



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

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER -YEAR B

14th April 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 15/4/2024-21/4/2024

MASS TIMES:

Monday	15/4	6.30pm
Tuesday	16/4	9.30am
St Anthony's Novena 5th Week-Adoration 6pm Novena 6.15pm		
Followed by Benediction & Mass		6.30pm
Wednesday	17/4	9.30am
Thursday	18/4	9.30am
Friday	19/4	9.30am
Saturday	20/4	9.00am

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

Rosary **8.30am prior to Saturday mass**



Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil	20/4	5.00pm
Sunday	21/4	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 15/4/2024-21/4/2024

MASS TIMES:

Monday	15/4	No Mass
Tuesday	16/4	7.30am
Holy Hour		7.00pm
Wednesday	17/4	9.30am
Thursday	18/4	7.30am
Friday	19/4	7.30am
Saturday	20/4	9.00am

Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil	20/4	6.30pm
Easter Sunday	21/4	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 KOROBEIT MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil	20/4	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 THIRD SUNDAY EASTER 2024-FR ALEX CLEMENTE

This Sunday's gospel reading and the stories of Jesus' appearances after his resurrection made me asked; What prevented the disciples from recognizing at once the risen Jesus? The apostles should have been familiar with Jesus' physical features, his gestures and mannerisms. But why did his disciples and apostles who are closest to him like Peter, John & Thomas fail to see readily that it was no less than Jesus present in their midst?

Reflecting about such questions led to me an answer that is simple yet profound. It is because Jesus has transformed! After his resurrection, Jesus' body was not simply like a resuscitated body that gained back vital signs but one that has changed into a glorious state. Thus, the risen Jesus transcended the space-time dimensions of this world. No wonder he can penetrate locked doors and be in various places at the same time.

I believe that one beautiful grace of Easter is transformation. The Peter whom we find in today's reading is far from the coward fellow denying Jesus during the Good Friday. He is now courageously proclaiming Jesus as the Christ sent by God but killed by his Jewish people. The same transformation happened with the other apostles who got overwhelmed by the discovery that they can heal miraculously in Jesus' name after the resurrection.

The encounter of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus with the Risen Lord has also wonderfully effected transformation; from confusion to clarity, from disillusionment to conviction, from despair to joy!

If I have followed Jesus during the Holy Week and this Easter time, what change in me should I experience? What inner transformation must happen so I can give witness to this great mystery of my faith that Jesus is alive, powerful and in control of everything?

PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY-21st APRIL 2024

Next Sunday we celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday – the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. During this coming week, perhaps you may like to make a prayer each day for more vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. Perhaps there is a young person you may know to pray for by name this week.

Pledge to Pray -The Vocations Office in Melbourne has partnered with some others in a project, 'Pledge to Pray' - an on-line platform for individuals to pledge prayers for vocations. It is based upon the idea of the 'Invisible Monastery'. We invite you to 'pledge a prayer' for vocations at www.pledgetoprayer.com.au this is a site dedicated to encouraging prayer for vocations in Australia.

Catholic Vocations Cardinal Knox Centre <http://www.vocations.melbournecatholic.org/>

ST ANTHONY'S

PRIME TIMERS

Our April outing will be Tuesday 30th, to The Mill Cafe and Larder, 105 Central Springs Rd., Daylesford.

We will meet at the old Bunnings car park at 10.30am.

If anyone needs a lift meet us there. Lunch for 11.30 - 12 o'clock.

RSVP 27th April so I can confirm booking numbers.

Enquiries: ineke49@yahoo.com or 4044120401.

Hope to see you there.

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 after mass 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.

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 AT 7PM.

NEWSLETTER-28th APRIL 2024

Parishioners please note, with the ANZAC public holiday on Thursday 25th April, our newsletter will be finalized and printed on Wednesday 24th April.

If you have any items for that newsletter please note all items must be submitted by **9.00am Wednesday 24th April.**

Thank you

Judy

ST BERNARD'S

PARISH OFFICE

Parishioners please note, the Parish Office will be closed on Wednesday 17th April and Thursday 18th April.

Thank you.

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

Parishioners please note, our weekday mass timetable is back to normal. Please see page 2 of the newsletter.

