



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

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD -YEAR B

31st 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 1/4/2024-7/4/2024

MASS TIMES:

Monday	1/4	No Mass
Tuesday	2/4	9.30am
St Anthony's Novena 3rd Week-Adoration 6pm Novena 6.15pm		
Followed by Benediction & Mass		6.30pm
Wednesday	3/4	9.30am
Thursday	4/4	9.30am
Friday	5/4	9.30am
First Friday Devotion		7.30pm
Saturday	6/4 First Saturday	9.00am
Rosary 9.00am prior to weekday masses &		
Rosary 8.30am prior to Saturday mass		
<u>Sunday Masses</u>		
Saturday Vigil	6/4	5.00pm
Sunday	7/4	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 1/4/2024-7/4/2024

MASS TIMES:

Monday	1/4	No Mass
Rosary and Adoration		7.00pm
Tuesday	2/4	9.30am
Holy Hour		7.00pm
Wednesday	3/4	9.30am
Thursday	4/4	9.30am
Friday	5/4	9.30am
Saturday	6/4	9.00am
<u>Sunday Masses</u>		
Saturday Vigil	6/4	6.30pm
Easter Sunday	7/4	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

Saturday Vigil	6/4	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 EASTER SUNDAY 2024-SR MARY FERMIO rsj

During the reign of King Henry VIII, St Thomas More, was a true witness to his faith, preferring death to denying what he believed, that the Pope was the head of the Church, not the King. On her last visit to her father, his daughter Margaret was farewelled with the words "Let us meet merrily in Heaven!"

Jesus was a faithful witness to the love of the Father, by accepting death on a Cross, to show how deeply we are loved. Various accounts are found in the Gospel of the women encountering Jesus and witnessing to the others. In today's Gospel Peter and John came running to the tomb to see for themselves what the women had told them, and came to believe that Jesus had indeed risen. They then witnessed to the other disciples, and all came to believe, plus thousands of others who heard them preach in various parts of the world. All of them, except John, gave their lives, rather than deny what they believed was true.

Through our Baptism we are also called to witness, hopefully not by our death, but by dying to ourselves, by living in the light of Jesus. Our example can lead others to the faith- how we share, how we live, how we greet and welcome others, how the joy of the resurrection is evident in our lives, as we live life to the full.

Let us be ALLELUIA people!
so that we meet "merrily in heaven"!



PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR EASTER FLOWERS

Last weekend we held a special collection at both our parishes to raise money for the Easter flowers. St Anthony's collected \$1175.00 and St Bernard's collected \$318.10. Thank you for your generosity.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY - 7th APRIL 2024

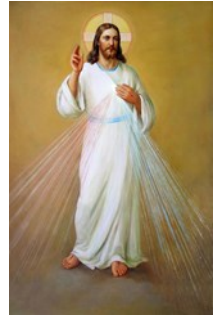
Main Celebrant – Fr Alex Clemente

St Anthony's of Padua Catholic Church

2.00pm Confessions, Adoration, Holy Rosary, Litany and Meditations

3.00pm 3 o'clock Prayer, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Benediction, Holy Mass and

Blessing of Private Divine Mercy Images.



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS END SUNDAY 7th APRIL 2024

Just a reminder to put your clocks back for the end of daylight savings, Sunday 7th April.



ST ANTHONY'S

EASTER EGG HUNT

We will have an Easter Egg hunt for the children after the 10.30am Easter Sunday Mass.

EASTER RAFFLE

The Easter Raffle will be drawn after the 10.30am Easter Sunday Mass. All money raised will go towards the extension of the Padua Hall.



WORKING BEE

Dear Parishioners

If you have some time to spare on Saturday 6th April (next Saturday) at 8am, we are holding a working bee. The garden beds need to have some mulch put on them. The mulch will be delivered we just need some volunteers to help spread the mulch. If you have a wheel barrow that you could bring along that would be great too! Thank you.

COMMUNION TO THE SICK/HOUSEBOUND

We have recently formed a small group of extraordinary ministers that are able to visit the sick/housebound and administer communion. If you are in need of this service and you live within the Melton area, please call the Parish Office to arrange a visit 9747 9692.

CUPPA VOLUNTEERS

We need some volunteers to help with our monthly cuppa, which is held on the fourth weekend of each month. If you are able to help please contact Amy Honrade 0457 042 695. Thank you.

