



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

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT -YEAR B

25th February 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: meltonsouth@cam.org.au
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

Bookkeeper: Naim Chdid
Pastoral Worker for the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne

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
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 26/2/2024-3/3/2024

MASS TIMES:

Monday	26/2	6.30pm
Tuesday	27/2	9.30am & 6.30pm
Wednesday	28/2	9.30am
Thursday	29/2	9.30am
Friday	1/3	9.30am
Stations of the Cross after morning Mass		10.15am
Adoration & Benediction/Stations		6.00pm
<u>Includes 7.30pm 1st Friday Mass</u>		
Saturday	2/3	9.00am

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

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

Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil	3/3	5.00pm
Sunday	3/3	8.30am & 10.30am

Confession is available and begins 30 minutes prior to each Mass and will cease 5 minutes before Mass commences.



ST BERNARD'S BACCHUS MARSH 26/2/2024-3/3/2024

MASS TIMES:

Monday	26/2	No Mass
Tuesday	27/2	7.30am
Holy Hour		6.30pm
Wednesday	28/2	9.30am
Thursday	29/2	7.30am
Mass at Freemason		1.30pm
Friday	1/3	7.30am
Stations of the Cross		<u>7.00pm</u>
<u>Please note change of time for Stations of the Cross</u>		
Saturday	2/3	9.00am

Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil	3/3	6.30pm
Sunday	3/3	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 commence.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS KOROBET MASS TIMES

2/3	5.00pm
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PARISHIONER'S FIRST COLLECTION/SECOND COLLECTION

Parishioners who normally give cash each weekend for the collections, and wish to pay electronically 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>

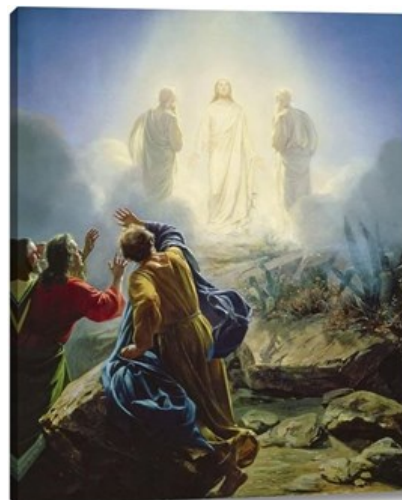
Please put your name and thanksgiving number if you know it as a reference. Thank you.

REFLECTION SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT—SR MARY FERMIO

After making a memorable retreat at Tarrawarra one year, my director said to me "Well Mary, Time to go down from the mountain to the ordinary life again". Today's Gospel would have been a bit like that for the apostles.

Jesus took three of them up a mountain where they experienced an "out of this world" experience. They saw Jesus glorified, in dazzling light, speaking with two prophets who had died long ago. They heard a voice come from a cloud saying "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." No wonder they wanted to stay, to build a hut in which to live, to stay with this spiritual experience, which had enthralled them and was so wonderful they didn't want to leave.

God loves me and this time of Lent is my invitation to ascend the mountain, to encounter Jesus, to hear the words: "You are my beloved." Take these words to your heart this week, and treasure them, even as you come down from the mountain to the mundane events of every day life. Keep saying "I am God's beloved!" WOW!



PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

FAITH FORMATION for ADULTS talks continue in the Mackillop Room, St Anthony's Church Tuesdays at 7.15pm.

THE STUDY ON CHURCH HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF CATHOLIC TEACHING

Gerard O'Shea started these talks last year at St Bernard's, it will continue this year, this Wednesday 28th February at 7pm for 4 weeks, last session 20th March. Gerard will also present the same study at St Anthony's this Thursday 29th February for 4 weeks, last session being 21st March.

LENTEN CATECHESIS FOR CHILDREN: Is on again this weekend for 4 Sundays from 12pm to 1pm at St Anthony's In Padua Hall, Ages 7-12. Parents will need to fill in a Safeguarding Form when you drop your children off.

ST ANTHONY'S

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.

Join us for a night of fun. \$200 package=47games
Contact Rose for further details on 0460 672 571

DON'T FORGET WE HAVE BINGO RUNNING EVERY WEEK ON A TUESDAY NIGHT. THIS INCLUDES MR JACKPOT WHICH WE HAVE HAD A FEW WINNERS IN LATELY!!

