



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 15th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME-YEAR A

16th 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 17/07/2023-23/07/2023

MASS TIMES:

Monday 17/7	6.30pm
Tuesday 18/7	9.30am & 6.30pm
Wednesday 19/7	7.30am & 9.30am
Thursday 20/7	9.30am
Friday 21/7	9.30am

Rosary at 9.00am prior to 9.30am Masses



Sunday Masses

Saturday 22/7	5.00pm
Sunday 23/7	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 17/07/2023-23/07/2023

MASS TIMES:

Monday 17/7	No Mass
Tuesday 18/7	7.30am
Holy Hour	6.30pm
Wednesday 19/7	9.30am
Thursday 20/7	7.30am
Friday 21/7	7.30am
Saturday 22/7	9.00am

Sunday Masses

Saturday 22/7	6.30pm
Sunday 23/7	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	22/7	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 15th SUNDAY 2023– Mary Fermio rsj

A farmer throwing seed is an alien idea to us when we are used to seeing giant machines trundling up and down the fields in the Mallee sowing the grain. But to the people Jesus was talking too it was a very familiar sight and they would understand this parable.

Jesus describes the various places the seed might fall, calling us to examine how we might receive the Word of God from Scripture, Homilies, etc. Am I like rock, hard and unreceptive, thinking I know better; or do I fill my life with things and ideas that choke out any thought of God; maybe I am shallow, come to Mass out of habit and allow my mind to wander off, preventing me from hearing. Or, hopefully, I am rich soil where the Word takes root, changes my life, produces good actions, kindness, generosity, prayerfulness and leads me to a deeper relationship with God.

We ourselves are disappointed if someone does not listen to what we say.
Listening to God's word will help us grow in openness and the ability to really listen to others.
So, do I REALLY listen?



PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

SEARCH PROGRAM-HAPPINESS IS NOT BY CHANCE, IT IS A DECISION

'The Search' is for you. Seven free sessions to answer questions about life and death. **Venue:** St Anthony of Padua, Melton South
Date: Commences 4th August 2023 **Time:** 6.00pm. Please see flyers for more information, to register for the program add your name to the clipboard or send your details to Naim 0437 004 790.

CANCELLATION OF THE SAFEGUARDING WORKSHOP-15 July 2023

Please be informed that the above scheduled Safeguarding workshop had to be cancelled as the Trainee's mother passed away. Please save the new date as stated below:

SAFEGUARDING WORKSHOP – SAVE THE DATE

Date: Saturday 5 August 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-Safeguarding Committee

ST ANTHONY'S

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 ANTHONY' YOUTH GROUP

The St Anthony's Youth Group is held on Wednesdays at 6.00pm. The group starts with a Rosary and Faith Formation followed with activities and finishing with pizza for dinner. If you would like to join the group, have a chat to Naim 0437 004 790.

PRIME TIMERS

This month's outing will be Tuesday 25th July for Games Day at the Leisure Centre, Lifestyle Village from 11.30am. There will be a catered lunch and tea/coffee provided.

ST VINCENT'S de PAUL-WINTER APPEAL

St Anthony's Parish collected \$975.00 for the St Vincent's de Paul Winter Appeal last weekend. Thank you for your generosity.

ST BERNARD'S

ST. BERNARD'S TRIVIA NIGHT

Time is running out to book tickets for our upcoming trivia night. Please scan the QR code for more info.
Saturday 22nd July 2023 Time: 6:30 p.m.

Venue: Parish hall Price: \$15

If you would like to attend but don't have a team, please get in touch with Thomas Halloran on 0431 504 402 so we can find one for you.



ST VINCENT'S de PAUL-WINTER APPEAL

St Bernard's Parish collected \$ 1255.00 for the St Vincent's de Paul Winter Appeal last weekend. Thank you for your generosity.



OFFICIAL PRAYER FOR WORLD YOUTH DAY 2023-1st-6th AUGUST

Our Lady of the Visitation, you who left in haste towards the mountain to meet Elizabeth, lead us also to meet all those who await us to deliver them the living Gospel: Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord! We will go in a hurry, with no distraction or delay, but with readiness and joy. We will go peacefully, because those who take Christ take peace, and well doing is the best wellbeing.

