



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

33rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME -YEAR A

19th 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

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 20/11/2023-26/11/2023

MASS TIMES:

Monday	20/11	6.30pm
Tuesday	21/11	9.30am & 6.30pm
Wednesday	22/11	9.30am
Thursday	23/11	9.30am
Friday	24/11	9.30am
Saturday	25/11	9.00am

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

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



Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil	25/11	5.00pm
Sunday	26/11	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 20/11/2023-26/11/2023

MASS TIMES:

Monday	20/11	No Mass
Tuesday	21/11	7.30am
Holy Hour		6.30pm
Wednesday	22/11	9.30am
Thursday	23/11	7.30am
Friday	24/11	7.30am
Saturday	25/11	9.00am

Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil	25/11	6.30pm
Sunday	26/11	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	25/11	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 33rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A 2023 Mt. 25:14-30 – Fr Wilford Urmaza

THE PARABLE OF THE TALENTS

In ancient times, a "talent" refers to a unit of weight, which translates to about 80 lbs. of silver or gold. When used as a currency, its value is approximately equivalent to several years of labor for a single talent.

A talent is a sizeable sum of money that emphasizes the priceless riches of God and, in a broader sense, encompasses the different opportunities, gifts, and abilities God bestows upon His people. It inspires them to serve God and others by making prudent and beneficial use of these riches.

In this parable, the Master bestows talents on his servants before departing. While one of the servants buried his talent in the ground and produced nothing, the other two invested and multiplied their talents profitably. When He returned, He commended the two servants as good and faithful and chastised the ineffective one.

This story conveys what stewardship is all about. It presupposes the responsibility and accountability of persons entrusted with (much) valuable resources.

What does it entail to be a good steward?

First, he recognizes that all resources belong to God and that he is a mere steward entrusted with managing them wisely.

Second, he acknowledges the responsibility to use such resources for God's purpose and the well-being of others.

Third, he recognizes the necessity of accountability in managing such resources and that there will be a day of reckoning.

Lastly, he strives to multiply the impact of resources, be they skills, time, or material possessions, for the benefit of others and for building up God's kingdom.

In essence, this lesson encourages believers to view resources as opportunities to serve God and humanity actively and to seek ways to multiply the positive outcome of those resources. Only then will God summon these good and faithful servants to come and share His joy.

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 9 The Holy Spirit**

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

Last weekend we had a special collection for the Catholic Deaf Annual Appeal. St Anthony's collected \$625.20 and St Bernard's collected \$435.00. Thank you for your generosity.

ST ANTHONY'S

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION 8th DECEMBER

Please join us in our dedication for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Friday 8th December Rosary 6.30pm Mass 7.00pm followed by a procession and fellowship. Novena will be recited at each mass beginning Tuesday 29th November and conclude on the Feast Day.

MARKET

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.

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 contact Rose at Bingo, to pre-pay and book your table.**

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

ST BERNARD'S

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 PRIEST FEAST DAY NOVEMBER 26TH

Come and celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King. We will have a Eucharistic Procession after the 8.30 am Mass followed by Benediction. (10.30am mass goers are encouraged to arrive earlier in time to join in with the Procession which will begin at around 9.30 am) This is our opportunity to declare to the world that Jesus is the Lord of the world and King above all kings and rulers. Let us invoke His aid during these turbulent times. Morning tea will be held in the Parish centre after the Procession and also after the 10.30am Mass. Please bring a plate to share.

ST BERNARD'S NEW THANKSGIVING/OFFERTORY GIVING PROGRAMME

Thank you for your involvement in the Parish Offertory Giving program. This new programme asked both present givers and new givers to complete a pledge card. The card's main focus was the giving programme but it also allowed first (clergy) collection to be given electronically. I hope this process allowed you to prayerfully discern your offering towards our parish community. It has been so encouraging to see such a large number of pledge cards being returned to our parish office. Thank you to everyone who handed in their cards. We are now in the follow up week/s where we will be seeking any pledges which haven't been returned. If you haven't already done so, I encourage you to carefully consider your offering and return your pledge cards to the parish office or into any of mass collections.