MORNING TEA-THIS WEEKEND

Morning tea will be held after both the 8.30am and 10.30am Masses on Sunday April 14th. All welcome!



PEOPLING OUR PARISH-ORDER FORMS

This 300-page full colour A4 size book is a compilation of the efforts of those priests and people who built our church, nurtured our parish culture and maintained our facilities and community life from 1841 until today.

It will be launched on June 23rd 2024, after the Special Anniversary Mass. The cost is \$ 75.00.

Please refer to the back page of the newsletter or go to our website [St Bernard's Catholic Parish | Bacchus Marsh](http://stbernardsbacchusmarsh.com.au) (stbernardsbacchusmarsh.com.au) to order your copy!

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: 20th & 21st 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

5.00pm: Liza Fernandes & Gavin Pereira

8.30am: Amy Honrade & Leonia Jessop

10.30am: Rose Ma'ae & Susan Malinov

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Dolores Turcsan & Aloysious Dacunha

8.30am: Geoff Sutton & Philip Anyayahan

10.30am: John Ma'ae & Elizabeth Underwood

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

MASS COORDINATORS

8.00pm: Natalie & Ron

8.30am: Lillian & Natalie

10.30am: Annonica & Leonia

ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 20th & 21st April

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

6.30pm: Maureen Zahra

8.30am: Moira Ross

10.30am: Beatrice Younger

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

6.30pm: Colin Remedios

8.30am: Volunteer needed

10.30am: Vanina Isah

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

April: John Thorne

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

We pray for the recently deceased:

Ana Kelsall

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

Joseph Aquilina, Emmanuela Borg, Joseph Borg, Susan Boslem, George Firth, Carmello Geordamaja, Charles Giordmaina, Carlo Lloyd, Fred Pullicino & Tony Pullicino

Please pray for the Sick:

Teresita Arrozal, Nickolia & Klara Butkovic, Maria Caruana, Mary Caruana, Christabelle, Lydia De Vega, Ann Eskdale, Ian Faux, Melanie Fue, Bruce Hynes, Kotinis Cornelia Kani, Judy Layton, Fale Logo, Peter Manicaro, 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 those whose death anniversaries occur at this time:

Leslie Crowe, Barbara Cywinski, Val Dickson, Carmel Fitzgerald, Margaret Moloney, Bob McGregor, Melva O'Brien, Sam Reale, Doris Storey, & Theo van Alkema

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: 20th & 21st April

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: Julie Sequiera

8.30am: Ineke Allen

10.30am: Giles Maitre

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. res: 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 : 20th & 21st April

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: 6.30pm: Jan Farmelo

Sunday: 8.30am: Jan & Colm

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: Mark & Edwina La Rose
Group 2: Elaine & Edward Rodrigues 0405 956 724
Group 3: L Miranda & N Pereira 0430 782 212



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.

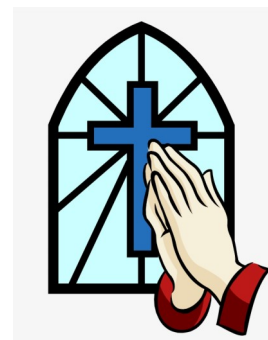
I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen

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

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth;
O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise, alleluia.

FIRST READING Acts 3:13-15, 17-19

Peter said to the people 'You are Israelites, and it is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our ancestors, who has glorified his servant Jesus, the same Jesus you handed over and then disowned in the presence of Pilate, after Pilate had decided to release him. It was you who accused the Holy One, the Just One, you who demanded the reprieve of a murderer while you killed the prince of life. God, however, raised him from the dead, and to that fact we are the witnesses.

'Now I know, brothers, that neither you nor your leaders had any idea what you were really doing; this was the way God carried out what he had foretold, when he said through all his prophets that his Christ would suffer. Now you must repent and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 4

Commentator: Lord, let your face shine on us.

All: Lord, let your face shine on us.

When I call, answer me, O God of justice;
from anguish you released me, have mercy and hear me!

It is the Lord who grants favours to those whom he loves;
the Lord hears me whenever I call him.

'What can bring us happiness?' many say.
Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord.

I will lie down in peace and sleep comes at once,
for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety.