Our Lady of the Visitation, with your inspiration, this World Youth Day will be the mutual celebration of the Christ we take, as You once did. Make it a time of testimony and sharing, fraternization, and giving thanks, each of us looking for the others who always wait.

With you, we will continue on this path of gathering, so that our world will gather as well, in fraternity, justice and peace. Help us, Our Lady of the Visitation, to bring Christ to everyone, obeying the Father, in the love of the Spirit!

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: 22nd & 23rd 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: Aloysious Dacunha

8.30am: Amy Honrade

10.30am: Romeo Sacris

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Dolores Turcsan

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: 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: Peter La Franchi

10.30am: Samantha Butler

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS-THIS WEEKEND

6.30pm: Colin Remedios

MINISTERS OF THE WORD 22nd & 23rd July

6.30pm: Vikki Benson

8.30am: Maggie Kratochvil

10.30am: Charlotte Lindorff

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

6.30pm: John Thorne

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:

Salvina Azzopardi, Doris Farrugia, Dr Marshall Leon Pereira & Lawrens Tanti Snr.

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:

Dorrie Kenny
Funeral Mass will be held at St Bernard's for Dorrie Kenny on Thursday 20th July at 11:00am.

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

Marisa Avati, Dolores & Victor Carter, John & Muriel Daly, David Johnson, Adrianus (Aad) Weerdenburg, Lois Wheelahan and Irene Wojcicki.

Please pray for the Sick:

Patricia Allison, Noah Barlow, Chaiel Balcombe, Michael Barrett, Stephen Beaton, Peter Bennett, Carmel Berry, Steven Braszel, Tina Bower, Tracey Burn, Alex, 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 Gagliardi, 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, Nathan Witmore, 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: 22nd & 23rd July

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: Liza Fernandes
8.30am: Mercy Seufatu
10.30am: Elizabeth Underwood

CHURCH FLOWERS

July: Gloria

CUPPA VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: Dolores Turcsan
8.30am: Geoff and Debra Sutton
10.30am: Kathleen McCurry

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.
ress: 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 : 22nd & 23rd July

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: 6.30pm: Jackie Tabone
Sunday: 8.30am: Lyn Shea
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 \$2000 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:	Joe & Jacqueline Spiteri	0402 512 841
Group 2:	Carolyn Cruz	0401 875 410
Group 3:	Indika & Mangala Silva	0410 677 692

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

As for me, in justice I shall behold your face;
I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.

FIRST READING Isaiah 55:10-11

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM : 64

Commentator: The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

All: The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

You care for the earth, give it water,
you fill it with riches.
Your river in heaven brims over
to provide its grain.

And thus you provide for the earth;
you drench its furrows,
you level it, soften it with showers,
you bless its growth.

You crown the year with your goodness.
Abundance flows in your steps,
in the pastures of the wilderness it flows.

The hills are girded with joy,
the meadows covered with flocks,
the valleys are decked with wheat,
They shout for joy, yes, they sing.

The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young: by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.

NEXT WEEKEND 'S READINGS –

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time– YEAR A

First Reading: Wis 12:13, 16-19

Second Reading: Rom 8:26-27

Gospel: Mt 13:24-30



SECOND READING: Romans 8:18-23

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still

retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower;
all who come to him will live for ever.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 13:1-23

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up.

Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

Then the disciples went up to him and asked, 'Why do you talk to them in parables?' 'Because' he replied 'the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are revealed to you, but they are not revealed to them.

For anyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding. So in their case this prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled: You will listen and listen again, but not understand, see and see again, but not perceive.

For the heart of this nation has grown coarse, their ears are dull of hearing, and they have shut their eyes, for fear they should see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their heart, and be converted and be healed by me.

'But happy are your eyes because they see, your ears because they hear! I tell you solemnly, many prophets and holy men longed to see what you see, and never saw it; to hear what you hear, and never heard it.