ST ANTHONY'S OF PADUA AND ST LAWRENCE OF BRINDISI SACRAMENTAL CHOIR

All primary school students who are part of St Anthony's primary school, Saint Lawrence primary school and the parish are invited to be part of a sacramental choir for the upcoming sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation. Rehearsals will be held weekly on Thursdays from 3:45 to 4:45 commencing in May. Afternoon tea will be provided and rehearsals will be held in the church meeting room. If interested please contact Mrs Caitlyn Lalor on 8099 7800 or email clalor@sameltonsth.catholic.edu.au. Please see the full schedule of rehearsals and sacramental dates. All participants must be able to attend all of the sacraments. See noticeboard.

ST BERNARD'S

150TH COMMEMORATIVE PAVERS FINAL ORDERS

Paver orders will close at 1pm Friday 5th April.

No late orders will be accepted after this date.

Enquiries: Ellen 0422571527 or Margot 0419507438

THANK YOU!!!

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who helped, contributed, and participated in our last few Social and Fundraising events. The St. Patrick's Family feast day, Easter Raffle, and Cake and Craft stall has raised \$1,408.55!

This will go towards the repair and restoration of the confessional.

Congratulations to the 12 winners of the Easter Raffle!

Those who haven't claimed their prize yet, please pick it up from the sacristy.

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

Parishioners please note, over the next two weeks, during school holidays, our weekday masses will be held at 9.30am each day Tue-Fri.

Wishing all our Parishioners

A Happy and Holy Easter

Lesley, Dolores, Naim and Judy



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: 6th & 7th April

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: Gavin Pereira & Michelle Tennakoon

8.30am: Leonia Jessop & Amy Honrade

10.30am: Ana Taunuu & Elizabeth Underwood

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

8.00pm: Dolores Turcsan & Aloysious Dacunha

8.30am: Geoff Sutton & Philip Anyayahan

10.30am: George Bonello & Doris Bonello

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: 6th & 7th April

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

7.30pm: John Thorne

8.30am: Evana Miesen

10.30am: Rita Marshall

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

7.30pm: Vikki Benson

8.30am: Colm Carragher

10.30am: Vanina Isah

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

April: John Thorne

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

We pray for the recently deceased:

Troy Saliba

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

Marie Dromey, Ida Christine Enriquez, Marcelina Nalipay & Stephen Vella

Please pray for the Sick: 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 Manicaró, Damien Michael, Hazel Michael, Tony Michael, Veronica Michael, Nickol, Caleb O'Brien, John Osborne, 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:

Troy Saliba

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

Franca Cinel, Irene Gaynor, Myrna Jones, Brenden Love, Brice Lummis & Daphne Pocock.

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, 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: 6th & 7th April

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: Lorraine Tellis
8.30am: Edwina La Rose
10.30am: Merla Veloso

CHURCH FLOWERS

April: Ana

CUPPA VOLUNTEERS—

5.00pm Vigil:
8.30am: To be advised
10.30am:

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Welfare Number: 1800 305 330
The Melton South Conference meet every 1st Tuesday of the month in the Mackillop Room 10.30am.
New members most welcome, training provided.
Non perishable items within the use by date can be left in the 'drop box' in the Church foyer.

We cannot accept re-packaged food.

COMBINED CHURCHES CARING MELTON INC

We're here to support City of Melton residents get ahead through access to our foodbank and other community programs. It's never just about the food or the budget help, it's about recognising the beauty that is in the person and bringing it out so they can be their best.
ress: 100 Coburn's Road Melton South 9747 6811

*The Harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few;
Pray therefore (**Rogate Ergo...**) to the Lord of the Harvest that He may send Good workers into His vast vineyard. (Mt. 9:37-38).*

Prayer is the answer to the perennial problem of the lack of good evangelical workers. It is a command and not just a simple request or an invitation. The Church needs holy workers. She needs committed, faithful, and zealous ministers of the Gospel. But if we will not beg the Lord, we will never be blessed with Good and Holy Vocations.

St. Hannibal Ma. Di Francia, the Patron of Vocations said; Vocations come from on High, if we do not pray, vocations will not come. Let us therefore implore the Master of the Harvest with this short prayer:

Send, O Lord, Holy Apostles into Your Church!



ST BERNARD'S

WEEKEND VOLUNTEERS : 6th & 7th April

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: 6.30pm: Margot Short
Sunday: 8.30am: Carmel Shea
10.30am: Natalia Klenkowski

CHURCH FLOWERS

April: Tup Shea

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

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.