Lord, let your face shine on us.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Christ had to suffer and on the third day rise from the dead; in his name repentance and remission of sins must be preached to all the nations, alleluia.

NEXT WEEKEND'S READING

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Reading: Acts 4:8-12

Second Reading: 1 Jn 3:1-2

Gospel: Jn 10:11-18



SECOND READING 1 John 2:1-5

I am writing this, my children,
to stop you sinning;
but if anyone should sin,
we have our advocate with the Father,
Jesus Christ, who is just;
he is the sacrifice that takes our sins away,
and not only ours,
but the whole world's.
We can be sure that we know God
only by keeping his commandments.
Anyone who says, 'I know him',
and does not keep his commandments,
is a liar,
refusing to admit the truth.
But when anyone does obey what he has said,
God's love comes to perfection in him.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us:
make our hearts burn with love when you speak.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 24:35-48

The disciples told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised Jesus at the breaking of bread.

They were still talking about this when Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you!' In a state of alarm and fright, they thought they were seeing a ghost. But he said, 'Why are you so agitated, and why are these doubts rising in your hearts? Look at my hands and feet; yes, it is I indeed. Touch me and see for yourselves; a ghost has no flesh and bones as you can see I have.' And as he said this he showed them his hands and feet. Their joy was so great that they could not believe it, and they stood dumbfounded; so he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' And they offered him a piece of grilled fish, which he took and ate before their eyes. Then he told them, 'This is what I meant when I said, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, in the Prophets and in the Psalms, has to be fulfilled.' He then opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'So you see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Holy Eucharist LVII

Celebration of the Eucharist

4. The Liturgy of the Eucharist

Now we approach the centre of the Eucharist. The Preface, the prayer that the celebrant recites directly before the Eucharistic Prayer, reminds us of the theme of the season, and also of the fact that we are participating in a reality that goes far beyond what our human eyes can detect. We join together with the angels and the saints as God comes into our midst.

There are several Eucharistic prayers, though each has the same basic structure, related to the three persons of the Trinity. This is particularly evident in the conclusion: “through him (Christ), with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours, almighty Father, forever and ever. Amen.”

The whole Eucharistic Prayer is addressed to Our Father in heaven. The priest extends his hands over the offerings, and invokes the Holy Spirit. Acting in the person of Christ, he recounts the institution of the Eucharist, and the bread and wine are transformed by God, and become, in fact, the Body and Blood of Christ.

We, in our ordinary life, are now linked to the suffering, death, and resurrection of the Lord. We are sent, in the Spirit, to bring the new life in Christ to the world in which we live.

In the Eucharistic Prayer, we call to mind the angels and the saints, and pray for our local Bishop, Peter, and for Pope Francis, a reminder that our particular local community is necessarily linked to the wider Church, in the diocese and throughout the world.

We need to be conscious of this universal perspective, or we can become disconnected, a cosy little community off on our own. Warm and homey celebration is to be prized, but needs to be balanced with the life-giving context of the whole Church of Christ.

After the majestic closing lines of the Eucharistic Prayer, we recite the Our Father,

which contains within it the words that express the secret of holiness: “Thy kingdom come, thy will be done”.

We wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, who will come to us at the end of time, and at the moment of our death, but who will be no stranger then, for we meet him at every Mass.

The Sign of Peace

Before we receive the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, we offer each other the sign of peace. This is not meant to be a meaningless greeting (like “Have a nice day”).

We offer to the person beside us a sign of the peace of Christ, which unites us. If we are not at peace with any person in the community, we should remedy that before receiving Communion, and the simple sign of peace reflects this (though it is not necessary to work one’s way through the congregation to make peace with a particular person.) There should be a solemn prayerfulness to the sign of peace; it is not a time for chaos.

Communion

We approach to receive the Lord. We hear the words: “The Body of Christ”; “The Blood of Christ”. Our response of “Amen” signifies that we are personally ready this day to receive Communion.

There are many reasons why one might not be ready, and so we should organise the reception of Communion in such a way that anyone can discreetly refrain from coming forward.

Our “Amen” also means that we do not think that we are about to receive “Holy Bread” or “Blessed Bread”. Instead, we acknowledge that this is the Lord Jesus himself, body and blood, soul and divinity, sacramentally present under the appearances of bread and wine.

To Be Continued