



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 16th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME-YEAR A

23rd 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
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 24/07/2023-30/07/2023

MASS TIMES:

Monday 24/7	6.30pm
Tuesday 25/7	9.30am & 6.30pm
Wednesday 26/7	9.30am
Thursday 27/7	9.30am
Friday 28/7	9.30am

Rosary at 9.00am prior to 9.30am Masses



Sunday Masses

Saturday 29/7	5.00pm
Sunday 30/7	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 24/07/2023-30/07/2023

MASS TIMES:

Monday 24/7	No Mass
Tuesday 25/7	7.30am
Holy Hour	6.30pm
Wednesday 26/7	9.30am
Thursday 27/7	7.30am
Friday 28/7	7.30am
Saturday 29/7	9.00am

Sunday Masses

Saturday 29/7	6.30pm
Sunday 30/7	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	29/7	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 16th SUNDAY 2023– Mary Fermio rsj

No gardener likes weeds in their garden and they soon get pulled out and discarded. Like a garden our world consists of good and evil, existing side by side, even in a family. We have to learn to live with both, plants and weeds, good and evil.

In this parable Jesus is reminding us that within the seeds of goodness in our world, there is evil existing, because of those who deny his teaching, refuse to believe and plant doubts in others. Darnel and wheat look the same until the ear appears, so the owner lets them grow together. Our life is full of wheat and weeds – beautiful acts of faith and love and painful experiences of resentment, violence and hurt both in words and actions. The challenge is accepting that the two will exist together, while we hold on to our life of faith, trusting in the nearness of God.

What are the wheat and weeds in my life? What do I let grow? What do I weed out? What do we do? We sow goodness in our world and leave God to make the decisions about the “weeds” growing maybe next to us.



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 Trainer'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.

MARY MacKILLOP HERITAGE CENTRE OPEN DAY-SATURDAY 29th July 2023

Visit the Heritage Centre a building initially designed and operational as a place of providence for women on grounds purchased by Saint Mary MacKillop in 1901.

Welcome to the Open Day at [Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre Open Day | Open House Melbourne](#).

Details are: Museum Tours at 10am, 12pm and 2pm Mary's Little Lon Walking Tour @ 11am (approx. 1 ½ hours)

Open access for visitors 10am - 4pm.

ST ANTHONY'S

MASS TIMETABLE

Dear Parishioners please note, we will no longer have 7.30am mass on Wednesday mornings. We will continue to have the 9.30am mass on Wednesdays. Also we are adding a 9.00am Saturday morning mass to our timetable, beginning from the first week in August.

CUPPA WEEKEND Please join us for a cuppa and a chat this weekend after mass. All welcome.

MEN'S RECOLLECTION

A time for prayer, learning, making resolutions and fellowship 7pm-9pm. 28th July 2023 Topic: The sower goes out to sow: generosity in sowing.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES-10/5/2023

The PPC minutes are available for collection in the foyer.

ST BERNARD'S

150th ANNIVERSARY HISTORY

The next update is available in the gathering space. Any help with the information we are seeking will be much appreciated. Have you checked your family archives for any early parish photos? We live in hopes of a photo of a wedding group outside St Laurence O'Toole chapel being found or a good photo of the Fiskien St School-Church. We would like all family information by the end of August. Does anyone know the whereabouts of the embroidered liturgy banners made by Pat Clancy and helpers?

PARISH CENSUS

A St Bernard's Parish census will be conducted at weekend masses during the first three weeks in August. Please be prepared to fill in the census card at Mass.

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: 29th & 30th 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: Rebecca Comini

8.30am: Leonia Jessop

10.30am: Susan Malinov

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Ann Tennakoon

8.30am: Ron Howard

10.30am: Doris Bonello

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

MASS COORDINATORS

5.00pm: Coleen & Annonica

8.30am: Lillian & Julie

10.30am: Leonia & Annonica

ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

MINISTERS OF THE WORD-THIS WEEKEND

6.30pm: Vikki Benson

8.30am: Maggie Kratochvil

10.30am: Charlotte Lindorff

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS-THIS WEEKEND

6.30pm: John Thorne

MINISTERS OF THE WORD 29th & 30th July

6.30pm: Evana Miesen

8.30am: Margaret Love

10.30am: Volunteer needed

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

6.30pm: Volunteer needed

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:

Marjorie Barker, Marie Dove, Wayne Dunn, Michelle Ivey, Coral Mary Manuel, Patrick Portelli, & Francis Vella

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:

Rita Magdalen Scott.

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

Zvonko & Mary Benac, Josephine Borg, Sr Cathy Dean rsj, Tony Dickinson, Bill Griffith, & Bronwyn Kays.

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 Gagiarbi, 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: 29th & 30th July

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: Kim Barton
8.30am: Judy Johnson
10.30am: Geetha Vincent

CHURCH FLOWERS

July: Gloria

CUPPA VOLUNTEERS-THIS WEEKEND 22/23JULY

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 : 29th & 30th July

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: 6.30pm: Margot Short
Sunday: 8.30am: Carmel Shea

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

See, I have God for my help.
The Lord sustains my soul.
I will sacrifice to you with willing heart,
and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

FIRST READING Wisdom 12:13, 16-19

There is no god, other than you, who cares for everything,
to whom you might have to prove that you never judged
unjustly.
Your justice has its source in strength,
your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all.
You show your strength when your sovereign power is
questioned
and you expose the insolence of those who know it;
but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement,
you govern us with great lenience,
for you have only to will, and your power is there.
By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people
how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men,
and you have given your sons the good hope
that after sin you will grant repentance.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM : 85

Commentator: Lord, you are good and forgiving.

