



St Anthony's Parish

67-75 EXFORD ROAD, MELTON SOUTH, 3338.
P.O BOX 2152 MELTON SOUTH 3338
TEL: 9747 9692



St Bernard's Parish

61 LERDERBERG STREET, BACCHUS MARSH 3340
TEL: 5367 2069
OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS, KOROBET
309 MYRNIONG-KOROBET ROAD 3341

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD -YEAR A

6th 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:

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
& 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 7/08/2023-13/08/2023

MASS TIMES:

Monday 7/8	6.30pm
Tuesday 8/8	9.30am & 6.30pm
Wednesday 9/8	9.30am
Thursday 10/8	9.30am
Friday 11/8	9.30am
Saturday 12/8 (Rosary 8.30am)	9.00am

Rosary at 9.00am prior to 9.30am Masses



Sunday Masses

Saturday 12/8	5.00pm
Sunday 13/8	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 7/08/2023-13/08/2023

MASS TIMES:

Monday 7/8	No Mass
Tuesday 8/8	7.30am
Holy Hour	6.30pm
Wednesday 9/8	9.30am
Thursday 10/8	7.30am
Friday 11/8	7.30am
Providence and Friends Mass	11.00am
Saturday 12/8	9.00am

Sunday Masses

Saturday 12/8	6.30pm
Sunday 13/8	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 KOROBEIT MASS TIMES

VIGIL	12/8	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 FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION 2023 Mary Fermio rsi

There are occasions in our lives when we can be "lost for words" to describe our emotions - a sunset, the birth of a child, at a death, on a retreat. Words cannot describe how we feel. I remember a retreat at Tarrawarra especially highlighted by some deep prayer experiences. At the end my director said: Well Mary, time to come down from the mountain, back to the normal world.

When Jesus took the three apostles to the mountain and was transfigured with light, speaking to two dead prophets, Peter began speaking: "Let us build three tents..." Words could not express his feelings of the wonder he saw and felt, and he wanted to keep hold of it. The voice they heard kept them bowed to the ground, only looking up when all was silent and normal and Jesus was alone. Then, down from the mountain back to the normal world!

When we pray there are times when we should be "lost for words". Instead of filling the space with wordy prayers, we need to remember that God knows what we need even before we ask.

We need to sit in silence and do what the apostles were told:

"This is my beloved Son. Listen to him!"

May you be filled with wonder – become "Lost for words!"



PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

NEWSLETTER

Parishioners please note items for the newsletter must be submitted by midnight Wednesdays. Thank you.

ST FRANCIS CATHOLIC COLLEGE-YEAR 7 2025 ENROLMENTS -DUE FRIDAY 18 AUGUST

You can apply online for our Melton and Cobblebank campuses at www.sfcc.vic.edu.au/join-us/enrolment

We welcome you to join one of our final Melton Campus tours for 2023. Reserve your place at www.sfcc.vic.edu.au/joinus/college-tour

CATHOLICCARE VICTORIA SUNDAY APPEAL- NEXT WEEKEND

As our parish community's social service agency, CatholicCare Victoria delivers programs and services to support families, children, young people and individuals to help everyone reach their full potential. The services include counselling and mental health services, specialised support for children and teens, refugee and asylum seeker help, pastoral care in hospitals and prisons, support for separating families, social housing and homelessness support. Your support and generosity will help provide caring and compassionate support for struggling individuals and families in our community. You can also donate using the appeal envelope available in our parish or donate online at www.catholiccarevic.org.au or call (03) 9287 5513.

ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY –SATURDAY 12th AUGUST 2023 FROM 2.00PM

Rosary Procession , Holy Mass & Benediction led by Rev Ted Rostworoski, Mgr Benedict Camilleri & other members of the clergy.

Featuring the Presentation and Blessing of the Children. Ta Pinu Shrine 15 Flanagans Drive Merrimu.

For more information contact: Josette 0412 360 231 or Charlie 0431 460 345.

NATIONAL VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK - 6th August

Vocations come from families, communities and parishes. Strong families and communities are the place where vocations are first nurtured. In this National Vocations Awareness Week, let us pray for all families in our parish, and for those preparing for marriage. Let us also pray that our parish community may always be welcoming and encouraging of vocations to marriage, priesthood and consecrated life.

ST ANTHONY'S

REV DEACON STEPHEN FERNANDES

The vigil mass on Saturday 12th August will include a Thanksgiving service for Rev Deacon Stephen Fernandes in recognition of the many years of service he has given to our Parish as part of the Parish Pastoral Council, Worship Quadrant, Choir and in many other areas at St Anthony's.

