



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

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT -YEAR B

10th March 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 11/3/2024-17/3/2024

MASS TIMES:

Monday	11/3	6.30pm
Tuesday	12/3	9.30am & 6.30pm
Wednesday	13/3	9.30am
Thursday	14/3	9.30am
Friday	15/3	9.30am
Stations of the Cross after morning Mass		10.15am
Exposition/Stations of the Cross/Talk		6.00pm
Saturday	16/3	9.00am

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

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



Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil	16/3	5.00pm
Sunday	17/3	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 11/3/2024-17/3/2024

MASS TIMES:

Monday	11/3	No Mass
Rosary and Adoration		7.00pm
Tuesday	12/3	7.30am
Holy Hour		7.00pm
Wednesday	13/3	9.30am
Thursday	14/3	7.30am
Friday	15/3	7.30am
Stations of the Cross		7.00pm
Saturday	16/3	9.00am

Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil	16/3	6.30pm
Sunday	17/3	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 16/3

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.

"Save with CDF Community Fund – it's in everyone's best interest"

By opening an account, not only will you receive a competitive financial return, your savings will also help build parishes, classrooms, hospital wings, aged care homes and social service facilities. With competitive interest rates available across a range of accounts, including 5.55% p.a.* on a 12-month Term Investment, it's a way to save while doing good.

To find out more, visit www.catholicdevelopmentfund.org.au/communityfund/offer, scan the QR code below, or email Anton Pan-Cassin apancassin@melbcd.org.au or Bernard Docherty bdocherty@melbcd.org.au

**Interest rates subject to change. View current rates on the CDF website.*

REFLECTION FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT—FR ALEX CLEMENTE

We have started our Lenten journey with the rite of the imposition of ashes on our foreheads. Ash Wednesday ushered to purple church's vestments which symbolize pain, suffering and mourning. Purple pervades the whole season as it signifies the feeling of sorrow for our sins in the light of Christ's passion and death. We are now half way through our spiritual pilgrimage to the cross. This weekend's liturgy which is 4th Sunday of Lent is traditionally known as "Laetare Domine" or "Sunday of Rejoicing". The first reading exhorts us to be happy for "God's mercy is revealed in the release of His people". St Paul, in the second reading, speaks of abundance of saving grace in Christ. While the gospel assures us of God's love which desires not to condemn but to forgive, heal and restore.

The deep purple colour of the vestments at the beginning of Lent are lightened to a rose—the resurrection of the Lord following His death on the cross is drawing closer. Laetare Sunday provides a "glimpse of light" as we approach the darkness and horror of the days through Good Friday and Holy Saturday. It's an opportunity to savour and keep in the back of our minds what awaits us on Easter Sunday —



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 3 weeks, last session 20th March. Gerard will also present the same study at St Anthony's this Thursday 29th February for 3 weeks, last session being 21st March.

LENTEN CATECHESIS FOR CHILDREN: Is on again this weekend for 3 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

"Mercy Melbourne" & Solemnity of St. Joseph

On Tuesday 19 March, a host of churches across Melbourne will be open for an evening of prayer and the sacrament of Reconciliation as part of the inaugural "Mercy Melbourne" event. More than 40 parishes are currently involved in this Archdiocese-wide event, including St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church Melton South. The Mercy Melbourne event will fall by chance — or by Providence — on the feast of St. Joseph. The example of Joseph, particularly as a person of courage, is good for us to look to. Pope Francis uses the phrase "creative courage" to describe Joseph's trusting obedience. "He trusted God, he trusted Him fully, and he offered all his abilities, his talents and skills to serve Him, and God gave him His grace to carry out the difficult mission entrusted to him." Sometimes it takes courage to go to Confession — looking to St. Joseph, the great model of courage, might help us.

Join us on 19 March 2024

6:15 pm: St Anthony Novena followed by Mass and thence to fellowship to celebrate the Solemnity of St. Joseph

7:30 - 9:30 pm: Confessions

8 - 9:30 pm: Adoration

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

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. Pavers are \$50. Orders close 2nd April. For more information contact Ellen Xanthoulakis 0422 571 527 or Margot Short 0419 507 438

EASTER RAFFLE DONATIONS

Please place Easter themed donations in the basket in the church foyer by Sunday 17th March. All donations gratefully received.

ST PATRICK'S FAMILY FEAST DAY - SUNDAY 17th MARCH

We will celebrate this event with a BBQ, games and Best Dressed Irish costume competition after the 10.30 Mass Save the date!!

