



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

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME -YEAR B

28th 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

For any queries regarding the newsletter please contact Lesley Morffew 9747 9692

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

MASS AND DEVOTIONS

ST ANTHONY'S MELTON SOUTH 29/1/2024-04/2/2024

MASS TIMES:

Monday	29/1	6.30pm
Tuesday	30/1	9.30am & 6.30pm
Wednesday	31/1	9.30am
Thursday	1/2	9.30am
Friday	2/2	9.30am
First Friday Devotions	commences	7.30pm
Saturday	3/2 First Saturday	9.00am

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

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



Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil	3/2	5.00pm
Sunday	4/2	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 29/1/2024-04/2/2024

MASS TIMES:

Monday	29/1	No Mass
Tuesday	30/1	7.30am
Holy Hour		7.00pm
Wednesday	31/1	9.30am
Thursday	1/2	7.30am
Friday	2/2	7.30am
Saturday	3/2	9.00am

Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil	3/2	6.30pm
Sunday	4/2	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	3/2	5.00pm
-------	------------	--------

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.

4th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME –YEAR B-Mary Fermio rsj

Parents often have to tell their children to Listen to them! Friends can sit and listen (or turn off!) to each other, but it is only by listening that we get to know each other. Listening not only with our ears but with our inner self.

Today's readings command us to **LISTEN**, otherwise we shall be accountable to God. The people in the synagogue listened to Jesus, realising his words were spoken with authority, not on the authority of some famous Rabbi. It was a **"teaching that was new"**, so many turned up to hear him, to follow him, sometimes for days just to listen to his words. Jesus taught simply, using images the people understood – not theology his people could not understand.

Each time we go to Mass we are privileged to **LISTEN** to the words of Jesus, who speaks to each of us personally. We don't read the bulletin, close our eyes, look around...Jesus is speaking to me! Men and women, who are Lector Ministers, have the responsibility to read slowly, clearly, to the Congregation, because he/she **PROCLAIMS** God's word – not just reading them. There is a big difference!

How well do I listen? To whom am I listening? I am accountable to God for how I learn and act on these words.
What did I hear Jesus say to me today?



PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

FAITH FORMATION-ADULTS

Our Faith Formation talks continue in the Mackillop Room, St Anthony's Church Tuesdays at 7.15pm.

ST ANTHONY'S

WEEKDAY MASS TIMETABLE

Parishioners please note we are back to our normal weekly mass timetable, please see page 2.



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 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.

ST BERNARD'S

WEEKDAY MASS TIMETABLE

Parishioners please note we are back to our normal weekly mass timetable, please see page 2.

SOCIAL and FUNDRAISING EVENT

Come and celebrate SHROVE TUESDAY on Tuesday 13th February in the Parish Centre at 6.00pm

Enjoy pancakes with a variety of toppings with a cup of tea or coffee.

GOLD COIN DONATION.

CRAFT AND CUPPA GROUP

Craft and cuppa group runs every First and Third Thursday of the month at 9.00 am in the Parish Centre. Bring your craft and ideas, or learn something new. All welcome! Please bring a plate to share for morning tea.

MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE SOCIAL AND FUNDRAISING TEAM

We need enthusiastic parishioners to help us co-ordinate events for our parish to build up social connections and raise much needed funds for our Church. If you can join the team or just help when available, please leave your name on the clipboard in the foyer or come to our meeting on

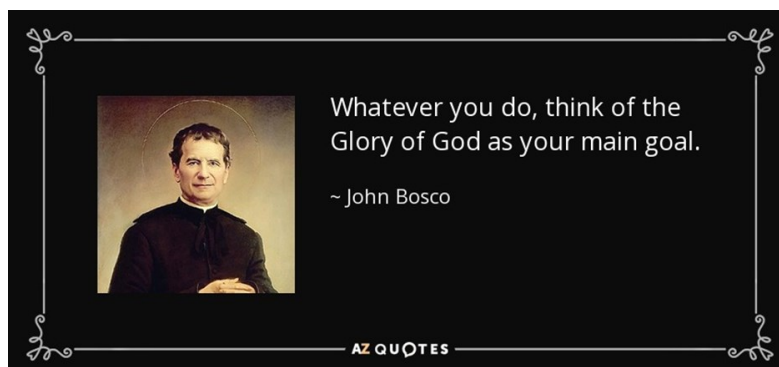
Tuesday 30th January in the Parish Centre at 6.30pm.

