



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, KOROBEIT
309 MYRNIONG-KOROBEIT ROAD 3341

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME -YEAR B

21st January 2024

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.sfcc.vic.edu.au

In the case of urgent situations-sickness etc. please call 0422 869 646

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL COUNCIL

Godwin Barton	0425 734 449
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 22/1/2024-28/1/2024

MASS TIMES:

Monday	22/1	6.30pm
Tuesday	23/1	6.30pm
Wednesday	24/1	9.30am
Thursday	25/1	9.30am
Friday	26/1	9.30am
Saturday	27/1	9.00am

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

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



Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil	27/1	5.00pm
Sunday	28/1	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 22/1/2024-28/1/2024

MASS TIMES:

Monday	22/1	No Mass
Tuesday	23/1	9.30am
Holy Hour		7.00pm
Wednesday	24/1	9.30am
Thursday	25/1	9.30am
Friday	26/1	9.30am
Saturday	27/1	9.00am

Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil	27/1	6.30pm
Sunday	28/1	8.30am & 10.30am

(Rosary in the Chapel 10.00am on Sundays)

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	27/1	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.

3rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME -Mark 1:14-20 -YEAR B-Fr Wilford Urmaza

The Gospel of Mark presents the coming of the Kingdom of God. In this context, the Kingdom of God alludes to the reign of God established through Jesus' works with His disciples to lead them to the way of the cross.

John the Baptist, the herald of Jesus, whose primary role in salvation history is to proclaim the Kingdom of God by telling the people to repent and prepare the way of the Lord. At the culmination of John the Baptist's mission, Jesus starts His public ministry with a powerful proclamation: "The time of fulfillment and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.

The time of fulfillment and the Kingdom of God is at hand refers to the messianic prophecy revealed in the Old Testament on God's promise to send the Messiah to save His people from sins. And that people ought to repent and believe in Him.

This announcement marks a significant turning point in salvation history. Jesus invites people to turn away from their old ways, signaling a new era of God's presence and reign.

Under this circumstance, Jesus needed assistants to inaugurate the so-called ministry to work alongside Him. Jesus invites ordinary people to embark on an extraordinary mission. He chose fishermen as His first disciples whom He would consider fishers of men (because they would catch people for Jesus) and no longer fish. Jesus never looks at their social or educational qualifications, but He qualifies them for the tasks.

And why fishermen? Jesus must have seen them as dependable and enduring for the tasks ahead with their strength and energy as fishermen. They understood the value of total dependence on God. In casting their nets into the sea, faith provides a significant impact and relation to God's providential character. Just as we pray The Lord's Prayer, they, too, hope to receive their daily sustenance from the Provider Himself.

In summary, while Jesus chooses ordinary fishermen as His disciples, this emphasizes that God's call resonates with everyone, regardless of social status or occupation. It highlights the transformative potential within each person when touched by the grace and call of Christ.

Becoming a disciple, therefore, demands not just obedience to the Master but the propensity to sacrifice and give up everything for the sake of His purpose. Like the Blessed Mother, whose concurrence to the divine will changed the world's perspective, our "yes" to every opportunity to serve, believe, and renew matters most in the Kingdom of God.

PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

FAITH FORMATION-ADULTS

Our Faith Formation talks continue in the Mackillop Room, St Anthony's Church Tuesday 23rd January at 7.15pm.
Topic: Baptism and Confirmation

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!

MOTHER'S DAY BINGO SPECIAL-7th MAY 2024

Join us for a night of fun. \$200 package=47games
Deposits are being taken from the 23/1 until 30/4.
Minimum deposit \$20.00. Tickets Non Refundable.
42 X \$400 games
2 X \$999 games
2 X \$2000 games
Last Jackpot 1 X \$10,000
Contact Rose for further details on 0460 672 571

PRIME TIMERS

Our first meeting for 2024 will be 11.30am Tuesday, 30th January at the Leisure Centre, Lifestyle Village, Coburns Rd. Melton South. BYO lunch, tea and coffee provided.
Enquiries contact Ineke, ineke49@yahoo.com or 0400120401.

CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH

-FROM ELIZABETH UNDERWOOD

Christmas day was as I had expected. We had 56 people who I felt blessed to be given the opportunity to share my day with. We had more than enough food that people were able to take something home for dinner. This was made possible with support from my family, friends from the Care and Concern group and a few parishioners at St Anthony's. I'd also like to thank my daughter Janice and her husband Felix who did most of the cooking. I had 2 volunteers who came from Altona who enjoyed the day and asked if they could come back to help with the next lunch!

CHRISTMAS LUNCH-THANK YOU

A big thank you to Elizabeth Underwood and her family who hosted Christmas lunch for some of our Parishioners and their families who were alone on Christmas Day. Looks like a great time was had by all.
Photos on noticeboard.

ST BERNARD'S

WEEKDAY MASSES

Parishioners please note all our weekday masses during the school holidays will commence at 9.30am.

AUSTRALIA DAY PRAYER-26th JANUARY

***We bless you, God of the universe,
for this land,
for its contrasts of landscape and climate,
for its abundance of wealth and opportunity.
We bless you for our history,
with all its struggle in adversity,
its courage and hope,
Give us in our diversity
tolerance and respect for each other
and a passionate commitment to justice for all.
Bless us so that we might be a blessing to
others.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.***

Source: [Australia Day Prayer \(catholicdoors.com\)](https://catholicdoors.com/Australia-Day-Prayer)



© dreamstime.com

***"Lord, guide and direct our governments,
magistrates, councils, and neighbourhoods, and
all our comings and goings, in the ways of peace."***

Source: A Year With The Church Fathers-Mike Aquilina

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: 27th & 28th January

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 & Mary Felix
8.30am: Mercy Seufatu & Geoff Sutton
10.30am: Rose Ma'ae & Rhys Tuala

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Leo Felix & Dolores Turcsan
8.30am: Philip Anyayahan & Roa Seufatu
10.30am: John Ma'ae & Elizabeth Underwood

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

MASS COORDINATORS

5.00pm: Leonia & Godwin
8.30am: Josephine & Godwin
10.30am: Leonia & Godwin

ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 27th & 28th January

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

6.30pm: Jeremy Toledo
8.30am: Margaret Love
10.30am: Helena Lindorff

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

6.30pm: John Thorne
8.30am: Tup Shea
10.30am: Cheryl Stevens

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

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

January: Parish Office

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Anton Belacic & Romauld Correa

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:

Margaret Barry (Chinkapook), Keith Cleaver, & Mary Patricia (Pat) Cooper

Funeral service for Pat Cooper will be held 11:00am on Monday 22nd January 2024 at St Bernard's Church.

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

Janet Bourke, Barry Dean, Mary Griffith, Jeanette Hurley, Ronald Knight, Joe Marshall, Salvatore (Sam) Provenzano, Margaret Rose, Gerald Shanahan, Elka Timmins & Joan Welsh.

Please pray for the Sick:

Patricia Allison, Noah Barlow, 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 Felicouz, 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: 27th & 28th January 2024

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

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

CHURCH FLOWERS

January: Ana

CUPPA VOLUNTEERS—

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 : 27th & 28th January 2024

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: 6.30pm: Jan Farmelo
Sunday: 8.30am: Jan & Colm
10.30am: Natalia Klenkowski

CHURCH FLOWERS

January: Tup Shea



PRESBYTERY & CHURCH GROUNDS-MOWING

January: 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:	Carmen Vella	0429 435 724
Group 2:	Sr Therese Dagge	0418 480 880
Group 3:	Tony & Stella Cochran	9743 6340

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

O sing a new song to the Lord;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
In his presence are majesty and splendour,
strength and honour in his holy place.

FIRST READING Jonah 3:1-5, 10

The word of the Lord was addressed to Jonah: 'Up!' he said 'Go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach to them as I told you to.' Jonah set out and went to Nineveh in obedience to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was a city great beyond compare: it took three days to cross it. Jonah went on into the city, making a day's journey. He preached in these words, 'Only forty days more and Nineveh is going to be destroyed.' And the people of Nineveh believed in God; they proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth from the greatest to the least.

God saw their efforts to renounce their evil behaviour. And God relented: he did not inflict on them the disaster which he had threatened.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 24

Commentator: Teach me your ways, O Lord.

All: Teach me your ways, 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.
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.

Teach me your ways, O Lord.