The mass will also include a send off prayer for Stephen as he begins his ministry in the Sunbury Parish.

Please join us for this simple yet meaningful celebration for Stephen and our church. **We will have a gathering after the mass, please bring a plate to share. Thank you.**

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Dear Parishioners please note the Parish Office hours for the month of **August** will be **Tuesday-Friday 9.30am-1.30pm.**

THANKSGIVING STATEMENTS

Dear Parishioners, your Thanksgiving statements are now available, if you wish to receive one. They can be picked up from the church foyer. Just a gentle reminder that Thanksgiving Contributions are not tax deductible.

Kind regards from Lesley Morffew

NEWSLETTER-PRAY FOR THE SICK

Parishioners, please check our list 'Pray for the sick' on page 4 of the newsletter and if there is a name that can now be removed please let Judy know. Thank you.

ST BERNARD'S

VOLUNTEER NEEDED

We need a volunteer from the Bacchus Marsh Parish to write the Prayers of the Faithful- one month a year.

For further details contact Sr Mary Fermio Ph 5367 2078

Thank you.

MORNING TEA

There will be morning tea held after the 8.30am and 10.30am Masses on Sunday August 13th. All welcome.

KSC RACING GAME

Progressive points score after week 6 of the KSC racing game
H Miller. 26

P Diacona. 25

L Wheelahan. 24

B Coburn. 23

L Shea. 23

PROVIDENCE AND FRIENDS MASS

Parishioners are invited to our monthly Providence and Friends Mass on Friday 11th August. 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.

NEWSLETTER-PRAY FOR THE SICK

Parishioners, please check our list 'Pray for the sick' on page 4 of the newsletter and if there is a name that can now be removed please let Judy know. Thank you.

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: 12th & 13th 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: Gavin Pereira

8.30am: Amy Honrade

10.30am: Nikshita D'Souza

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Dolores Turcsan

8.30am: Roa Seufatu

10.30am: Frank 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: Lillian & Julie

10.30am: Leonia & Annonica

ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

MINISTERS OF THE WORD-THIS WEEKEND

6.30pm: Sonia Smith

8.30am: Gerard O'Shea

10.30am: Beatrice Younger

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS-THIS WEEKEND

6.30pm: John Thorne

MINISTERS OF THE WORD 12th & 13th August

6.30pm: Maureen Zahra

8.30am: Dominican Sisters

10.30am: Chloe Lindorff

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

6.30pm: Vikki Benson

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

August: John Wilson

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Domenica Dimartino, Ralph Cinel, Brodie Grevink & George Phelan.

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, 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

For the recently deceased:

Frank White (Daylesford)

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

Brian Blood, Veronica Buttler, Tarcis Cutajar, Jack Dannatt, Ian Dominguez, Mary Noonan, Milos Kratachvil, Sr Mary Lanigan rsj, Bernadette O'Shannassy, Anne O'Shea, Lawrence Roberts & Edward Tudball.

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: 12th & 13th August

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

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

CHURCH FLOWERS

August: Rosabella

CUPPA VOLUNTEERS– 27th August

5.00pm Vigil:
8.30am: To be advised
10.30am:

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 : 12th & 13th August

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

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

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 \$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:	Paul & Sonia Zarb	0477 813 272
Group 2:	Ana Taunnu & Family	0406 503 363
Group 3:	Rohini Selvanayagam	0425 868 967

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

In a resplendent cloud the Holy Spirit appeared.
The Father's voice was heard: This is my beloved Son,
with whom I am well pleased. Listen to him.

FIRST READING Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

As I watched:

Thrones were set in place
and one of great age took his seat.
His robe was white as snow,
the hair of his head as pure as wool.
His throne was a blaze of flames,
its wheels were a burning fire.
A stream of fire poured out,
issuing from his presence.
A thousand thousand waited on him,
ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him.
A court was held and the books were opened.
I gazed into the visions of the night.
And I saw, coming on the clouds of heaven,
one like a son of man.
He came to the one of great age
and was led into his presence.
On him was conferred sovereignty,
glory and kingship,
and men of all peoples, nations and languages became his
servants.
His sovereignty is an eternal sovereignty
which shall never pass away,
nor will his empire ever be destroyed.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 96

Commentator: The Lord is king, the most high over all the earth

All: The Lord is king, the most high over all the earth.

