esteem when many Catholic churches are either locked or empty? If a church has to be locked for any reason, a small, safe place can be provided for an adoration chapel, as at St Anthony's here, so that Jesus can be totally available for those who are drawn by his grace to visit him.

Jesus remains hidden in the Blessed Sacrament because he is asking for faith, hope and love. The Eucharist is not only the greatest gift of our Lord's Passion, it is also the continuation of his risen presence among us. From the Blessed Sacrament flows the unlimited power of the Lord's resurrection.

Why should we get excited about the resurrection if we are neglectful, fearful, or ashamed of proclaiming where our risen Saviour dwells?

The laity not only need to be challenged, they want to be challenged as they look to their priests for guidance and motivation. Saint Paul tells us that faith comes through hearing. “And how can they hear unless there is someone to preach?” (Romans 10:14).

A Eucharistic evangelical thrust in the Church will awaken God's people to his real presence and personal love in the Blessed Sacrament. Whenever and wherever this is done, the laity generously respond to the invitation of Eucharistic prayer.

To be continued