



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

32nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME -YEAR A

12th November 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

St Bernard's - Margaret Love (0437 247 779) Ron Geurts, Vikki Benson &
Marj Tung

Items for the newsletter must be submitted by Wednesday midnight please email parishsecretary83@gmail.com

MASS AND DEVOTIONS

ST ANTHONY'S MELTON SOUTH 13/11/2023-19/11/2023

MASS TIMES:

Monday	13/11	6.30pm
Tuesday	14/11	9.30am & 6.30pm
Wednesday	15/11	9.30am
Thursday	16/11	9.30am
Friday	17/11	9.30am
Saturday	18/11	9.00am

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

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



Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil	18/11	5.00pm
Sunday	19/11	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 13/11/2023-19/11/2023

MASS TIMES:

Monday	13/11	No Mass
Tuesday	14/11	7.30am
Holy Hour		6.30pm
Wednesday	15/11	9.30am
Thursday	16/11	7.30am
Friday	17/11	7.30am
Saturday	18/11	

9.00am

Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil	18/11	6.30pm
Sunday	19/11	8.30am & 10.30am

(Rosary in the Chapel 10.00am on Sundays)

Every Monday-Rosary and Adoration 7pm-8pm in the church.

PLEASE NOTE: OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

KORBEIT NO VIGIL MASS THIS WEEKEND 18th November

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 32nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A 2023

Sr Mary Fermio RSJ

Recent accidents make us aware of people who leave their homes, maybe out celebrating, but never return or arrive at their destination. Their death totally unexpected and probably unprepared for. Only someone who knows they are dying, can prepare for death, for meeting our God.

In the parable of the virgins, Jesus is reminding us to be ready for when he comes to accompany him to the heavenly banquet. The wise virgins were ready for an unexpected delay of the bridegroom. The other five tried unsuccessfully to rely on the generosity of the wise virgins and arrived too late to enter after making last minute attempts to get more oil. Worst of all, the bridegroom claimed he did not know them!

The question for me is when will my time come?
Will I be ready and will the Lord recognise me?
Will my lamp run out of oil while I am waiting?

*Help me, Lord, to build up my stores of spiritual oil through prayer,
the sacraments and
service of others, that I may be ready when you call.*



PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE?

To learn more how the Creed can become the source of joy, join us in this study over the next few weeks Tuesdays 7.15pm Mackillop Room, St Anthony's Church, Melton South. **Lesson 8 Death Has No Victory**

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

Classes for our Sacramental Program will begin early in 2024. If you have a child who is attending a non Catholic school, and would like that child to receive their sacraments, please go to enrol4sacraments@gmail.com and leave your contact details and the child's details, age, grade and sacraments already received. Please note the child must be a baptised Catholic.

CATHOLIC DEAF ANNUAL APPEAL THIS WEEKEND

We will be conducting the Annual Catholic Deaf Appeal this weekend at both Parishes. Please give generously.

FR ALEX CLEMENTE'S INSTALLATION

Fr Alex's Installation as Parish Priest will be held this Saturday 18th November 2023 during the 5pm Vigil Mass at St Anthony's Church. To help us please add your name to the clipboard in the foyer. If you are able to bring a dish to share at the reception please add your details to the second clipboard. Thank you in advance and God Bless

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! Don't forget our special Christmas Night on the 5th December. For more information Rose at Bingo, to pre-pay and book your table.

SAVE THE DATE!!

On Saturday the 25th November, the Social Club will be conducting a Trash & Treasure Market after the Saturday morning Mass. **If you would like to have a stall please contact the Parish Office.** All the profits of your stall will go towards the Extension of Padua Hall. Cash only.

PRIME TIMERS

Our Christmas lunch will be to Stoney's, 59 Grant St. Bacchus Marsh, Tuesday 28th November at 12 pm. Feel free to wear something festive. RSVP by Friday 24th November to confirm booking numbers. Enquiries, Ineke 0400 120 401 or ineke49@yahoo.com.

MARIAN MOVEMENT OF PRIESTS (MMP)

Rev Fr Luca Pescatori is visiting for Masses and Cenacles of Pray. Monday 13th November, 12noon-4pm Fatima Centre, 205-207 Poath Road, Murrumbidgee
Tuesday 14th November 9:30am-11:30am St Mary Star of the Sea Catholic Church, 33 Howard Street, West Melbourne. For more info contact mmpriests@gmail.com or mmpriestsec@gmail.com or visit <https://mmp-oceania.net>

ST BERNARD'S

OFFERTORY GIVING CAMPAIGN

Dear Parishioners, this weekend will conclude our parish offertory giving process. For those of you who have returned your pledge cards, thank you very much for doing so. For those who haven't returned your pledge cards as yet, you can return them in the offertory collections at Mass, at the designated boxes in the foyers of the Churches or to the parish office. There will also be generic pledge cards on the pews this weekend that can be filled out and returned straight away. If you have not yet received a new pledge card, please use one of these cards to make your pledge. Thank you for your faithful participation in our parish offertory process over the past few weeks. Each offering, no matter the amount, is an expression of love and gratitude to God. It is a testament to your faith and trust in His provision.