For more information call Natalia on 0409445552.

St John Bosco Feast Day 31st January

On January 31, the Roman Catholic Church honours St. John Bosco (or "Don Bosco"), a 19th century Italian priest who reached out to young people to remedy their lack of education, opportunities, and faith.

Patron of: apprentices, editors and publishers, schoolchildren, magicians, and juvenile delinquents



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: 3rd & 4th February

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 & Michelle Tennakoon

8.30am: Amy Honrade & Leonia Jessop

10.30am: Susan Malinov & Rosabella Tuala

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Gavin Pereira & Ann Tennakoon

8.30am: Geoff Sutton & Ron Howard

10.30am: Frank Carreon & Cita Carreon

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

MASS COORDINATORS

5.00pm: Natalie & Ron

8.30am: Josephine & Godwin

10.30am: Leonia & Annonica

ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 3rd & 4th February

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

6.30pm: Maureen Zahra

8.30am: Evana Miesen

10.30am: Rita Marshall

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

6.30pm: John Thorne

8.30am: Liz Warbuton

10.30am: John Wilson

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

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

February: To be advised

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Anton Belacic, Rosa Portelli, Eunice McRoberts, Tulo Tuala & Andrew Waleryszak .

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:

Olive Andrews, Rodney Arnold, Mary Cassar, Thelma Crowley, Gary Dodd, Richard Evans, Mercy Kumar, Denis Lennox, Dorothy (Jill) Phyllis, Jane Reilly, Peter Shea, & Betty Tregurtha.

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 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: 3rd & 4th February 2024

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: Lorraine Tellis
8.30am: Edwina La Rose
10.30am: Judy Van Hoos

CHURCH FLOWERS

February: Rosabella

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 : 3rd & 4th February 2024

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: 6.30pm: Jackie Tabone
Sunday: 8.30am: Lyn Shea



CHURCH FLOWERS

February: To be advised

PRESBYTERY & CHURCH GROUNDS-MOWING

February: To be advised

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:	Darian & Hoan Pertzell	0413 961 958
Group 2:	Naim Chdid	0437 004 790
Group 3:	John & Joyce Sultana	9747 9925

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

Save us, O Lord our God!
And gather us from the nations,
to give thanks to your holy name,
and make it our glory to praise you.

FIRST READING Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Moses said to the people: 'Your God will raise up for you a prophet like myself, from among yourselves, from your own brothers; to him you must listen. This is what you yourselves asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the Assembly. "Do not let me hear again" you said "the voice of the Lord my God, nor look any longer on this great fire, or I shall die"; and the Lord said to me, "All they have spoken is well said. I will raise up a prophet like yourself for them from their own brothers; I will put my words into his mouth and he shall tell them all I command him. The man who does not listen to my words that he speaks in my name, shall be held answerable to me for it. But the prophet who presumes to say in my name a thing I have not commanded him to say, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 94

Commentator: If today you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts.

All: If today you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts.

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord.

Come in, let us kneel and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand.

O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.'

If today you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts.

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 7:32-35

I would like to see you free from all worry. An unmarried man can devote himself to the Lord's affairs, all he need worry about is pleasing the Lord; but a married man has to bother about the world's affairs and devote himself to pleasing his wife: he is torn two ways. In the same way an unmarried woman, like a young girl, can devote herself to the Lord's affairs; all she need worry about is being holy in body and spirit. The married woman, on the other hand, has to worry about the world's affairs and devote herself to pleasing her husband. I say this only to help you, not to put a halter round your necks, but simply to make sure that everything is as it should be, and that you give your undivided attention to the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

A people in darkness have seen a great light:
a radiant dawn shines on those lost in death.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mark 1:21-28

Jesus and his followers went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the Sabbath came Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority.