'You, therefore, are to hear the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom without understanding, the evil one comes and carries off what was sown in his heart: this is the man who received the seed on the edge of the path. The one who received it on patches of rock is the man who hears the word and welcomes it at once with joy. But he has no root in him, he does not last; let some trial come, or some persecution on account of the word, and he falls away at once. The one who received the seed in thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this world and the lure of riches choke the word and so he produces nothing. And the one who received the seed in rich soil is the man who hears the word and understands it; he is the one who yields a harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Holy Eucharist XXI

The Greatest Need in the World Today (1)

It is always risky to use superlatives. And most risky when, as here, the superlative applies to the whole world. What are we saying when we say that the greatest need in the world today is to form the Eucharistic faith and love of children. What do we mean?

We mean that what the world most needs is to believe in Jesus Christ; indeed believe that Jesus Christ is on earth in the Holy Eucharist. The world needs to love Jesus Christ, with us in the Blessed Sacrament, offering Himself for us in the Sacrifice of the Mass and present within us in Holy Communion.

In the measure that this faith and love are nurtured from the most tender years of children to that extent will Jesus Christ continue working the miracles of grace He performed during His visible stay in Palestine.

My plan, therefore, is very simple:

- Briefly summarise the Church's pedagogy of the Holy Eucharist over the centuries.
- Explain why parents and teachers should develop the Eucharistic faith and love of children from infancy to adulthood.
- Provide some guidelines to children on how to grow in their faith and love of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.

The Church's Pedagogy of the Eucharist

We know that already in the first century of the Christian era, the Church was concerned to teach the faithful — from the earliest years — the treasure of God's love that the Son of God gave to His followers in the Blessed Sacrament. When errors arose as early as 100 AD about the Real Presence, the Church's defenders, who became martyrs, made it clear that the Holy Eucharist is Jesus Christ.

When about the year 1000 AD, heresies cropped up that openly denied that Jesus Christ is on earth in the Blessed Sacrament, these heresies were condemned by papers and councils. Surely symptomatic of our times, Pope Paul VI issued a historic encyclical during the Second Vatican Council, *Mysterium Fidei* (*The Mystery of Faith*), in which he verbally repeated the profession of faith in the Real Presence demanded by his predecessor a thousand years before. The reason for

the encyclical is obvious. Millions of Catholics are being challenged on their Eucharistic faith in today's widespread climate of scepticism.

In the 16th century, the rise of Protestantism challenged the Eucharistic belief on a scale never before experienced in history. Many of the Church's martyrs were killed for their faith in the Blessed Sacrament. Thus, the Jesuit John Ogilvie, was murdered by command of the Scottish for daring to celebrate Mass.

Since the 16th century, the education of Catholic children has had to stress the Real Presence and the Mass as never before. Why? Because of the penetration of so many erroneous ideas about the Eucharist that we are only now beginning to wake up to since 1517, when Martin Luther broke with the Catholic Church. Luther denied the priestly power of transubstantiation.

We get some idea of how confused things had become once we realise what Pope St Pius X had to do to restore the Church's practice of early and frequent Holy Communion. Seven hundred years before Pius X, the Church had prescribed First Communion on reaching the age of reason. Yet, at the height of Jansenism in the 17th century, religious women were known to receive the Holy Eucharist for the first time on their death bed!

Coming to our own day, two popes — Paul VI and John Paul II — have been, I would almost say militant, in the insisting on sound Eucharistic education. The whole of Pope Paul VI's encyclical, *Mysterium Fidei*, is a plea for charity and orthodoxy in teaching the faithful about the Real Presence. All the liturgical progress made in the last generation will be lost, says the Pope, unless Catholics from their earliest years understand that the Holy Eucharist is the presence and sacrifice of Jesus Christ on earth in our day.

More recently, speaking to half a million young people in Denver, Colorado, at World Youth Day, Pope John Paul II said:

"Your pilgrimage will lead you to Christ present in the Holy Eucharist. Praying before the Blessed Sacrament exposed, you can open your hearts to Him, but you should especially listen to what he says to each of you. Christ's special words to young people are the following: 'Do not be afraid' (Matthew 10:31) and 'Come, follow me' (Matthew 19:21). Who knows what the Lord will ask of you young people of America, sons and daughters of Europe, Africa, Asia and Oceania?"

To be continued