ST BERNARD'S SAFEGUARDING CO. MESSAGE:

All groups arranging any social and/or fund-raising events on behalf of the parish, are required by law to ensure risk management sheets are obtained from the parish office or from the folder in the Gathering Space, be completed and returned to the parish office three days prior to the event. All volunteers are also required by law to have a current Working With Children Check and to have signed a St Bernard's Code of Conduct.

HELPING OUR PARISH VIA OUR MINI-MISSIONS: Thank you to those who have already volunteered to help Natalia's Social and Fund-raising group, Tup Shea's flower group and Carmel Shea's garden folk and to those other good folk who have picked up extra jobs (See recent Safeguarding Circular for details). We desperately need helpers for our MAGIC - Maintenance and Grounds Improvement Co. We must have some fit, competent odd job folk. If you can help this in area, please add your name to the sheet in the gathering space.

The Knights of Southern Cross March meeting in the Parish hall Meeting Room at 8pm on Monday, March 11 Thanks from Stuart

A Message from Father Alex: I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your well wishes, flowers and monetary gifts given to me during the recent passing of my Father Loreto. God bless you all.

HOLY WEEK TIME TABLE-St Anthony's Parish

First Rite of Reconciliation during Mercy Melbourne. (See above).

Tuesday 19th March.

Monday of Holy Week 25th March Mass at 6.30pm

Tuesday of Holy Week 26th March Mass at 9:30am & 6:30pm

Wednesday of Holy Week 27th March Mass at 9.30am

Holy Thursday 28th March No morning Mass

Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7.30pm

followed by **Adoration** until **Night Prayer** 10.00pm

Good Friday 29th March

Stations of the Cross 10.00am

Celebration of the Lord's Passion 3.00pm then

Veneration of the Cross until 7.00pm

Evening Prayer 7.00pm

Holy Saturday 30th March Easter Vigil Mass at 8.00pm

Easter Sunday 31st March Mass of Easter Sunday 8.30am & 10.30am



HOLY WEEK TIME TABLE-St Bernard's Parish

Monday of Holy week 25th March Rosary & Adoration 7.00pm

Tuesday of Holy Week 26th March

No Holy Hour in the Evening First Rite of Reconciliation 7.00pm

Wednesday of Holy Week 27th March Mass at 9:30am

Holy Thursday 28th March No morning Mass

Mass of the Lord's Supper 7.30pm

followed by **Adoration** until **Night Prayer** 10.00pm

Good Friday 29th March

Stations of the Cross 10.00am

Celebration of the Lord's Passion 3.00pm

Holy Saturday 30th March Easter Vigil Mass 7.30pm

Easter Sunday 31st March

Mass of Easter Sunday (**Korobeit**) 8.30am

Mass of Easter Sunday (**St Bernard's**) 8.30am

Mass of Easter Sunday (**St Bernard's**) 10.30am



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: 16th & 17th 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: 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 & Rhys Tuala

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

MASS COORDINATORS

5.00pm: Natalie & Ron
8.30am: Lillian & Godwin
10.30am: Leonia & Annonica

ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 16th & 17th March

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

6.30pm: Vicki Benson
8.30am: Maggie Kratochvil
10.30am: **Volunteer please**

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

6.30pm: Colin Remedios
8.30am: **Volunteer please**
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:

Perseverando Barbudo, Charlie Calleja, Charles Depares, Charles Giordmaina, Joseph Micallef, Juanita Panganiban, and Sita & Ananda Perera.

Please pray for the Sick: David Bonello, Nickolia & Klara Butkovic, Maria Caruana, Mary Caruana, Christabelle, Lydia De Vega, Ann Eskdale, Melanie Fue, Bruce Hynes, Kotinis Cornelia Kani, Judy Layton, Peter Manicaro, 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:

Lara Paige Cameron, Bob Carr, Cristina Kingcott, Ronald Robert Lebner and Christopher Mallia .

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, John & Frances, 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: 16th & 17th March

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: Julie Sequira
8.30am: Ineke Allen
10.30am: Gilles Maitre

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 : 16th & 17th March

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: 6.30pm: Marj Tung
Sunday: 8.30am: Dianne Shelly
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.*



ENTRANCE PROCESSION

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

FIRST READING 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.'

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 136

Commentator: Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

All: Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

By the rivers of Babylon there we sat and wept,
remembering Zion;
on the poplars that grew there
we hung up our harps. R.

For it was there that they asked us,
our captors, for songs, our oppressors, for joy.
'Sing to us,' they said,
'one of Zion's songs.' R.

O how could we sing the song of the Lord
on alien soil?
If I forget you, Jerusalem,
let my right hand wither! R.