ST. BERNARD'S CHRISTMAS FAMILY DAY

Come and join us after the 10.30am Mass on SUNDAY 10TH DECEMBER for Christmas Fundraising Fun! We will have an Advent Pageant, BBQ, Drinks, a Craft Stall, Games for the children and adults young at heart, and a visit from St. NICHOLAS with lolly bags.

CHRIST THE KING FEAST DAY NOVEMBER 26TH

On this Solemnity we will have a Eucharistic Procession after 8.30 Mass followed by Benediction. Morning Tea will be held in the Parish Hall afterwards and after 10.30am Mass. Please bring a plate to share.

KSC MEETING: The Knights of the Southern Cross will be meeting this Monday 13th at 8pm in the St Bernards Parish Centre

PLEASE NOTE: THERE IS NO MORNING TEA AFTER MASS THIS SUNDAY.



Prayer for our Dearly Departed

All: O Jesus our loving Saviour, grant we pray you, in your mercy, that through the intercession of Blessed Mary, ever-Virgin, and all your Saints especially our patrons St Anthony of Padua and St Bernard of Clairvaux, that our friends, relatives, members of our family and parish community who have passed from this world, may attain a share in everlasting happiness. Amen

Priest: Eternal Rest grant unto them O Lord All: And let your perpetual light shine upon them.

Priest: May they rest in peace. All: Amen

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: 18th & 19th November

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: Not required

8.30am: Mercy Seufatu

10.30am: Rose Ma'ae

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Not required

8.30am: Ron Howard and Philip Anyayahan

10.30am: John Ma'ae

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

MASS COORDINATORS

5.00pm: Godwin & Olen

8.30am: Lillian & Josephine

10.30am: Godwin & Lillian

ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

MINISTERS OF THE WORD—THIS WEEKEND

6.30pm: Vikki Benson

8.30am: Maggie Kratochvil

10.30am: Chloe Lindorff

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS-THIS WEEKEND

6.30pm: John Thorne

MINISTERS OF THE WORD 18th & 19th November

6.30pm: Volunteer needed

8.30am: Margaret Love

10.30am: Volunteer needed

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

6.30pm: Colin Remedios

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

November: John Thorne

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Wanda Biechun, Michael Borg, Douglas Leslie, Tony Sciberras and Imelda Thomson.

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:

Sheila Barratt, Eileen Closter, Jack Glasheen, Grace Green, Lorna Hives & Desmond Trask.

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, Charlie, Gary Ching, Josephine Cilia, Brendan Coburn, Robyn Cola, Ted Cooling, Lindsay & Kathleen Dally, Judy Delahey, Theresa Dockter, Allison Evans, Helen Evans, Evelyn, George Farrell, Yvonne Feliciouz, 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, Joe, 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: 18th & 19th November

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: Julie Sequiera

8.30am: Ineke Allen

10.30am: Loretta Soba

CHURCH FLOWERS

November: Rosabella

CUPPA VOLUNTEERS— November

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 1st Tuesday of the month in the Mackillop 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. res: 100 Coburn's 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: 18th & 19th November

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: 6.30pm: Margot Short

Sunday: 8.30am: Carmel Shea

10.30am: Natalia Klenkowski



CHURCH FLOWERS

November: Natalia Klenkowski

PRESBYTERY & CHURCH GROUNDS-MOWING

November: Stuart Robertson & 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,

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:	Shane & Dolly Barrow	0439 386 130
Group 2:	Kim & Villy Nguyen	0403 751 343
Group 3:	Josephine German	0478 288 761

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

Let my prayer come before you, Lord;
Listen, and answer me.

FIRST READING A reading from the book of Wisdom
Wisdom is bright, and does not grow dim.
By those who love her she is readily seen,
and found by those who look for her.
Quick to anticipate those who desire her, she makes herself known to them.
Watch for her early and you will have no trouble;
you will find her sitting at your gates.
Even to think about her is understanding fully grown;
be on the alert for her and anxiety will quickly leave you.
She herself walks about looking for those who are worthy of her and graciously shows herself to them as they go,
in every thought of theirs coming to meet them.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 130

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.

On my bed I remember you.
On you I muse through the night
for you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.

