



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

26th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME -YEAR A

1st October 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

Judy Johnson's Office Hours 9.30am-1.30pm Tuesday-Thursday 0414 007 009

Items for the newsletter must be submitted by Wednesday midnight please email judyparishnews@gmail.com

MASS AND DEVOTIONS

ST ANTHONY'S MELTON SOUTH 2/10/2023-8/10/2023

MASS TIMES:

Monday	2/10	6.30pm
Tuesday	3/10	9.30am & 6.30pm
Wednesday	4/10	9.30am
Thursday	5/10	9.30am
Friday	6/10	9.30am
First Friday Devotions		7.30pm & Midnight
First Saturday Devotions	7/10	Rosary 8.30am Mass 9.00am

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

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



Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil	7/10	5.00pm
Sunday	8/10	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 2/10/2023-8/10/2023

MASS TIMES:

Monday	2/10	No mass
Tuesday	3/10	7.30am
Holy Hour		6.30pm
Wednesday	4/10	9.30am
Thursday	5/10	7.30am
Friday	6/10	7.30am
Saturday	7/10	9.00am

Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil	7/10	6.30pm
Sunday	8/10	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	7/10	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 26TH SUNDAY 2023-Sr Mary Fermio

Over sixty years ago I made a choice to become a Josephite Sister. Looking back this took some courage – weird clothing, strange customs and rules - for an independent young woman. Many young women who joined me, changed their minds and left. And that would have taken some courage, to return to friends and families and admit a mistake.

In today's Gospel the two sons both made choices. One did not keep his promise. The other changed his mind and decided to help his father. That would have taken some courage and maybe some comments from his brother. Many of the people listening to Jesus also made choices – to follow him in his way of life, to become honest tax collectors, to stop being a prostitute, to change their attitudes to women. In the society of the day that took a lot of courage. The chief priests and elders, to whom the question was directed, refused to change. Were they too proud to admit they could be wrong? Did they see themselves as perfect, always right? Nicodemus came to Jesus at night when no one would see him? That also took some courage, as a religious leader in that society.

Each of us makes choices each day, sometimes changing our minds.

Sometimes we make a stand and then do not have the courage to admit we are wrong. In the 70's some of our Sisters refused to change the habit, but admitted years later they should have. Can I be humble enough and have the courage to admit my mistakes, my failures? Let us ask Jesus, whose courage took him to the Cross, to walk with us.



PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE?-THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

You say you "BELIEVE" every Sunday as you recite the Creed. But do you know what you're saying you "believe" in? Do the truths of the faith-listed in the Creed –really permeate your life? Learn how these ancient truths contain the promise of peace, joy and happiness for our lives. The Creed is not some dry statements we recite at Mass, it is a way of life, which bring peace and fulfilment.

To learn more how the Creed can become the source of joy, join us in this study over the next 10 weeks Tuesdays 7.15pm Mackillop Room, St Anthony's Church, Melton South.

Lesson 2 Revelation God Reveals Himself-God Keeps Speaking-Magisterium-Sacred Scripture-Sacred Tradition. Obedience of Faith

2023 MARIAN FESTIVAL

Sacred Heart Cathedral, Bendigo Celebrant: Bishop Leslie Tomlinson 11.00am Mass

1.00pm –Festival begins (BYO lunch) 3.45pm Festival concludes with afternoon tea. Please see the poster for more details.

SAVE THE DATE! Night of the Witnesses – 22 November 2023, 7pm at St Patrick's Cathedral

Aid to the Church in Need invites you to an evening of prayer, testimony, song, adoration and reflection to honour the witness of twelve recent Christian martyrs and to stand in solidarity with Christians all over the world who are suffering persecution for their faith in Jesus Christ. Archbishop Peter Comensoli will preside and His Beatitude, Patriarch Joseph Absi of the Melkite Greek Catholic Church will be one of the international guest speakers who will share personal testimony of persecution for the faith. We hope you will join us.