O let my tongue cleave my mouth
if I remember you not,
if I prize not Jerusalem
above all my joys! R.
Lord, you have the words of everlasting life



SECOND READING Ephesians 2:4-10 r 1:22-25

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ - it is through grace that you have been saved - and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son,
that all who believe in him might have eternal life.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL John 3:14-21

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

'The Son of Man must be lifted up
as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert,
so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.

Yes, God loved the world so much
that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believed in him may not be lost
but may have eternal life.

For God sent his Son into the world
not to condemn the world,
but so that through him the world might be saved.
No one who believes in him will be condemned;
but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already,
because he has refused to believe
in the name of God's only Son.

On these grounds is sentence pronounced:
that though the light has come into the world
men have shown they prefer
darkness to the light
because their deeds were evil.
And indeed, everybody who does wrong
hates the light and avoids it,
for fear his actions should be exposed;
but the man who lives by the truth
comes out into the light,
so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'
The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Jerusalem is built as a city bonded as one together.
It is there that the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord,
to praise the name of the Lord.

The Holy Eucharist LII

Seven Facets of the Eucharistic Mystery (2)

4. The Eucharist is an experience of communion

Communion means “union with”. Certainly we are in union with Jesus in the Eucharist, as we listen attentively to the Word of God, and as we actually receive Jesus, in a sacramental way, in communion. At Mass, as well, we are gathered as a liturgical assembly, to worship God. Each individual member of each particular small community, which celebrates the Eucharist, is invited especially through the Sign of Peace, to be in communion with each other member. How does our life outside the Eucharistic celebration harmonise with what we express within it?

We also reach outward geographically, through prayers for the Bishop and the Pope, and through the prayer of the faithful, realising that our small communities must have a relationship of communion with the wider Church, and, indeed, with the wider world in all of its needs.

We also become aware in the Eucharist of our union with all in the family of faith who have gone before us, with the whole communion of saints. “Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us rid ourselves of every burden and sin that clings to us and persevere in running the race that lies before us while keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the leader and perfecter of faith” (Hebrews 12:1).

Look around the church, at any celebration of the Mass. Here we are, the people of the local parish community, gathered with our priest to celebrate the Eucharist. Sometimes the Eucharistic celebration is simple, as at daily Mass in a small parish community. Sometimes it is more formal, as at a Mass celebrated in St Peter’s by the Pope. But whatever the visible grandeur of the earthly celebration, every Mass is celebrated in the context of heaven. At Mass, listen to all of the references to the angels and saints, to the whole heavenly court of God. We need to situate our daily struggle in the context of the unseen world, of the communion of saints. Then we will have the spiritual perspective that can lead us to act rightly.

5. The Eucharist is a sacred meal

Our ordinary meals not only allow us to be nourished physically; they are also occasions when we strengthen our relationship with one another. In the Bible, meals take on a deeper meaning, and are often signs of our love for one

another, and of God’s love for us. The Passover meal, in particular, is of great importance. To express the fulfilment of our human destiny, the Scriptures use the image of the heavenly banquet at the end of time, or, in the Apocalypse, of the wedding feast of the Lamb of God. The Eucharist itself arises out of the Last Supper. We should be conscious of the symbolism of a sacred meal when we celebrate the Eucharist, always aware that it is not simply an ordinary meal, but an act of God.

6. The Eucharist is an experience of the Real Presence of Christ

Jesus Christ, our Risen Saviour, is present to us whenever we celebrate the Eucharist. As always, he is present in our brothers and sisters in Christ, but in an especially significant way as the Church, the body of Christ on earth, gathers to celebrate the Eucharist. He is present to us visually through art, and is present through the priest, who is ordained to act in the person of Christ. He is present to us through the proclamation of the Word of God. Until Christ comes in glory, there is no more intense way of experiencing his presence than receiving him in Holy Communion. This is not “holy bread” that reminds us of Jesus. This is Jesus, sacramentally present with us on our journey.

7. The Eucharist is an invitation to mission

We are given the Eucharist for a purpose, that we may be perfected as disciples of Jesus. That leads us, strengthened through our contact with the source of our life in Christ, to be engaged effectively in our mission of service. Action must flow out of adoration. We do not cling to the Lord, but are sent out on our mission, which we received at Baptism.

Throughout our life, we constantly return to be guided by the Word of God, and to be given new life by the Eucharist. It is noteworthy that, in the Gospel of John, at the point in the description of the Last Supper where we would expect a reference to the words of institution (“This is my body”, “This is my blood”), the evangelist instead reminds us that Jesus gave us an example of humble service: the washing of feet (John 13:1-20). That is intentional. Practical service of others is the way in which we show that we truly appreciate the Lord whom we receive in Holy Communion.