In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit, and it shouted, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.' But Jesus said sharply, 'Be quiet! Come out of him!' And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. 'Here is a teaching that is new' they said 'and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him.' And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Let your face shine on your servant.

Save me in your merciful love.

O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.

NEXT WEEKEND 'S READINGS –

THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME–YEAR B

First Reading: Job 7:1-4,6-7

Second Reading: 1 Cor 9:16-19 .22-23

Gospel: Mk 1:29-39



The Holy Eucharist XLVII

My Eucharistic Day

Your Life of Adoration

Begin by Loving Him

Begin all your hours of adoration with an act of love: this will open your soul to his divine action. It is because you begin by self that you pause on the way or if you commence by any other virtue other than love, you wander from the true path.

Does not the child embrace the mother before obeying her? Love is the only portal to the heart. Do you wish to rise high, in the realms of love? Speak to Love of himself. Speak to Jesus of his heavenly Father whom he loves infinitely. Speak to him of the labours that he undertook for his Father's glory, and you will rejoice his Heart. He will love you more.

Speak to Jesus of his love for all men. That will dilate both his Heart and your own with joy and happiness. Speak to Jesus of his holy Mother, whom he loves so tenderly, and you will renew for him the happiness of a good Son. Speak to him of his Saints, in order to glorify his grace in them. The true secret of love is likened to that of St John the Baptist, to forget self, in order to exalt and glorify the Lord Jesus.

True love looks not at what it gives but only at what the beloved merits. Jesus, pleased with you, will speak to you and your heart will open to the rays of that Sun as the flower bathed and refreshed by the dews of night, opens under the beams of the radiant orb of day. His encouraging voice will penetrate your soul like fire consuming the substance which offers no resistance. Like the Spouse in the Canticle, you will exclaim: "My soul melts with joy at the voice of my beloved." You will hear him in silence or rather in the sweetness and most powerful action of love. You will become one with him.

What most unfortunately checks the growth of grace and love in our soul is that hardly have we reached the feet of our good Master before we begin to speak to him of ourselves, our sins, our defects, our spiritual poverty. In doing so we tire our minds by the sight of misery, our heart grows sad under the thought of our ingratitude and infidelity. Sadness gives rise to pain, pain to discouragement, and it is only by humility in bearing our trial that we escape from this labyrinth in the freedom of God.

By St Peter Julian Eymard, catholicculture.org

Let us avoid this imperfection, and as the first movement of the soul ordinarily determines the following action, we must direct our first movement to God and say to him: "O my good Jesus, how glad I am to see you! What satisfaction I find in spending this hour with you and in telling you my love! O how good of you to call me! How sweet of you to love so poor a creature as I am! O yes! I, too, wish to love you!"

Live His Life

Love then opens to you the door to the Heart of Jesus. Enter and remain therein; love and adore the Master.

In order to adore Jesus well, we must remember that he is really present — as a living person — in the Most Blessed Sacrament. There he glorifies, and continues all the mysteries and virtues of his mortal life. We must remember that the Holy Eucharist is Jesus Christ, past, present and future; that the Holy Eucharist is the highest development of the Incarnation and the mortal life of the Saviour; that Jesus Christ therein gives us all graces; that all truths culminate in the Eucharist; and that in naming the Holy Eucharist we have said all that can be said since the Holy Eucharist is Jesus Christ.

Let the Holy Eucharist be the beginning and end of the meditation of the mysteries, the virtues, the truths of religion. It is the furnace though truths are only the flames. Let us start from the furnace and we shall spread abroad its flames. What is more simple than to find resemblance between the birth of Jesus in the stable and his sacramental birth on the altar and in our hearts?

Who does not see that the hidden life at Nazareth is continued in the Host of the Tabernacle, and that the Passion of the Man-God is renewed in the Holy Sacrifice at every moment of time and in all places of the world? Is not our Lord meek and humble in the Blessed Sacrament as he was during his mortal life? Is he not always the Good Shepherd, the Divine Consoler, the Friend of the heart?

Happy the soul who knows how to find Jesus in the Eucharist and in the Eucharist all things else!

(To Be Continued)