The Lord is king, let earth rejoice,
let all the coastlands be glad.
Cloud and darkness are his raiment;
his throne, justice and right.

The mountains melt like wax
before the Lord of all the earth.
The skies proclaim his justice;
all peoples see he glory.

For you indeed are the Lord
most high above all the earth
exalted far above all spirits.

The Lord is king, the most high over all the earth.

SECOND READING: 2 Peter 1:16-19

It was not any cleverly invented myths that we were repeating when we brought you the knowledge of the power and the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ; we had seen his majesty for ourselves. He was honoured and glorified by God the Father, when the Sublime Glory itself spoke to him and said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour.' We heard this ourselves, spoken from heaven, when we were with him on the holy mountain. So we have confirmation of what was said in prophecies; and you will be right to depend on prophecy and take it as a lamp for lighting a way through the dark until the dawn comes and the morning star rises in your minds.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

This is my Son, my beloved, in whom is all my delight:
listen to him.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 17:1-9

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured: his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order, 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

When Christ appears, we shall be like him,
for we shall see him as he is.

NEXT WEEKEND 'S READINGS –

19TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME– YEAR A

First Reading: 1Kgs 19:9,11-13

Second Reading: Rom 9:1-5

Gospel: Mt 14:22-33



The Holy Eucharist XXIV

Body and Blood

Therapists and life-coaches describe it as the antidote to our fast-paced and distracted lives, and a remedy for many physical and psychological ailments. Self-help guru Tony Robbins says it's the best thing we can do for ourselves and others. And *Forbes* magazine, the entrepreneurs' bible, says it's the most effective. What is this magic bullet? Being present in the moment.

Sounds easy: after all, we are always somewhere and often with someone. The covid years helped us appreciate that, while the new media are great for information gathering, messaging, even some meetings, virtual presence is second best to real person-to-person presence. But in a culture of reduced attention-spans and constant multitasking, fear-of-missing-out and addiction to devices, of bombardment by information and opinion, of ever-growing work place demands and home worries, it's hard to be as present to what's in front of us as we might like.

We can get lost in the busyness and distractions that we either manically grasshopper from thing to thing or drift off and function on autopilot. Even when dining or watching a movie with those we love, we can end up scrolling on our smart-phone or letting our minds wander. Being present requires more than just being there: we must attend to the place, people and concerns, gratefully appreciating each moment as a gift.

One of the features of God in the Old Testament — that set him apart from the deities of surrounding cultures — was precisely how present he was. He was no “set and forget” kind of God.

He fashioned humanity from clay in his own image, with his own hands and breath, and he walked and talked with them in a paradisaal garden. Even after the Fall, he sought to guide them, revealing himself in various ways and entering into covenants to ensure their communion with him. He was an intimate of Abraham, Moses, David and the Prophets, divulging his will through them, and enabling the Jews to pursue it.

Israel experienced God up close and personal in fire and cloud, storm and breeze, in commandments and prophetic words, worship

and prayer. His presence brought peace, joy, health and security. And he was especially present in the tent, temple or tabernacle of meeting, where his divine *shekhinah* or presence was especially experienced.

All of which was but a prelude to what was coming. So great was God's desire for proximity to us, He gave his only Son (John 3:16). Through the incarnation of Jesus, God's presence to humanity was complete. The Creator “transcended His own transcendence”, becoming Emmanuel (God-with-us), the Word made flesh and camping among us. When people encountered Jesus teaching or healing, celebrating or suffering, they knew they were especially close to God. In him, God was present to crowds, friends, adversaries, and especially to the Apostles and holy women.

But after 33 years, Jesus returned to the Father, and we were left behind. God no longer walked with us in a garden in Eden, Galilee or Jerusalem. Knowing the disciples would feel abandoned, Jesus was anxious for them on the night before he died. So, he instituted a gift that still boggles the mind two millennia later.

Jesus gave us his Body and Blood to be received sacramentally. This meant he could now be present in many places at once, not just in Israel, but on every altar and tongue, in every tabernacle and heart, wherever Mass was celebrated, anywhere in the world. And he would be present not just virtually or symbolically, but really, substantially, person-to-person. Hence his parting promise: to be with us always (Matthew 28:20). Hence his new covenant, inviting us into a communion that supersedes the divine presences of old. Now God gives his all, his divinity and humanity, flesh and blood, body and soul, everything for us (cf. 1 Corinthians 10:16-17). And not just as something to treasure, even adore, but to receive into our own substance. This really is this: God with us, for us and in us.

By Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP, catholicweekly.com.au