For more information please visit: www.aidtochurch.org/notw

ST VINCENT DE PAUL-OBSERVANCE

On Sept. 27, the Catholic Church remembers Saint Vincent de Paul, the French, 17th century priest known as the patron of Catholic charities for his apostolic work among the poor and marginalized. During a September 2010 Angelus address, Pope Benedict XVI noted that St. Vincent "keenly perceived the strong contrast between the richest and the poorest of people," and was "encouraged by the love of Christ" to "organize permanent forms of service" to provide for those in need. Source: St. Vincent de Paul (catholicnewsagency.com)

ST ANTHONY'S

BINGO

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

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION-7TH OCTOBER

Our First Saturday Devotion will begin with Rosary at 8.30am, followed by Mass at 9.00am and after Mass Fr Alex will give a talk on 'The Role of the Rosary in our Catholic Life'.

FREE LAWN MOWER

If you are in need of a lawn mower-(Brand-Tiger), contact Brendan 0413 055 219

INTERMENT OF ASHES-TONY MIFSUD Thursday 5th October, 10.30am -Melton Cemetery

THE HOLY GUARDIAN ANGELS FEAST DAY –2nd October

Prayer to the guardian angels is encouraged, and the habit of remembering their presence and support leads to friendship with them. The prayer to the guardian angels has been present in the Church since at least the beginning of the 12th century:

*Angel of God,
my Guardian dear,
to whom His love
commits me here,
ever this day
be at my side,
to light and guard,
to rule and guide.
Amen.*



[The Guardian Angels](http://TheGuardianAngels.catholicnewsagency.com)
(catholicnewsagency.com)

ST BERNARD'S

THANKSGIVING MASS and Sr. MARY FERMIO'S FAREWELL

We are celebrating our awesome community with a Thanksgiving Mass at 10.30am on Sunday 8th October, followed by a POT LUCK LUNCH in the Parish centre. We would like to thank our long-standing parishioners for their vast contributions, and also welcome and thank our new

parishioners. We are also saying farewell to Sr Mary Fermio, who, after fourteen years of service to St. Bernard's parish, will sadly be leaving us. This will mark the end of 133 years of the Josephite's presence in Bacchus Marsh. Sr. Mary will be making a presentation on the history of the Josephites in the Parish centre after the 10.30am Mass. We hope to see you there!

COLLECTION FOR SR MARY FERMIO

We will take up a collection for Sr. Mary at all Masses **this weekend** 30th Sept/1st Oct.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO JOIN THE FUNDRAISING AND SOCIAL TEAM.

Help is needed to run our Social and Fundraising events. We are a fun and enthusiastic team, enjoying a dinner out for our meetings as we discuss ideas and plans on how to support and bring our community together. If you would like to join the team, or just help out occasionally, please fill out the form in the foyer.

FREE Available now or Mid-October. If interested or need to inspect contact Sr Mary 5367 2078

2 large desks; 2 chest of drawers; 2 book shelves; video/dvd player/TV and stand; big sideboard; chairs; bedside table; colour printer; bedside commode; clothes horse; ironing table; steam iron; small cupboard; ironing table; vacuum cleaner (Volta) kitchen steps.

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: 7th & 8th October

Please present yourself to the Mass Coordinator

15 minutes before the scheduled Mass time or a replacement will be found. Thank you.

