



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

20th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME -YEAR A

20th August 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:

Tuesday-Friday 9.30am-1.30pm

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:

Tuesday-Friday 9.30am-1.30pm

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
& Liza Fernandes
St Bernard's - Margaret Love (0437 247 779) & Ron Geurts

Items for the newsletter must be submitted by Wednesday midnight. Please email judyparishnews@gmail.com or call 0414 007 009

Judy Johnson's Office Hours 9.30am-1.30pm Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday

MASS AND DEVOTIONS

ST ANTHONY'S MELTON SOUTH 21/08/2023-27/08/2023

MASS TIMES:

Monday 21/8	6.30pm
Tuesday 22/8	9.30am & 6.30pm
Wednesday 23/8	9.30am
Thursday 24/8	9.30am
Friday 25/8	9.30am
Saturday 26/8	9.00am

Rosary **9.00am prior to weekday masses &**

Rosary **8.30am prior to Saturday morning masses**



Sunday Masses

Saturday 26/8	5.00pm
Sunday 27/8	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 21/08/2023-27/08/2023

MASS TIMES:

Monday 21/8	No Mass
Tuesday 22/8	7.30am
Holy Hour	6.30pm
Wednesday 23/8	9.30am
Thursday 24/8	7.30am
Friday 25/8	7.30am
Saturday 26/8	9.00am

Sunday Masses

Saturday 26/8	6.30pm
Sunday 27/8	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 KOROBET MASS TIMES

VIGIL	26/8	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 – 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time Mt.15:21-28– Fr Wilford Urmaza

Today's Gospel, 20th Sunday in Ordinary time, Jesus continues to preach the Kingdom of Heaven to varied areas, one of which is the region of Tyre and Sidon. There, Jesus encountered a Canaanite woman whose daughter is tormented by a demon. The woman understands her identity and her place in the Jewish society. Being a woman, she was aware that she is not counted as a citizen but just a property. Being a Gentile (Canaanite) she is reckoned as unclean, morally downright, and undeserving of God's blessings. Yet despite all these social stigma, the mother, who knows her priority and the urgency of her need, did everything for her daughter. Regardless of difficulties, shame, and humiliation she cried out: Have pity on me, Lord, Son of David.

Was Jesus satisfied by her gesture? Well, not so, as He tested for more by saying, "It is not right to take the food of the children (the Israelites) and throw it to the dogs (Gentiles)." But with all humility the mother retorted "even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from their master's table". With such profession faith, Jesus was convinced that the woman indeed had a great faith.

The Pharisees, Scribes, and Sadducees on the other hand, arrogated to themselves that only the learned and those who follow the Mosaic Law meticulously, will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. But Jesus responded beautifully saying; the Kingdom of God is for all. God desires that everyone be saved and to come to the knowledge of truth. (1 Tm 2.4) Jesus came not only for the Jews but for the lost sheep (Gentiles).

He has come to save not only the chosen few, but anyone who has faith and is willing to accept God's offer of Salvation. Amen.



PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

CATHOLICCARE VICTORIA SUNDAY APPEAL

Last weekend we had a special collection for Catholiccare Victoria. St Anthony's collected \$806.60 and St Bernard's collected \$445.00. Thank you for your generosity in supporting this collection.

ST ANTHONY'S

REKINDLING OUR DEVOTIONS TO BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Saturday 2nd September: First Saturday Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary Rosary 8.30am followed by Mass. 9.00am and a talk on 'Cherishing First Saturday Devotions & welcoming Maria Bambinella in our church.'

Friday 8th September: Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Rosary 6.00pm Mass 6.30pm Followed by procession after mass, adjourn to fellowship and supper.

CLEANING

We are now cleaning on Saturdays as well as Fridays. If you are interested in helping to keep our church clean, please add your details to the clipboard in the foyer or contact Elizabeth on 042 288 2562.

MENS RECOLLECTION- TUESDAY 22nd AUGUST 7pm-9pm

A time for prayer, learning, making resolutions and fellowship. Topic: Jesus walks on the waters-trust and faith in God.

PRIME TIMERS

As Eynesbury is not available on Tuesdays, the August outing will be at the Melton Country Club on Tuesday 29th August at 12.30pm. Seniors menu \$16/\$18. Please RSVP 25th Aug to confirm. Enquiries Mary 0421 778 126, maryco2@bigpond.com

BINGO

Bingo is held every Tuesday night at 7pm in the Padua Hall, St Anthony's Parish. Complimentary tea and coffee available. Canteen services available. Come along and enjoy a great night, and with a bit of luck you could be one of our lucky winners!