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

NEXT WEEKEND 'S READINGS –

33RD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME– YEAR A

First Reading: Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31

Second Reading: 1 Thess 5:1-6

Gospel: Mt 25:14-30



SECOND READING A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him. We can tell you this from the Lord's own teaching, that any of us who are left alive until the Lord's coming will not have any advantage over those who have died. At the trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel will call out the command and the Lord himself will come down from heaven; those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise, and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up in the clouds, together with them, to meet the Lord in the air. So we shall stay with the Lord for ever. With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Be watchful and ready:

you know not when the Son of Man is coming.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL *Matthew 25:1-13*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Jesus told this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, "The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him." At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out." But they replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves." They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said, "open the door for us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do not know you." So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord is my Shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. In green pastures he gives me rest, he leads me beside the waters of peace

The Holy Eucharist XXXVIII

My Eucharistic Day

(5) Before the Altar Throne: Thursday

The Desires Of Our Eucharistic Lord

"I Long to Be Loved by Men"

By his Presence among us at all times, Jesus restores to us the joys of Paradise. He permits us to speak familiarly with him, to find him whenever we desire and to remain near him as long as we wish.

Three centuries ago our Lord drew aside the veil, which hides him from us, in favour of one of his most humble servants. Our Lord showed himself to Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, kneeling before the Tabernacle, and presented to her his Heart — the Heart which had led him to condemn himself to the annihilation of the Eucharist, in order to be the Friend, the Consoler, the Refuge not only of chosen souls but of all who suffer.

Looking through the veil which hid the future, our compassionate Saviour saw our souls beset by doubts, overcome by sadness and exhausted by the trials of life, weak and without energy like our bodies, dragging rather than walking along the way to Heaven, and Satan making every effort to have us forget the gentle words which the Divine lips had uttered — **"Come unto me all you who labour and I will refresh you."**

"Come to me who am with you in the Eucharist until the consummation of the world. It is not those who are well but the sick who need the doctor, and I came not only for the just, but for sinners. In the Tabernacle where my love keeps me present day and night, I am still He who would not break the bruised reed nor quench the smoking flax."

Finally, we should realise that it is our misery and sinfulness that gives us a right to go to him, that the most miserable are always the first to be admitted to his Heart and are the objects of his tender solicitude.

He comes to humble and simple souls to remind us all that he is there in the Host and on the altar for us, who have nothing to offer to God, his Father, neither love, fervour nor courage; so it is for us to take and offer him in place of what is wanting in us.

He is there day and night pleading for us, ready to make good our weakness. He protects us from Divine Justice as soon as we take refuge in his Heart and which we should do like a child who, when ashamed, guilty or hurt, seeks refuge in the arms of its mother.

If anything could wound his Heart now, it would not be so much our failures and our daily faults, as our

forgetfulness of his merciful tenderness and our want of confidence in his unchangeable love.

No one need be discouraged unless he be ignorant of the sacrifices to which Jesus submitted in order to shut himself up in the Blessed Sacrament, because in this way he could be our Friend and Mediator.

Yet we, to whom he has revealed these mysteries of his love, continue to doubt his infinite tenderness for each one of us ... his extraordinary desire for our happiness! To doubt, we must never have fixed our gaze on the Host — never in our thoughts counted the humiliation to which our good Master has had to submit in order to remain in the fragile Host submitting to our wills and to our mercy.

Oh, however weak, cowardly and miserable we may be, we cannot refuse him the only reward which he desires and which is to have us throw ourselves into his arms and there abandon our anguish and sorrow!

Can we be ungrateful to the point of inflicting on him the supreme humiliation of doubting the tenderness of his Heart, we the chosen confidants of his love? Such is the misery of our poor nature, for even good Christians may be heard to ask, "Of what use is my life? I do not know how to pray or to do any good."

How mistaken are these souls so dear to Jesus, in thinking they are useless! One moment's reflection would suffice to show them that love and prayer and everything good are within their reach.

Even while they give way to desolation, Jesus concealed in order to belong to them in a more tender and intimate way is waiting for them in the Host, his hands and his Heart filled with the graces which would give them courage and smooth out the difficulties of the way, if only they knew how to go to him.

Christian souls, have you ever meditated on the gentleness, which attracted little children, the sorrowful, and even sinners to Jesus?

Have you ever pictured to yourselves the welcome that Martha, Magdalen, Lazarus, the disciples and friends of Jesus gave their Divine Master? Have you read attentively those pages of the Gospel which show them surrounding him with tender respect, sweet familiarity and entire confidence?

Why do we not go to him with the same trust, the same loving and respectful familiarity?

Is he not the same Jesus of Judea and Galilee, the same Jesus who showed himself to Magdalen, to Thomas and the others after his Resurrection? He has