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

World Day of Prayer 2024. Fellow parishioners WDP is here again. You are warmly welcome to come to pray for our fellow Christian's in Palestine. **The service in Melton will be held at: Christchurch, Anglican Church, 2-4 Unitt St, Melton, @ 10:30am. Our annual St Anthony's WDP collection will be held at all masses on this weekend.** Over the past 80 years the Jewish people have tried to establish Israel as a Jewish state. The five million Palestinian Christian's, 2% of the population have been pushed further and further into small pockets of land, The West Bank and Gaza areas. Conflict in these areas has intensified. **The money raised will go to the Palestinian Bible Society.**

PRIME TIMERS CHANGE OF VENUE

We will now be going to the Deer Park Hotel, 760 Ballarat Rd. The rest of the details are still in place. RSVP Friday 23rd. To confirm numbers contact Ineke ineke49@yahoo.com or 0400 120 401

ST BERNARD'S

"BUY A PAVER" 150TH

To commemorate St Bernard's 150 year history, engraved pavers will be laid to acknowledge all parishioners, past and present. Engraved pavers can now be ordered for \$50 to create a lasting legacy for you and your family. Order forms are available in the foyer. Please tell your friends, family and past parishioners. For more information contact Ellen Xanthoulakis 0422 571 527 or Margot Short 0419 507 438

GARDENERS WANTED In an effort to get the surroundings of our beautiful church and presbytery looking good for the 150th Mass on Sunday 23rd June, 2024, we need your help.

No particular skills are required, once a week for a couple of hours should set us on a good path to achieving our objective. Retirees male and female, and other folk that could spare the time, will be welcomed. If you can assist, please contact me - Carmel Shea on 0439 654 779, and I shall follow up with the start date.

This project needs to start sooner rather than later.

ST BERNARD'S PFC

The confessional is back in operation. Complete restoration will be delayed until we are sure the water leak has been solved. We are very grateful for the response to our recent Thanksgiving Renewal. Full implementation has been delayed because of the Finance & Administration Software changeover. If you are waiting on a call back or your giving hasn't been activated as planned, please call the Parish and leave your details with Dolores for Naim. We urge parishioners to support mini-missions operating or endeavouring to commence operations, particularly the Maintenance and Gardens improvements Co. This one needs active participants. Information sheets are in the Gathering Space.



24 & 25 February



After the birth of her children, 22-year-old **Ronita** was at risk of having to leave school permanently. But, with the support of Caritas Australia's partners in the Philippines, she resumed her studies and secured a job at a call centre to support her family.

Please donate to Project Compassion.

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **for all future generations.**

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.



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: 2nd & 3rd March

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 & Liza Fernandes

8.30am: Mercy Seufatu & Geoff Sutton

10.30am: Susan Malinov & Romeo Sacris

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Dolores Turcsan & Leo Felix

8.30am: Ron Howard & Elizabeth Underwood

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 & Lillian

10.30am: Leonia & Godwin

ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 2nd & 3rd March

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

6.30pm: Jeremy Toledo

8.30am: Nathan Costin

10.30am: Samantha Butler

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

6.30pm: John Thorne

8.30am: Peter McPhan

10.30am: Cheryl Stevens

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

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

March: Cheryl Stevens

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Leo Cachia, Lavina Mascarenhas, Carmelo Micallef, Francis Xavier Micallef, Anthony Savian, John Tabone and Lordes Tejero.

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:

Blanche Chapman, Wilma Fowler, Andrew Monteith, Kaylene Preston and Kevin Punson.

Please pray for the Sick:

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, 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: 2nd & 3rd March

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

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

CHURCH FLOWERS

March: No flowers during Lent

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 : 2nd & 3rd March PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: 6.30pm: Jackie Tabone
Sunday: 8.30am: Carmel Shea
10.30am: Natalia Klenkowski

CHURCH FLOWERS

March: No flowers during Lent

PRESBYTERY & CHURCH GROUNDS-MOWING

Colm Carragher, Ron Geurts and Michael Love.

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

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 BE ADVISED THERE WILL BE NO PREPARATION ON THE 28TH MARCH 2024 AT ST ANTHONY'S NOR WILL THERE BE ANY BAPTISMS ON THE 15TH JUNE AT ST ANTHONY'S.

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, Fr Lucas or Naim Chdid .

FATIMA STATUE—ST ANTHONY'S 11/2—25/2

These families are praying together for the mission of the Parish:

Group 1:	Ellen Johnson	0418 200 144
Group 2:	Elizabeth Underwood	0422 882 562
Group 3:	Kristina Scerri	0458 857 479

DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

1st Sunday of the month 3pm.

Divine Mercy Sunday: 7th April 2024



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.

PRAYER TO ST JOSEPH SPOUSE OF MARY

O glorious St Joseph, model of all those who are devoted to labour, obtain for me the grace to work in a spirit of penance. To work conscientiously with thankfulness and joy, considering it an honour to employ and develop the gifts received from God. To work with order, peace, moderation and patience. All for Jesus, all through Mary, all after thy example, St Joseph. Such shall be my watch-word in life and in death. Amen.

"Each of us can discover in Joseph - the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence - an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble." *Pope Francis.*



LITURGY OF THE WORD

ENTRANCE PROCESSION

Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face.
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;
hide not your face from me.