KSC RACING GAME SCORES – WEEK 21

H. Miller – 80 J. Righetti – 76
P. Diacono – 68 Q. Tibballs – 66



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: 25th & 26th 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: Michelle Tennakoon

8.30am: Leonia Jessop

10.30am: Joseph Ma'ae

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Dolores Turcsan & Aloysious Dacunha

8.30am: Roa Seufatu & Geoff Sutton

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: Lillian & Godwin

10.30am: Annonika & Olen

ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

MINISTERS OF THE WORD-THIS WEEKEND

6.30pm: Volunteer needed

8.30am: Margaret Love

10.30am: Dominic Van Der Linden

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS-THIS WEEKEND

6.30pm: Colin Remedios

MINISTERS OF THE WORD 25th & 26th November

6.30pm: Volunteer needed

8.30am: Gerard O'Shea

10.30am: Samantha Butler

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

6.30pm: John Thorne

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

November: John Thorne

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Anthony D'Cruz, Francis D'Cruz, Jorris D'Cruz,
Joseph Gomez, Rosa Gomez, Peter Quinn & Stella Silva

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:

Carmel Andrews, Antonio Battaglia, Arthur Bell, Marie Bridget, Guinness Connell, Anthony Giani, Patricia Haire, Carmel Moore & Jean Tobin.

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: 25th & 26th November

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

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

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.
ress: 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 : 25th & 26th November

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: 6.30pm: Marj Tung
Sunday: 8.30am: Dianne Shelly
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:	John & Rose Ma'ae	0460 672 571
Group 2:	Tune & Epi Kepu	0410 416 445
Group 3:	Helen Calleja	0401 497 980

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

The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction. You will call upon me, and I will answer you, and I will lead back your captives from every place.

FIRST READING Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31

A perfect wife - who can find her?

She is far beyond the price of pearls.

Her husband's heart has confidence in her,
from her he will derive no little profit.

Advantage and not hurt she brings him
all the days of her life.

She is always busy with wool and with flax,
she does her work with eager hands.

She sets her hands to the distaff,
her fingers grasp the spindle.

She holds out her hand to the poor,
she opens her arms to the needy.

Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty;
the woman who is wise is the one to praise.

Give her a share in what her hands have worked for,
and let her works tell her praises at the city gates.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 127

Commentator: Happy are those who fear the Lord.

All: Happy are those who fear the Lord.

O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!

By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper.

Your wife like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table.

Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.

May the Lord bless you from Zion
in a happy Jerusalem
all the days of your life.

Happy are those who fear the Lord.

NEXT WEEKEND 'S READINGS –

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE–

YEAR A

First Reading: Ezek 34:11-12, 15-17

Second Reading: 1 Cor 15:20-26, 28

Gospel: Mt 25:31-46



SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

You will not be expecting us to write anything to you, brothers, about 'times and seasons,' since you know very well that the Day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. It is when people are saying, 'How quiet and peaceful it is,' that the worst suddenly happens, as suddenly as labour pains come on a pregnant woman; and there will be no way for anybody to evade it.

But it is not as if you live in the dark, my brothers, for that Day to overtake you like a thief. No, you are all sons of light and sons of the day: we do not belong to the night or to darkness, so we should not go on sleeping, as everyone else does, but stay wide awake and sober.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord;
my branches bear much fruit.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 25:14-30

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out. The man who had received the five talents promptly went and traded with them and made five more. The man who had received two made two more in the same way. But the man who had received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness." Next the man with the two talents came forward. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with two talents; here are two more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness." Last came forward the man who had the one talent. "Sir," said he "I had heard you were a hard man, reaping where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered; so I was afraid, and I went off and hid your talent in the ground. Here it is; it was yours, you have it back." But his master answered him, "You wicked and lazy servant! So you knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered? Well then, you should have deposited my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have recovered my capital with interest. So now, take the talent from him and give it to the man who has the five talents. For to everyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from the man who has not, even what he has will be taken away. As for this good-for-nothing servant, throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

To be near God is my happiness,
to place my hope in God the Lord.

The Holy Eucharist XXXIX

My Eucharistic Day

(6) Before the Altar Throne: Friday

The Friendship of Our Eucharistic Lord

"I Will Be With You All Days"

Let us remember that near the Host we share the happiness of Mary and Joseph, the Shepherds and the Magi, the Apostles and the Holy Women, since we have the same Jesus with us in the most intimate union, and can speak to him heart to heart as they did.

