



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

22nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME -YEAR A

3rd September 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-4.30pm

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 parishsecretary83@gmail.com

MASS AND DEVOTIONS

ST ANTHONY'S MELTON SOUTH 4/09/2023-10/09/2023

MASS TIMES:

Monday 4/9	6.30pm
Tuesday 5/9	9.30am & 6.30pm
Wednesday 6/9	9.30am
Thursday 7/9	9.30am
Friday 8/9	9.30am
Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin	6.30pm
Please see page 3 for details	
Saturday 9/9	9.00am

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

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



Sunday Masses

Saturday 9/9	5.00pm
Sunday 10/9	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 4/09/2023-10/09/2023

MASS TIMES:

Monday 4/9	No Mass
Tuesday 5/9	7.30am
Holy Hour	6.30pm
Wednesday 6/9	9.30am
Thursday 7/9	7.30am
Friday 8/9	7.30am
Providence Mass	11.00am
Saturday 9/9	9.00am

Sunday Masses

Saturday 9/9	6.30pm
Sunday 10/9	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	9/9	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 –SR MARY FERMIO rsj

REFLECTION 22ND SUNDAY 2023 – FATHER'S DAY

All fathers desire a relationship with their children and spouse. For this to happen they need to listen to and talk to each other, to be unafraid to share their hopes and fears.

The invitation to follow Jesus is an invitation to a relationship, a friendship with him. Not one which is one-sided –

me saying my prayers – but sharing a conversation, listening to each other, sharing our thoughts.

We can tell Jesus that the cross we are carrying is too heavy, too difficult, and then listen to his reply. The Mass is when we seal our relationship with Jesus – we listen to each other in the prayers and readings; we give of ourselves to be placed on the paten, place our troubles in the chalice and Jesus returns the gift of himself as the Bread of Life for our journey, an intimacy no other relationship can have. So, fathers, set an example for your children, teach them to pray, to develop a relationship with Jesus and you will find life and joy in your fatherhood.



BLESSING FOR FATHERS

God our Father, in your wisdom and love you made all things. Bless these men, that they may be strengthened as Christian fathers. Build in them a sense of joy, humility, and playfulness that draw his family close.

Give them a passionate faith, a persevering spirit, and a powerful testimony that overcomes any weakness or doubt. Let the example of their faith and love shine forth.

Grant that we, their sons and daughters, may honour them always with a spirit of profound respect.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!!



PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

SAFEGUARDING WORKSHOP - SAVE THE DATE

Date: Monday, 18 September 2023

Time: 6:00pm – 7:30pm

Venue: St Bernard's Parish Hall, Bacchus Marsh

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*

FATHER'S DAY –THIS WEEKEND

This weekend we will be conducting the Annual Father's Day Appeal for Sick and Retired Priests. This is a great way of showing your gratitude for the enormous work our priests have done for us in the past and present day and to give them comfort and respite in the later years. Please give generously, thank you.

ST ANTHONY'S

REKINDLING OUR DEVOTIONS TO BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

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.

WOMEN'S RECOLLECTION-THURSDAY 7th SEPTEMBER

A recollection– a sort of mini retreat-provides an opportunity to review your life, to renew your relationship with God and to make firm resolutions for the future. 7pm-9pm.

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!

FAMILY ENRICHMENT AUSTRALIA

invites you to a workshop for parents on the topic of "Raising Children in the Faith in Today's Culture". Author, renowned speaker and former principal Dr. Andy Mullins will be presenting on Sunday, September 10 at St. Catherine of Siena, Caroline Springs, meeting room (back of the Church) from 2-4pm. The cost is \$10 per person. Afternoon tea is included. Due to the dynamics of the workshop, this is a parent only event (nursing infants welcome). Limited number of tickets available, please RSVP and register via QR Code or contact Tara 0434 636 719



ST BERNARD'S

PROVIDENCE AND FRIENDS MASS

Parishioners are invited to our monthly Providence and Friends Mass on Friday 8th September at 11am. Please bring a plate for morning tea /lunch.

If transport is required, please let the Parish Office know or call Margot Short 0419 507 438

MORNING TEA

There will be morning tea after both Sunday Masses this weekend. All are welcome.

FUNDRAISER

The Social & Fundraising Group will be selling hand painted religious rocks at the 8.30 & 10.30 Masses on September 10th. 15% will be donated to the Church. Cash preferred but EFTPOS is available.

COLUMBAN CALENDARS

Caleendars are now available at the Piety Stall. \$10 each. These make a great gift at a very reasonable price!!

NEW OFFICE TIMES FOR BOTH PARISHES

Both parishes have new opening times effective September 2023.

Bacchus Marsh:

Tuesday - Friday 9.30am - 1.30pm

Melton South:

Tuesday - Friday 9.30am 12:30pm
1:15pm - 4.30pm

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: 9th & 10th September
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: Michelle Tennakoon
8.30am: Amy Honrade
10.30am: Nikshita D'Souza

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Dolores Turcsan
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: Julie & Lillian
10.30am: Leonia & Annonica

ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

MINISTERS OF THE WORD-THIS WEEKEND

6.30pm: Sonia Smith
8.30am: Peter Lafranchi
10.30am: Charlotte Lindorff

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS-THIS WEEKEND

6.30pm: John Thorne

MINISTERS OF THE WORD 9th & 10th September

6.30pm: Evana Miesen
8.30am: Maggie Kratochvil
10.30am: Volunteer needed

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

6.30pm: Vikki Benson

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

September: Paul Miesen & Family

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Concetta Chircop

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:

Angelina Baiti, Sister Mary Frances Coburn, Ellen Greenan, Hormankia Grixti, Anthony Charles Knight, Noreen Matthews, Hannah Maureen McGeady, Rosa Pollino, Margaret Scott, Peg (Margaret) Shanahan, Fr Peter Sinnema, Monica Steele, Edward Thorne, & Jim White.