ST BERNARD'S

ST. BERNARD'S FEAST DAY!

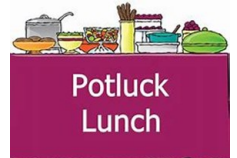
Come and Celebrate St. Bernard's Feast Day.

This Sunday -August 20th.

Pot Luck Lunch in the Parish Centre after the 10.30am Mass.

Please bring a plate or pot to share for lunch.

Tea, coffee, and drinks supplied.



PARISH CENSUS

If you missed out on completing a parish census card last weekend, they will be available on the ledge as you enter the church for the second and third weekends in August.

Please complete the card and hand it in with the collection or take it to the bench in the sacristy.

MEN'S POKER NIGHT

To celebrate Father's Day, we will be hosting a men's social night in the hall on Friday 1st September. This is a great opportunity to enjoy a fun night of poker and also form connections with other men in the parish. If you'd like to attend please get in touch with Thomas Halloran on 0431 504 402 for details.



THE STORY OF THE QUEENSHIP OF MARY-FEAST DAY 22nd AUGUST

Pope Pius XII established this feast in 1954. But the **Blessed Virgin Mary's** queenship has roots in Scripture.

At the Annunciation, Gabriel announced that Mary's Son would receive the throne of David and rule forever. At the Visitation, Elizabeth calls Mary "mother of my Lord." As in all the mysteries of Mary's life, she is closely associated with Jesus:

Her queenship is a share in Jesus' kingship. We can also recall that in the Old Testament the mother of the king has great influence in court.

Source: [Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary | Franciscan Media](#)

PRAYER TO OUR LADY

Mary, guide us to serve in the ways of your son.

Give us the strength that you so often displayed and help us to be living examples of his message and to carry it to the world.

In our daily lives, help us to act with the courage that you have modelled for us and to face our challenges and obstacles with the same faith.

In you, we see a shining example that all will be well through your son.

Amen.

Source: [Mary, Queen of Heaven | Franciscan Media](#)



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: 26th & 27th August

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: Mercy Seufatu

10.30am: Susan Malinov

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Gavin Pereira

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: Ron & Natalie

8.30am: Lillian & Julie

10.30am: Godwin & Leonia

ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

MINISTERS OF THE WORD-THIS WEEKEND

6.30pm: John Thorne

8.30am: Nathan Costin

10.30am: Dominic Van Der Linden

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS-THIS WEEKEND

6.30pm: Colin Remedios

MINISTERS OF THE WORD 26th & 27th August

6.30pm: Vikki Benson

8.30am: Moira Ross

10.30am: Samantha Butler

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

6.30pm: John Thorne

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

August: John Wilson

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Frank Barker, Anthony Buhagiar, Eric Clyne, Eva Cornelisz, Angelina de Guzman, Frances Micallef & Doris Trevor.

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, Troy Saliba, Anna Samy, Samantha Smith, Sina, Saleri, Charlie Spiteri, Janko Stojanovic, Christina Tuigamala, Uatoa Tuigamala, Clint Abela Wadge, Wai Walsh and all those who have requested our prayers. **PLEASE LET US KNOW WHEN YOUR LOVED ONE IS NO LONGER REQUIRED ON THIS LIST.**

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Dorothy "Dot" Atwood, Maurice Clancy, Alice Doolan, Milos Kratochvil, Roy Magill, Antonio Schembri, Jack Shelley, Norma Stevens, John Thorneycroft & Brian Ward.

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 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, Troy Saliba, 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: 26th & 27th August

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

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

CHURCH FLOWERS

August: Rosabella

CUPPA VOLUNTEERS– 26th & 27th August

5.00pm Vigil: Julie Sequiera
8.30am: Mary Saliba & Remy Peroy
10.30am: Romeo & Maribel Sacris

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 : 26th & 27th August

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

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

CHURCH FLOWERS

August: Debra Hosking



PRESBYTERY & CHURCH GROUNDS-MOWING

August: Stuart Roberston & Sean Giani

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY:

Welfare number 1800 305 330.
Bacchus Marsh Vinnies Store 164-190 Main Street is in urgent need of donations. All donations gratefully appreciated and can be dropped at the Store 7 days a week. Any enquiries please contact the Store Manager on 8199 4205

THE NEIGHBOURS PLACE

The Neighbours' Place is a Christian not-for-profit organisation whose aim is to serve people of the **Moorabool Shire**, west of Melbourne Australia, who are disadvantaged, at risk or temporarily unable to feed themselves or their family and who are in need of emergency food relief.

