



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

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD -YEAR B

24th 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 - Allison Pereira 0422 775 245 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 Judy Johnson 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 25/3/2024-31/3/2024

MASS TIMES:

Monday 25/3 6.30pm
 Tuesday 26/3 9.30am & 6.30pm
 Wednesday 27/3 9.30am

Rosary **9.00am prior to weekday masses**



Holy Thursday 28/3 **Please see timetable on page 3**

Good Friday 29/3 **Please see timetable on page 3**

Sunday Masses

Easter Vigil 30/3 8.00pm
 Easter Sunday 31/3 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 25/3/2024-31/3/2024

MASS TIMES:

Monday 25/3 No Mass
 Rosary and Adoration 7.00pm
 Tuesday 26/3 7.30am

NO HOLY HOUR 26th March

Wednesday 27/3 9.30am

Holy Thursday 28/3 **Please see timetable page 3**
 Good Friday 29/3 **Please see timetable page 3**

Sunday Masses

Easter Vigil 30/3 7.30pm
 Easter Sunday 31/3 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

Easter Sunday 31/3 8.30am

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.

REEFLECTION PALM SUNDAY 2024-SR MARY FERMIO rsj

When Sr Irene McCormack rsj was dragged by the guerillas to the plaza of Huashihuasi, Peru, she had no say in what was to happen. She was shot in the back of the head with four other men from the town, all because they had helped the poor and the people in some way. The soldiers were actually looking for Sr Dorothy, who was away. Did these five feel abandoned by the people? Abandoned by God? Surely not.

Jesus was regaled by the people in a triumphant entrance into Jerusalem, and hailed as King. Yet only a few days later Jesus was arrested, sent before the court and charged with trumped up accusations seemingly abandoned by all who had followed him and cheered him on days earlier. All Jesus wished to do was to show God's love for the people, especially the poor who were treated as outcasts of society. In the garden Jesus calls on his Father to save him from this hour. On the Cross Jesus cries. "My God, my God, why have you deserted me!"

Sometimes when we pray God seems silent, seems to not be listening, even abandoning us. Yet we believe Irene is a candidate for sainthood, as well as the four martyred with her. In his prayer Jesus draws all to himself all who protest and lament, who suffer unjustly, who die feeling abandoned and reviled.

Pray this cry of Jesus during this week. Let his cry become your cry,
 his surrender your surrender.
 For despite the silence, God is there.



PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR EASTER FLOWERS– THIS WEEKEND

Dear Parishioners we will hold a special collection at **both parishes** this weekend to assist in covering the costs of the Easter floral arrangements for the Church and the Altar of Repose. Please give generously. Thank you.



SPECIAL COLLECTIONS-HOLY WEEK

HOLY THURSDAY

We will be conducting our Annual Appeal for Project Compassion during the Mass of the Lord's Supper. Please return your Boxes and Envelopes at this mass.

GOOD FRIDAY

On Good Friday, the Catholic Church throughout the world will take up a very special collection– the “**Collection for the Holy Land.**” This special collection originated from the Popes' wishes to maintain a strong bond between the Holy Places of the Holy Land and all Christians of the world. Please give generously, Thank you.

ST ANTHONY'S

EASTER RAFFLE

Tickets will be sold after all masses this weekend. Tickets are \$5.00 each or 3 for \$10.00. The raffle will be drawn on the Easter weekend. All money raised will go towards the extension of Padua Hall.



PRIME TIMERS

Our March outing will be to The Sugargum Hotel, 2 Gourley Rd, Hillside, Tuesday 26th at 12noon. We will meet at the old Bunnings carpark, Melton at 11.30, if you need a lift that can be arranged. Enquiries contact Ineke 0400 120 401 or email ineke49@yahoo.com
New members are always welcome.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Dear Fellow Parishioners, it is with a sincere heart I express gratitude to Fr Alex and all who gave generously, once again, to supporting the efforts of World Day of Prayer. We collected \$613, which the Bible Society of Palestine will use to support Palestinian Christians in life and faith. Thank you, also to all who joined us in prayer. Marian Muller.