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

5.00pm: Aloysious Dacunha

8.30am: Mercy Seufatu

10.30am: Susan Malinov

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Ann Tennakoon & Gavin Pereira

8.30am: Ron Howard & Philip Anyayahan

10.30am: Frank Carreon

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 & Josephine

10.30am: Godwin & Lillian

ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

MINISTERS OF THE WORD-THIS WEEKEND

6.30pm: Vikki Benson

8.30am: Dominican Sisters

10.30am: Dominic Van Der Linden

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS-THIS WEEKEND

6.30pm: John Thorne

MINISTERS OF THE WORD 7th & 8th October

6.30pm: Evana Miesen

8.30am: Nathan Costin

10.30am: Samantha Butler

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

6.30pm: Vikki Benson

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

October: Greta/Grace Kratchotvil

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Joseph Aquilina, Avelino Asube Jr, Michael Azzopardi, Philip Debrincat, Madeline Giordmaina, Colleen O'Meara, Joseph Saliba, Dominic Santa Maria, Keith Williams & Charlie Zammit

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 the recently deceased:

Frank Doyle

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

Domenica Amato, Justin Callaway, Dvorka (Dee), Mark Densley, Brian Dobson, Carmen Farrugia, William Lang, John William McDonald, Patricia Pidoto, Ida Suban, Alma Trask, (baby) Matthew Williams, Lorraine Wright.

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 Gaglierbi, 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: 7th & 8th October

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: Lorraine Tellis
8.30am: Pat Chiles
10.30am: Geetha Vincent

CHURCH FLOWERS

October: Ana

CUPPA VOLUNTEERS– 21st & 22nd October

5.00pm Vigil: Judy Van Hoos and Cristal D'Souza
8.30am: Geoff & Debra Sutton & Remy Peroy
10.30am: Doris & Emily Bonello

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 : 7th & 8th October

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

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

CHURCH FLOWERS

October: Beatrice Younger



PRESBYTERY & CHURCH GROUNDS-MOWING

October: 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,

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:	Theresa Anderson	0420 820 118
Group 2:	Leonia Jessop	0450 419 654
Group 3:	Beth & Alex Labrador	0459 326 088

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

All that you have done to us, O Lord,
you have done with true judgement,
for we have sinned against you
and not obeyed your commandments.
But give glory to your name
and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.

FIRST READING Ezekiel 18:25-28

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows:
'You object, "What the Lord does is unjust." Listen, you
House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do
that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integri-
ty to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because
of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner
renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he de-
serves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous
sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 24

Commentator: Remember your mercies, O Lord.

All: Remember your mercies, O Lord.

Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour.

Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
Do not remember the sins of my youth.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord.

The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor.

Remember your mercies, O Lord.

NEXT WEEKEND 'S READINGS –

27TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME– YEAR A

First Reading: Is 5:1-7
Second Reading: Phil 4:6-9
Gospel: Mt 21:33-43



SECOND READING Philippians 2:1-11

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade
at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness
and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in
your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is
the one thing which would make me completely happy. There
must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is
to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better
than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but
everybody thinks of other people's interests instead. In your
minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus:

His state was divine,
yet he did not cling
to his equality with God
but emptied himself
to assume the condition of a slave,
and became as men are;
and being as all men are,
he was humbler yet,
even to accepting death,
death on a cross.
But God raised him high
and gave him the name
which is above all other names
so that all beings
in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld,
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus
and that every tongue should acclaim
Jesus Christ as Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord;
I know them, and they follow me.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 21:28-32

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people,
'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to
the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He
answered, "I will not go", but afterwards thought better of it and
went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second
who answered, "Certainly, sir", but did not go. Which of the two
did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I
tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their
way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you,
a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and
yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that,
you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Remember your word to your servant, O Lord, by which you
have given me hope. This is my comfort when I am brought low.

The Holy Eucharist XXXII

Devotion to the Real Presence and Growth in Sanctity (3)

Now we proceed with an analysis of both the why and the how of cultivating devotion to the Real Presence and this as a means of fostering sanctity. There are three principle reasons why devotion to the Real Presence is such an effective means of fostering holiness.

There is no single mystery of our faith that more surely strengthens the faith than this mystery. It is no wonder that it has been called *the* Mystery of Faith. To believe in the Real Presence is to believe in everything else: the Trinity, the Redemption, and the Incarnation.