NILS is a **No Interest Loans Scheme** for assistance of up to \$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:	Aloysious & Michelle DaCunha	0469 863 253
Group 2:	Gavin & Alison Pereira	0419 178 970
Group 3:	Dragica Mladen Soldo	0466 482 035

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

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield;
and look on the face of your anointed one;
one day within your courts
is better than a thousand elsewhere.

FIRST READING Isaiah 56:1, 6-7

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest.

Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants - all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant - these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 66

Commentator: O God, let all the nations praise you!

All: O God, let all the nations praise you!

O God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help.

Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples,
you guide the nations on earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him.

O God, let all the nations praise you!

NEXT WEEKEND 'S READINGS –

21ST SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME– YEAR A

First Reading: Is 22:19-23
Second Reading: Rom 11:33-36
Gospel: Mt 16:13-20



SECOND READING Romans 11:13-15, 29-32

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.

Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now - and only because of the mercy shown to you - will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom
and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 15:21-28

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

With the Lord there is mercy;
in him is plentiful redemption.

The Holy Eucharist XXVI

Eucharistic saints (2)

St Thomas Aquinas

For the first thousand years of Christian history there was no serious challenge to the Real Presence. Then Berengarius of Tours (999-1088) attacked the Church's doctrine by claiming that Christ could not be simultaneously in heaven and in the Blessed Sacrament.

Berengarius was condemned by the pope and required to profess his faith in the Real Presence. This Eucharistic creed was quoted verbatim by Pope Saint Paul VI during the Second Vatican Council to meet the crisis of Eucharistic faith that has tormented the Church in our day.

By the 13th century, though, Eucharistic errors had become so rampant that a special feast was instituted, called *Corpus Christi*.

The pope ordered Thomas Aquinas to compose the hymns for the Divine Office of this feast. Among these hymns is the *Lauda Sion Salvatorem*, which is worth quoting at some length because it is such a treasure of our faith.

His own act, at supper seated, Christ ordained to be repeated, In His memory divine; so that now, with adoration, We the Host of our salvation consecrate from bread and wine.

Christ's followers know by faith that bread is changed into His flesh and wine into His blood.

Man cannot understand this, cannot perceive it; but a lively faith affirms that the change, which is outside the natural course of things, takes place.

Under the different species, which are now signs only and not their own reality, there lie hidden wonderful realities. His body is our food, His blood our drink. And yet Christ remains entire under each species.

The communicant receives the complete Christ — uncut, unbroken, and undivided. Whether one receives

or a thousand, the one receives as much as the thousand. Nor is Christ diminished by being received.

The good and the wicked alike receive Him, but with the unlike destiny of life or death. To the wicked it is death, but life to the good. See how different is the result, though each receives the same.

Last of all, if the sacrament is broken, have no doubt. Remember there is as much in a fragment as in an unbroken host. There is no division of the reality, but only a breaking of the sign; nor does the breaking diminish the condition or size of the One hidden under the sign.

There is an ocean of doctrinal implications in the words we have just quoted from St Thomas. What should be emphasised in particular, however, is the unquestioning reality of Christ's complete — which means total — presence in every particle of the consecrated Host and in every drop of the consecrated Chalice.

Over the centuries since the *Lauda Sion* was composed, this teaching of Aquinas has been the unshaken foundation of what Catholics believe takes place at the double consecration in the Sacrifice of the Mass.

Also to be stressed is the careful distinction that St Thomas makes between the objective reality of Christ's presence and the subjective state of soul of those who receive Holy Communion. Those in the state of grace and those estranged from God both receive the same Jesus Christ. But the first grow in God's friendship and the second deepen their sinful guilt.

In today's world, when so many people receive Communion and so few receive the sacrament of Penance, this disjunction is crucial. Pope Saint John Paul II on his first pilgrimage to the United States pleaded with the American bishops to promote frequent reception of the sacrament of Confession for the obvious reasons spelled out by St Thomas Aquinas.