ST BERNARD'S

150TH COMMEMORATIVE PAVERS- ORDERS CLOSE SOON

Engraved pavers available to all parishioners. Order forms in foyer. \$50. EFTPOS available after all Masses this weekend. Orders close 2nd April. For more information contact Ellen Xanthoulakis 0422571527 or Margot Short 0419507438

EASTER RAFFLE TICKET SALES AND DRAW

Raffle tickets will be sold at all Masses. The Raffle will be drawn after the 10.30am mass this Sunday- Palm Sunday.



CRAFT AND CAKE STALL

Craft and cakes will be available at all Masses on Palm Sunday weekend. Please bring a cake or biscuits and then buy one! Please list ingredients. No fresh cream, raw eggs or custard. Thank you!

LENTEN RECONCILIATION

Lenten Reconciliation will be held this Tuesday 26th March 7.00pm-9.00pm. Please not—No Holy Hour on the 26th March.

HOLY WEEK TIME TABLE-St Anthony's Parish

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
Lenten Reconciliation: 7.00pm-9.00pm
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: 30th & 31st 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

8.00pm:

8.30am: To be advised

10.30am:

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

8.00pm:

8.30am: To be advised

10.30am:

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

MASS COORDINATORS

8.00pm:

8.30am: To be advised

10.30am:

ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 30th & 31st March

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

7.30pm: As advised

8.30am: Margaret Love

10.30am: Samantha Butler

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

7.30pm: As advised

8.30am: Colm Carragher

10.30am: John Wilson

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:

Angelo DeBrincat, Teresa D'Silva, Vincent Hallsworth, Marina Marano, Catherine McLaren & Charlie Morrison

Please pray for the Sick: David Bonello, Nickolia & Klara Butkovic, Maria Caruana, Mary Caruana, Christabelle, Lydia De Vega, Ann Eskdale, Ian Faux, 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 the recently deceased:

Angela Brennan

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

Leigh Gray, George Hamm, Elizabeth Ann Lang, Thomas Monaghan, Christopher Mugavin, Sheila Prendergast, Frank Shanahan & Bill Shea.

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 Felicieux, Justin Fernandez, Pasquale Gagliardi, 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: 30th & 31st March

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

8.00pm Vigil: Kim Barton
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 : 30th & 31st March PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: 7.30pm: Jackie Tabone
Sunday: 8.30am: Lyn Shea

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.



THEY WILL BE NO 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:	Stephen & Liza Fernandes	0439 743 533
Group 2:	Gerard & Anakin Anderson	0433 690 902
Group 3:	Ana Taunnu	0406 503 363

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

Six days before the Passover, when the Lord came into the city of Jerusalem, the children ran to meet him; in their hands they carried palm branches and with a loud voice cried out: Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy! O gates, lift high your heads; grow higher, ancient doors. Let him enter, the king of glory! Who is this king of glory? He, the Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy!

FIRST READING Isaiah 50:4-7

The Lord has given me
a disciple's tongue.
So that I may know how to reply to the wearied
he provides me with speech.
Each morning he wakes me to hear,
to listen like a disciple.
The Lord has opened my ear.
For my part, I made no resistance,
neither did I turn away.
I offered my back to those who struck me,
my cheeks to those who tore at my beard;
I did not cover my face
against insult and spittle.
The Lord comes to my help,
so that I am untouched by the insults.
So, too, I set my face like flint;
I know I shall not be shamed.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 21

Commentator: My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

All: My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

All who see me deride me.
They curl their lips, they toss their heads.
'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him;
let him release him if this is his friend.'

Many dogs have surrounded me,
a band of the wicked beset me.
They tear holes in my hands and my feet.
I can count every one of my bones.

They divide my clothing among them.
They cast lots for my robe.
O Lord, do not leave me alone,
my strength, make haste to help me!

I will tell of your name to my brethren
and praise you where they are assembled.
'You who fear the Lord give him praise;
all sons of Jacob, give him glory.
Revere him, Israel's sons.'