All: Lord, you are good and forgiving.

O Lord, you are good and forgiving,
full of love to all who call.
Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer
and attend to the sound of my voice.

All the nations shall come to adore you
and glorify your name, O Lord:
for you are great and do marvellous deeds,
you who alone are God.

But you, God of mercy and compassion,
slow to anger, O Lord,
abounding in love and truth,
turn and take pity on me.

Lord, you are good and forgiving.

NEXT WEEKEND 'S READINGS –

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time– YEAR A

First Reading: 1Kgs 3:5, 7-12
Second Reading: Rom 8:28-30
Gospel: Mt 13:44-52



SECOND READING: Romans 8:26-27

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 13:24-43

Jesus put a parable before the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner's servants went to him and said, "Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?" "Some enemy has done this" he answered. And the servants said, "Do you want us to go and weed it out?" But he said, "No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn." He put another parable before them, 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all and becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and shelter in its branches.'

He told them another parable, 'The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour till it was leavened all through.'

In all this Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables; indeed he would never speak to them except in parables. This was to fulfil the prophecy: I will speak to you in parables

and expound things hidden since the foundation of the world.

Then, leaving the crowds, he went to the house; and his disciples came to him and said, 'Explain the parable about the darnel in the field to us.' He said in reply, 'The sower of the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world; the good seed is the subjects of the kingdom; the darnel, the subjects of the evil one; the enemy who sowed them, the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; the reapers are the angels. Well then, just as the darnel is gathered up and burnt in the fire, so it will be at the end of time. The Son of Man will send his angels and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that provoke offences and all who do evil, and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Then the virtuous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord, the gracious, the merciful, has made a memorial of his wonders; he gives food to those who fear him.

The Holy Eucharist XXII

The Greatest Need in the World Today (2)

So the Church's Eucharistic pedagogy has gone on for 2,000 years. Aimed especially at the young, it is in essence simplicity itself. From infancy through to adolescence, young people are to grow in their believing love of Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist.

They are to be taught and trained to realise that Jesus Christ is indeed at the right hand of His heavenly Father. But Jesus Christ is also physically, geographically, really and completely now on earth, present in the Blessed Sacrament, offering Himself in the Sacrifice of the Mass and received by us — His Body in our bodies in Holy Communion.

Why develop the Eucharistic formation of the young?

We cannot even begin to answer this question, "Why develop the Eucharistic formation of the young?" unless we assume that our nation needs a moral conversion.

We must pray that Australia not lose its soul. The soul of this country is Christianity. Christianity is the forming principle of our national life. This is why, as our nation becomes more and more dechristianised, it loses more and more of its vitality. Unless the moral disease is cured, Australia as a nation will disappear.

But there is another and deeper meaning to the danger of our nation losing its soul. Individuals lose their souls when they die estranged from God. There is such a thing as a second death, which means everlasting separation from God in what Christ calls eternal punishment.

This is the awful prospect awaiting not just single persons, but whole societies, unless they repent and return to the God from whom they have separated by their stubborn resistance to His will.

It is remarkable what a dream world people can be living in. By all material standards, Australia is a prosperous country. We are among the best fed, best clothed, most comfortably housed, most conveniently transported, most lavishly entertained nations in human history.

But we are also a nation steeped in sin. I like St Augustine's definition. "Sin", he says, "is nothing

else than the neglect of eternal things and seeking after temporal things." In other words, the very affluence of our country in having access to so many satisfying things here on earth is a demonic seduction that lures people away from the love of eternal things.

When I say "steeped in sin", I mean literally. Not satisfied with vying for world leadership in adultery, contraception, fornication and sodomy, Australia has one of the most liberal abortion regimes in the world and is increasingly legalising the contrived death of the elderly, the ill and the vulnerable through euthanasia in state after state.

We are still answering the question: "Why develop the Eucharistic formation of the young?"

Our answer is:

Because otherwise our young Catholics will become what their non-Catholic peers already are — in large measure, victims of an anti-Christian militia that dominates our media, corporations and political system.

Because, as we enter the 21st century, we need a well-formed, deeply committed and powerfully motivated Catholic leadership, which is the children and young people of today.

Why Eucharistic Formation?

To anyone who does not have the Catholic faith, it is meaningless to associate the Eucharist with the moral revolution going on in our country today. But to those who have the fullness of the true faith, the relationship of the Eucharist to heroic virtue and massive conversion is not only meaningful; it is indispensable.

The key to this relationship is miracle. What am I saying? I am first of all saying that, except for the Eucharist, no one can remain totally faithful to Jesus Christ and the moral demands He makes on His followers.

I am further saying that, except for the Eucharist, God will not convert the multitude of souls estranged from His love.

In both cases, it is Jesus Christ, the Wonder Worker on earth in the Eucharist who must perform the necessary miracles. He must work the miracle of infusing heroic courage and He must perform the miracle of conversion of lapsed Christians and unbelievers in the modern world.

To be continued