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Brothers: our time is growing short. Those who have wives should live as though they had none, and those who mourn should live as though they had nothing to mourn for; those who are enjoying life should live as though there were nothing to laugh about; those whose life is buying things should live as though they had nothing of their own; and those who have to deal with the world should not become engrossed in it. I say this because the world as we know it is passing away.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The kingdom of God is near:
believe the Good News!

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mark 1:14-20

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'
As he was walking along by the Sea of Galilee he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net in the lake - for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you into fishers of men.'
And at once they left their nets and followed him.
Going on a little further, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they too were in their boat, mending their nets, he called them at once, and, leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the men he employed, they went after him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Look toward the Lord and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.

NEXT WEEKEND 'S READINGS –

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME–YEAR B

First Reading: Deut 18:15-20

Second Reading: 1 Cor 7:32-35

Gospel: Mk 1:21-28



The Holy Eucharist XLVI

My Eucharistic Day

Your Life of Adoration

Now we must bear in mind that adoration is a dialogue.

The adorer must speak to our Lord, and listen to him.

As in everything else we must prepare ourselves for adoration —

“My Son, before meditation prepare thy soul.”

Prepare, therefore, the day of your appointment with our Lord. Read over the subject of your meditation before going to church and endeavour to be practical and consistent with your devotions towards your God.

Every Christian should reproduce in himself this ideal of the life of Christ: “I seek not my own will, but the will of him that sent me” (John 8:29).

“For I do always the things that please him” (John 5:30).

Speak to Our Lord

Eucharistic Adoration has for its object the Divine Person of Our Lord Jesus Christ present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. In this Sacrament he lives, he wishes us to speak to him and he will speak to us.

Everyone may speak to our Lord. Is he not there for all? Does he not say, “Come ye all to me”?

This familiar converse between the soul and Our Lord is true Eucharistic meditation; it is adoration. Everyone has the grace for it. To succeed in it, and to shun routine and dryness of the heart, however, the adorers should draw their inspiration from the different mysteries of our Lord's life; from the Blessed Virgin in order to honour and glorify the God of the Eucharist by all the virtues of his mortal life; as well as by the virtues of the saints, of whom he was the means and the end, and of whom he is today the crown and the glory.

Look upon your hour of adoration as a heavenly hour, an hour in Paradise. If you go to it as if you were going to heaven, to the Divine Banquet, you will long for this hour and hail it with joy.

Quietly nourish in your heart the desire for it. Say to yourself: “In four hours, in two hours, in one hour, I shall go to an audience with the Lord of grace and love. He has invited me.”

By St Peter Julian Eymard, catholicculture.org

If the hour proves difficult to you, rejoice even more. Your love will be increased on account of the hardship it entails. That is a privileged hour; it will count for two. If through infirmity, sickness or any other impossibility you cannot make your adoration, be sad for a moment. Then adore in spirit and in union with the other adorers of that hour.

Come As You Are

Go to our Lord just as you are. Make a simple meditation. Exhaust your own fund of piety and love before you make use of books. Love the inexhaustible book of humility and charity.

However, it is well to take with you a pious book, in order to recall your thoughts when your mind wanders or when your senses are dull. Remember that our good Master prefers the poverty of our heart to the most sublime thoughts and affections borrowed from others. Understand well that our Lord desires our own heart, and not that of others. He wants the thought and the prayer of your heart as a natural expression of love for him. To be unwilling to go to our Lord with one's misery and one's humiliating poverty, is often the fruit of subtle self-love, of restlessness or tepidity, and yet that misery and poverty are what our Lord prefers to every other gift. He loves it.

You are entirely powerless to act? Your mind is in darkness? Make the adoration of the poor mendicant of the Gospel. Rise out of your poverty that he may enrich it, for that is a masterstroke worthy of his glory.

You are in a state of temptation and distress? You are urged in thought to forgo your adoration under the pretext that you are offending God and that you dishonour him more than you serve him? Hearken not to so groundless a temptation. Make the adoration of fidelity to Jesus against self-love. No! You do not displease him. You rejoice your Master, who is looking at you and who has permitted Satan to tempt you. He expects from you the homage of perseverance up to the last moment of the time that should be consecrated to him.

Do you wish to be happy? Live then, continually in the goodness of Jesus Christ, which is ever longing for you. Contemplate in Jesus the work of his love for you, the beauty of his virtues and the light of his love. With us the fire of love passes quickly, but Jesus' truth remains forever.

(To Be Continued)