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

SECOND READING Philippians 2:6-11

His state was divine,
yet Christ Jesus did not cling
to his equality with God
but emptied himself
to assume the condition of a slave,
and became as men are,
and being as all men are,
he was humbler yet,
even to accepting death,
death on a cross.
But God raised him high
and gave him the name
which is above all other names
so that all beings
in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld,
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus
and that every tongue should acclaim
Jesus Christ as Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
Christ became obedient for us even to death,
dying on the cross.
Therefore God raised him on high
and gave him a name above all other names.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

GOSPEL Mark 14:1 - 15:47

The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it,
your will be done.

NEXT WEEKEND'S READING

SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION-MASS OF THE DAY

First Reading: Acts 10:34, 37-43

Second Reading: Col 3:1-4

Gospel: Jn 20:1-9



The Holy Eucharist LIV

Participation in the Eucharist

I once heard someone say: “We need to have more participation at Mass, but there are not enough activities to go around, and so most of the congregation is not able to participate.”

It is true that there are obvious roles at Mass, and we need to strive to involve many parishioners in them. It is especially valuable if young people are asked to contribute their gifts in hospitality, reading, music ministry, and so on.

We should, however, look more deeply at what participation in the Eucharist means.

Participation certainly means engaged attentiveness. Prayerful preparation for Mass by reading the Scripture texts ahead of time, and by becoming disposed to the presence of God, allows each of us truly to participate at a deep level, even if not engaged in some obvious role.

The most fundamental way in which each of us participates is by consciously bringing to the celebration of the Eucharist our baptismal sharing in the priesthood of Jesus, day by day.

To be a priest is to reconcile humanity to God. This is what Jesus did through his life, and through his suffering, death, and resurrection. I suggest reading the Letter to the Hebrews, which deals with this.

Through Baptism we are called to imitate Jesus, and to share his priestly role of reconciliation in this world. We do that by daily making present to those around us the generous personal love which we see in our great High Priest, Jesus, in his sacrifice on the cross, and in the pattern of his whole life leading up to that.

Faithfulness to our mission as disciples allows us to participate authentically in the celebration of the Eucharist, which does not stand apart, cut off from who we are.

At Mass we offer our cares and joys as the priest offers up the bread and wine. We bring our whole life to the Eucharist, and are then sent back to the daily struggle, strengthened by our encounter with Jesus through word and sacrament.

By Cardinal Thomas Christopher Collins, catholicculture.org

This is the experience of our baptismal priesthood.

When I show compassion and generosity throughout the week, I am enhancing my deep participation at Sunday Mass. When I live selfishly, I diminish my real participation at Mass.

As baptised disciples, we all represent Christ to others in our daily activities. That is the baptismal priesthood.

But Jesus has also given us the ordained priesthood, so that we may indeed hear the Word rightly, and so that he can enter our lives through the sacraments. The ordained priesthood is at the service of the baptismal priesthood, to guide and strengthen us in our life of discipleship.

Through ordination, Jesus calls some of the baptised to represent him in the celebration of the sacraments, in the shepherding of his community, and in the proclamation of the Gospel. When we get ensnared in sin, Jesus frees us through the action of the priest who absolves us in the sacrament of Reconciliation. When we are sick, the priest anoints us in the sacrament of the sick to keep us close to Jesus. Baptism and Confirmation start us on our journey of faith.

When Jesus celebrates the Eucharist through the action of one of his ordained priests, we are joined to him, and strengthened by him through word and sacrament.

The baptismal sharing in the priesthood of Christ and the ordained sharing are complementary. The priest participates at Mass in a most obvious way, as the one who presides over the community in the name of Jesus, who preaches the Gospel, and who takes the role of Jesus in the celebration of the Eucharist.

Through the words and actions of the ordained priest, Jesus transforms the bread and wine into his Body and Blood, to give us life. But all of us participate at Mass, in the particular way of sharing in Christ's priesthood to which God has called us.