We know how demanding this faith can be from that sixth chapter of John's gospel — the only occasion when we know His own disciples walked from Jesus was when He announced the Real Presence. The complaint has been repeated over the centuries. This is intolerable language. Who can believe it? Those who want to believe it.

But let's make sure we know what the object of this faith is. It is not that Christ is present there as God. He was, on earth before the Incarnation. It is not even that the substance of Christ's Body and Blood is there. It is that Christ is present with His physical properties. It is that we believe that Christ is there with that which we cannot see, which we cannot touch, which we cannot experience with our bodily senses. As the *Tantum ergo* says, *faith supplies* the defect of the senses.

Christ has His sensibly perceptible properties in the Eucharist and I believe they are there though my senses cannot perceive them. As we hold our faith it is twice tested in the Eucharist. Christ's contemporaries during His visible stay on earth saw only a man and believed that behind that man is God. We see only the Eucharistic species and behind them we believe there is a Man and behind Him there is God.

Anyone who is weak in his Eucharistic faith, will be weak right down the line across the whole spectrum of the mysteries of Christianity. The main reason for the defection of thousands of priests since the Second Vatican Council was a weakening of faith in the Real Presence. That is absolutely and incontestably true. A priest whose faith in the Real Presence is strong, is a priest who is faithful to his priestly duties, devoted and, with God's grace, is effective in winning souls.

The Real Presence because it is a sacrament confers the grace that is proper to this sacrament. What is the grace? The grace to love. So, why is devotion to the Real Presence so important? Because it is especially through faith in the Eucharist that we obtain an increase of the virtue of charity both towards God and towards our fellow man.

Why is devotion to the Eucharist so valuable for promoting sanctity? Because it fosters community worship. Something mysterious happens when a group of people worship together before the Real Presence.

In other words, they receive grace from that Real Presence that is absolutely unique. That is why religious communities that want to become strong and stable must have communal devotion to the Eucharist.

This is so true that, under no matter what guise of excuse a community weakens in its corporate devotion to the Real Presence, that community is in trouble and if it is not careful is in danger of disintegration.

How to foster progress in holiness through greater devotion to the Real Presence:

- a) Be sure you yourself know the meaning of the mystery of the Real Presence and explain it accordingly to others.
- b) Make sure there is no doubt in anyone's mind that the Eucharist is a sacrament three times over. It is sacrament as Sacrifice in the Mass; it is sacrament as communion when received; it is sacrament as just being present; which means, Christ just because He is present on the altar gives grace. How does He give grace? Infallibly as the *ex opera operato* just because the Blessed Sacrament is reserved therefore everyone who comes before that presence no less than everyone who came before the presence of Christ during His visible stay on earth. You couldn't be in Christ's Presence without being affected by Him. Everything else about life is secondary.
- c) The Holy Hour is something that goes back to Christ's agony in the garden, when He asked Peter, James, and John to watch with Him. St Margaret Mary Alacoque quoted Christ several times. Christ's greatest sorrow as He expressed it was that consecrated souls are so careless about this. Archbishop Sheen preached the Holy Hour in season and out of season. If it has to be broken up to get an hour in — OK. You spend one hour before the Blessed Sacrament each day besides the Mass and you've saved your soul and you become truly religious.
- d) Encourage people when they have the option to pray before the Blessed Sacrament. That does not mean that prayer that is not before the Blessed Sacrament is not very efficacious. But all things being equal, when I have the option I spend the time there.
- e) Ask for a deeper faith in the Real Presence. If Christ tells us, "ask and you shall receive", then if we ask Him for a deeper faith He will give it to us.
- f) Just want to be with the Eucharistic Christ for no other reason. You don't know why. You just want to be around. Do your work before the Blessed Sacrament. Get the idea that He is there. Anything that you can do before the Blessed Sacrament, do it. So, find any excuse to be with Him.
- g) Be so imbued with faith in Christ's Eucharistic Presence that you want to tell everybody else about it. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament means everything to you, so explain the Real Presence, encourage devotion to the Real Presence.