And now, we recall to you how, by his Eucharistic Presence among us, our Divine Master wishes to calm our fears and doubts, how he dispels the sad thoughts that the devil all too often suggests, to turn us from the service of God, by inspiring disgust for prayer and Holy Communion. Jesus wishes to save us from our present trials and from discouragement, which is truly the greatest of all evils.

We desire particularly to draw your attention to the manifestation of his Sacred Heart, which serious reflection will show us is not merely a shining revelation but the sweetest encouragement, since in it we can clearly see the beginning of an era of mercy, of tenderness and love for poor humanity.

We must accustom ourselves to see Jesus in the Host, just as he really is, a living Person with a Heart filled with love and tenderness. A real Person who loves us and wishes to have us come to him as to one whom we love above all others. With such reflections, love will be quickly enkindled in our hearts.

How, indeed, is it possible not to love with all our heart one so gentle, so defenceless and even unable to beg for the respect and love for which he longs and to which he has every right? It is his love for us that made him choose this helpless condition, this Host, which delivers him to our love as well as to our scorn and neglect.

Let us not complain of our coldness, the distractions and frivolous or evil thoughts that assail us in our prayers. Why not substitute for our poor, weak prayers those of our Eucharistic God? He is there in the Host, to be not only our Victim and our nourishment but also our Mediator with God the Father.

When you feel yourself incapable of prayer, instead of tiring your mind with useless efforts, come to the Tabernacle. There, in your thoughts, lift up Jesus Sacramental to the Heavenly Father and say to him, "In the name of your Son, have pity on me, have pity on my loved ones."

Such a prayer will be all-powerful with the Heart of God. There is much virtue in these simple words. They are worth the most sublime prayers! These words spoken by the weakest, humblest soul, can obtain all from the Saviour.

Did not Jesus promise? that "All whatsoever you shall ask the Father in my name, he will give to you"? ... The Good Master does not say: "That for which you ask

without distractions or ... with the most tender devotion and sensible fervour." No, he says: "What you ask in my name ..."

Ah! Believe me, the only truly efficacious prayer is the one that feels its own weakness, and feels it deeply and which does not rest on itself but is united to the Heart of Jesus.

Do we not feel that our poor prayers in themselves are nothing? Even were we angels, could we think that our voices would have any virtue before the Infinite Majesty of God?

But if our prayers pass through the Heart and lips of the hidden God of the Host, then they will be no longer the voices only of weak creatures disfigured by Original Sin, but the voice of Jesus, which cried to the Heavenly Father from the Cross, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

What prayer did the Good Master praise? Was it Saint Peter's when, in ecstasy he cried out, "Lord, it is good to be here"?

No, the prayer that seemed to call forth his admiration was that of the poor pagan woman who brought her daughter to his feet because she was tormented by a devil; that woman whom apparently he rebuked but who persisted in spite of all, trusting in that kindness of which she had heard such wonders.

Another prayer praised by our Lord was that of the poor publican who, understanding his wretchedness, profoundly humiliated himself, saying from the depths of his heart, "Lord, have mercy on me a sinner . . ."

The less we trust in ourselves and the more we trust in the mercy of Jesus, the more we shall touch his Heart. Jesus does not ask for long prayers, beautiful thoughts and well-arranged sentences. He would rather have one word from our hearts, a humble avowal of our helplessness, an appeal to his merciful tenderness, and the surrender of our hearts, our thoughts, our wishes and our will into his hands.

Should the voice of Satan whisper, "Of what use is it to stay there before the Host, with your heart cold and your mind distracted, prolonging a prayer that you do not know how to say?" my answer would be to show him the humble plant which is fading at the foot of the altar, the little burning lamp consuming itself before the Host.

How much Jesus loves those souls who, knowing how weak and useless they are, remain peaceful and humble before him, saying, "Here I am, helpless, and useless but at least this hour of my life will be spent before you."

Again, you say, "I do no good; I always fall back into the same faults, my life is useless. Why am I not sad?"

Dear Souls, were I not afraid of hurting your feelings I would tell you to be ashamed of such words!

Does not the Blood of Jesus count? That blood that is offered up every day on the altar to purify your soul and to which you can unite your intention?