FIRST READING Genesis 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham' he called. 'Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.' When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood. Then he stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt-offering in place of his son. The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self - it is the Lord who speaks - because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of their enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 115

Commentator:

I will walk in the presence of the Lord,
in the land of the living.

All:

I will walk in the presence of the Lord,
in the land of the living.

I trusted, even when I said:
'I am sorely afflicted.'

O precious in the eyes of the Lord
is the death of his faithful. R.

Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;
you have loosened my bonds.
A thanksgiving sacrifice I make:
I will call on the Lord's name. R.

My vows to the Lord I will fulfil
before all his people,
in the courts of the house of the Lord,
in your midst, O Jerusalem. R.

SECOND READING Romans 8:31-34

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us - he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

From the shining cloud, the Father's voice is heard:
this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL Mark 9:2-10

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean..'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

As we receive these glorious mysteries,
we make thanksgiving to you, O Lord,
for allowing us while still on earth
to be partakers even now of the things of heaven.
Through Christ our Lord.

NEXT WEEKEND 'S READINGS –

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT—YEAR B

1ST READING: EX 20:1-17

2ND READING: 1COR 1:22-25

GOSPEL: JN 2:13-25



The Holy Eucharist L

‘It Is the Lord’

Each of the Gospels ends with a description of the appearances of the risen Lord to his disciples. They had seen him suffer and die, and now they experienced his glorious presence, not simply as he was before, but radiantly transformed. Their excitement and joy were expressed by St Peter as he jumped out of the boat and ran to meet Jesus, after the beloved disciple saw him on the shore and said: “It is the Lord!” (John 21:1-8).

We need to catch the excitement of the early Christians, reflected not only in the Gospels but also throughout the Acts of the Apostles, and in the breathless opening of the first letter of John: “We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life — this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us — we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that your joy may be complete.” (1 John 1:1-4)

Our faith can become stale. It must be constantly refreshed by an encounter with the risen Lord. That opportunity is open to us every time we celebrate the Eucharist.

Although Jesus has now returned to the Father, and no longer appears in risen glory among us, in the Eucharist he comes to us less dramatically, but just as really, as he did to the first disciples after the resurrection. Each time we celebrate the Eucharist we meet the risen Lord, and we do so most solemnly each Sunday, when we all gather to celebrate the day of his resurrection.

What a shame it is that the Eucharist itself is for many a stale experience, in which routine and passivity deaden awareness of the many splendored reality that God invites us to enter into. How can we change that?

The account in chapter 24 of the Gospel of Luke of the appearance of the risen Lord to the disciples on the road to Emmaus reminds us of the place of the Eucharist in our journey on the road of Christian discipleship. The disciples are weary, confused, and afraid, as disciples can be when they have experienced the cross, and the desolation of the journey through this vale of tears, but are not truly aware of the resurrection.

By Cardinal Thomas Christopher Collins, catholicculture.org

Jesus comes up to them, quietly. This is so typical of Our Lord, in our lives, and in the Eucharist. He comes into our midst as a friend, inviting us to recognise him freely, but not overwhelming us. What could be more insignificant in appearance (so easily missed) than the Host, which seems to be no more than a tiny wafer of ritual bread? Yet it is the Lord Jesus, coming unobtrusively, as on the road to Emmaus, inviting our response in faith.

He begins to speak to them of the way in which the Old Testament Scriptures had foreshadowed his actions in their midst. The proclamation and explanation of the Scriptures has always been essential to the celebration of the Eucharist, in which we encounter the risen Lord both at the Table of the Word and at the Table of the Bread of Life. The Scriptures are light for our path.

Then Jesus takes the bread, says the blessing, breaks it, and gives it to them, and in this Eucharistic action they recognise him. It is the Lord. Each time Jesus celebrates the Eucharist for us, he invites us to recognise him. He does not compel us to do so, through spectacular miracles. Instead, he gently invites us. Even those who saw his miracles did not really recognise him at the depth of awareness to which he invites us, and which we can experience through his gentle coming in the Eucharist, as at Emmaus.

It is because he comes so quietly, so delicately respectful of our freedom to respond in faith, that we can miss him in the Eucharist. Too often we yearn for the glitzy religious experience, and miss the life-giving encounter so repeatedly offered, as rhythmically and as unspectacularly in Mass after Mass, as the regular — and boring — beating of our heart. That quiet, steady rhythm gives life.

In the Eucharist we are joined sacramentally to the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus. The effect of recognising him “in the breaking of the bread” is action. The disciples do not linger at Emmaus. They hurry back to Jerusalem to proclaim that they have seen the Lord.

The Christian is not expected to linger at the Eucharist. It is an encounter with Jesus, in Word and Sacrament, which sends the Christian out to witness. We come to Mass so that we may go back into the life of discipleship renewed by the encounter with our risen Saviour, and made ready for action in his service.

To be continued