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, 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: 9th & 10th September

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: Kim Barton
8.30am: Pat Chiles
10.30am: Merla Veloso

CHURCH FLOWERS

September: Gloria

CUPPA VOLUNTEERS– 23rd & 24th September

5.00pm Vigil: Dolores Turcsan & Julie Sequiera
8.30am: Sam & Pat Chiles
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 : 9th & 10th September

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

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

CHURCH FLOWERS

September: Frances McDaid



PRESBYTERY & CHURCH GROUNDS-MOWING

September: Colm Carragher & Ron Geurts

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY:

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

THE NEIGHBOURS PLACE

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

NILS is a **No Interest Loans Scheme** for assistance of up \$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:	Joseph & Caroline Da Rocha	0421 854 711
Group 2:	David & Anne Leheny	0405 621 232
Group 3:	Amy & Ronald Honrade	0457 042 695

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

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.
O Lord, you are good and forgiving,
full of mercy to all who call to you.

FIRST READING Jeremiah 20:7-9

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced;
you have overpowered me: you were the stronger.
I am a daily laughing-stock,
everybody's butt.
Each time I speak the word, I have to howl
and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!'
The word of the Lord has meant for me
insult, derision, all day long.
I used to say, 'I will not think about him,
I will not speak in his name any more.'
Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart,
imprisoned in my bones.
The effort to restrain it wearied me,
I could not bear it.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 62

Commentator: My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

All: My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water.

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise.

So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy.

For you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast.

My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

SECOND READING Romans 12:1-2

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
enlighten the eyes of our heart,
that we might see how great is the hope
to which we are called.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 16:21-27

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said. 'This must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life?

'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

How great is the goodness, Lord,
that you keep for those who fear you.

NEXT WEEKEND 'S READINGS –

23rd SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME– YEAR A

First Reading: Ezek 33:7-9

Second Reading: Rom 13:8-10

Gospel: Mt 18:15-20



The Holy Eucharist XXVIII

Eucharistic saints (4)

St Teresa of Avila

The Church in the 16th century was in desperate need of reform. So true is this that we may correctly speak of the Catholic Reformation (often called the Counter-Reformation) which took place after the Protestant revolution. Among the Catholic reformers was a contemplative nun who has since been declared a Doctor of the Church, Saint Teresa of Avila (1515-82).

As might be expected, Teresa of Avila was one of the staunch defenders of the Catholic faith in her day. However, unlike her contemporary and fellow Spaniard Saint Ignatius Loyola, she did not organise an academic crusade to defend the teachings of the one, true Church. She was a contemplative who spent the latter half of her life restoring Carmelite spirituality to its historic authenticity.

However, under obedience of her spiritual directors she published some of the deepest and clearest expositions of Catholic Christianity that exist. Her published writings span the whole gamut of the Church's teaching.

Among the doctrines undermined by the followers of Luther and Calvin and the other Protestant reformers was the Real Presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist. The key factor was their denial that the Eucharist is literally the Incarnate Son of God.

The crucial issue was the humanity of Christ. There was no problem admitting that the Eucharist somehow signifies or symbolises the presence of God. What the Protestant reformers would not admit is that the Holy Eucharist is the whole Christ, in which the fullness of His humanity is united with His divinity.

The following passage from Saint Teresa was written in 1575. She describes the deep secrets that God revealed to her after she had received

By Fr John Hardon SJ, catholicculture.org
Holy Communion.

"Once after receiving Communion, I was given understanding of how the Father receives within our soul the most holy Body of Christ, and of how I know and have seen that these Divine Persons are present, and how pleasing to the Father this offering of His Son is, because He delights and rejoices with Him here — let us say — on earth. For His humanity is not present with us in the soul, but His divinity is. Thus the humanity is so welcome and pleasing to the Father and bestows on us so many favours."

What is Saint Teresa saying? She is saying that God the Father bestows on us indescribable blessings through the humanity of His Only Son.

It is impossible to overestimate the importance of this truth. Certainly the graces we receive come to us from God. But they come to us through the humanity which the Second Person of the Holy Trinity assumed when He became man.

That is why the Holy Eucharist is called the Mystery of Faith. The Eucharist is nothing less than Jesus Christ. It is not only that God became man to redeem the world by His death on Calvary. God is constantly redeeming the world by communicating through the humanity of Jesus the graces that He won for us on Good Friday.

At the heart of our faith is the belief that God assumed our human nature in order to serve

as the channel of the graces that we need to reach our heavenly destiny. The Holy Eucharist, therefore, is the principal channel of the light and strength we need to embrace the cross in this valley of tears in order to join the Saviour in His eternal glory.