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,

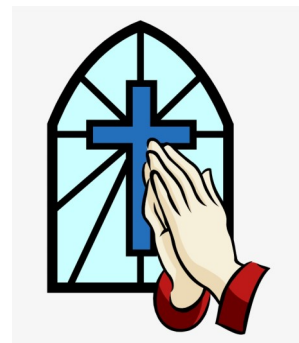
so that we may discern our journey

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

I have risen, and I am with you still, alleluia.
You have laid your hand upon me, alleluia.
Too wonderful for me, this knowledge, alleluia, alleluia.

FIRST READING Acts 10:34, 37-43

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil.' Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses - we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead - and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 117

Commentator: This is the day the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad.

All: This is the day the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his love has no end.
Let the sons of Israel say:
'His love has no end.'

The Lord's right hand has triumphed;
his right hand raised me up.
I shall not die, I shall live
and recount his deeds.

The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes.

This is the day the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad.

NEXT WEEKEND'S READING

2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER/DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

First Reading: Acts 4:32-35

Second Reading: 1 Jn 5:1-6

Gospel: Jn 20:19-31



SECOND READING Colossians 3:1-4

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed - and he is your life - you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE

Christians, to the Paschal Victim offer sacrifice and praise.
The sheep are ransomed by the Lamb;
and Christ, the undefiled,
hath sinners to his Father reconciled.
Death with life contended: combat strangely ended!
Life's own Champion, slain, yet lives to reign.
Tell us, Mary: say what thou didst see upon the way.
The tomb the Living did enclose;
I saw Christ's glory as he rose!
The angels there attesting;
shroud with grave-clothes resting.
Christ, my hope, has risen: he goes before you into Galilee.
That Christ is truly risen from the dead we know.
Victorious king, thy mercy show!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Christ has become our paschal sacrifice;
let us feast with joy in the Lord.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 20:1-9

It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb' she said 'and we don't know where they have put him.'

So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who was following now came up, went right into the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the ground, and also the cloth that had been over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed, alleluia;
therefore let us keep the feast with the unleavened bread
of purity and truth, alleluia, alleluia.

The Holy Eucharist LV

Celebration of the Eucharist

1. The Spirit of Eucharistic

Celebration

As we celebrate the Eucharist, we should be actively attentive to the divine mystery in which we participate. Much of what we do in our life accustoms us to an attitude of passivity, as when we sit and watch television. But at Mass, we are called to be engaged in the event.

There are many particular things which we can do during the Mass — listen attentively to the Word of God, sing with all our hearts, give generously for the needs of the community, take a role of service within the celebration, and so on.

The more we are attentive to these roles, the better. We should do all that we can to enhance the celebration of the liturgy.

We need to realise, however, that unlike most other things in life, the Mass fundamentally is not something that we do. It is an action of God. We become part of something that is greater than we are, and that takes us back through time to the death and resurrection of Jesus and forward to the Second Coming.

When someone says at the end of Mass, “That was a wonderful celebration”, we know what is meant. The same is true if someone says the reverse. The person felt either spiritually rewarded, or not.

But both comments touch only the surface of the Eucharist. We legitimately seek to enhance the liturgical experience but, no matter what our experience may be, the Eucharist is always primarily an action of God. It is not simply there to provide us with a pleasing spiritual experience.

By Cardinal Thomas Christopher Collins, catholicculture.org

2. Entry into the Eucharistic Mystery

As we enter the church, and bless ourselves with the holy water, the sign of our baptism, we cross a boundary into a sacred place where we can rediscover the divine perspective and receive the guidance and strength we need to navigate through life.

The central part of the church is called the “nave” (from the Latin word for “ship”). We are sailing along through the stormy seas, in the ship of the Church.

Around the walls we traditionally place the Stations of the Cross: they represent the path of Christ to Calvary, and on to the resurrection, the very path we are called to follow throughout our lives as disciples.

We look towards the sanctuary, where the altar represents Christ, and where the splendid vestments of the priest represent the glory towards which we are headed, and which is, in fact, the unseen context of our earthly struggle.

We begin the Mass with the Sign of the Cross. In the name of the Blessed Trinity, we trace on our bodies the cross of Christ, who showed us how to live in the image and likeness of the one God, three divine persons in relationships of generous love.

So often we fail to live thus, and so we acknowledge our sins and God’s mercy through the Penitential Rite. The Opening Prayer centres our thoughts on the meaning of the Eucharistic action, and at times of festivity, we offer our praises to God in the Gloria.

Now we are ready to be attentive to the Lord who speaks to us in the Word of God.

To Be Continued