



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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER -YEAR B

28th 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 29/4/2024-5/5/2024

MASS TIMES:

Monday	29/4	6.30pm
Tuesday	30/4	9.30am
St Anthony's Novena 7th Week-Adoration 6pm Novena 6.15pm		
Followed by Benediction & Mass		6.30pm
Wednesday	1/5	9.30am
Thursday	2/5	9.30am
Friday	3/5	9.30am
First Friday Devotion		7.30pm
Saturday	4/5 First Saturday	9.00am

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

Rosary **8.30am prior to Saturday mass**



Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil	4/5	5.00pm
Sunday	5/5	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 29/4/2024-5/5/2024

MASS TIMES:

Monday	29/4	No Mass
Tuesday	30/4	7.30am
Holy Hour		7.00pm
Wednesday	1/5	9.30am
Thursday	2/5	7.30am
Friday	3/5	7.30am
Saturday	4/5	9.00am

Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil	4/5	St Bernard's P. S Commitment Mass	6.30pm
Sunday	5/5		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	4/5	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 5th SUNDAY EASTER 2024-SR MARY FERMIO rsj

Years ago, at a weekend seminar, one of our Sisters gave a talk on the Icon of the Blessed Trinity by Rublev. During her talk a huge image of the Icon was on a screen. At the end she asked me to go and sit at the fourth place at the table to illustrate that God asks us to be part of the family, to be at home with them.

In today's Gospel Jesus invites us to "make your home in me, as I make mine in you". Mary Coloe pbvm in her book **Sundays under the Southern Cross**, uses the Icon to understand that "God dwells in us as we dwell in God. God is at home in our living and we have our home within the life of God".

Using the image of the vine Jesus speaks of the profound intimacy

God desires with us. "I am the vine, you are the branches." The vine cannot produce fruit without the branches, just as Jesus relies on us to continue the work he started.

Pope Francis says that to remain in Jesus means –

"To do good, to help others, to pray to the Father, to care for the sick, to help the poor, to have the joy of the Holy Spirit".

Ask yourself: How am I doing? Am I a fruitful branch?



PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

INFORMATION SESSION FOR THE PERMANENT DIACONATE ARE YOU BEING CALLED TO SERVE?

The Permanent Diaconate is open to single and married men, aged between 30 and 60 years, who want to serve God and the Church as ordained ministers. COME & SEE! An Information Session about the Permanent Diaconate will be held on 4 May 2024 Saturday, 10:00 -11.45 am at the Catholic Theological College (CTC), 278 Victorian Parade, East Melbourne.

Contact: Office of the Permanent Diaconate (Phone) 03 9412 3357 (Email) diaconate@cam.org.au

CATHOLICCARE VICTORIA SUNDAY APPEAL-NEXT WEEKEND

Next weekend we will have a special collection for CatholicCare Victoria. CatholicCare Victoria delivers programs and services to support families, children, young people and individuals to help everyone reach their full potential. The services include counselling and mental health services, specialised support for children and teens, refugee and asylum seeker help, pastoral care, support for separating families, social housing and homelessness support. Donations from our parish community help CatholicCare Victoria support the most vulnerable individuals and families in our community and empower everyone to live life to the full. Please donate to the CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal. Your support and generosity will help provide caring and compassionate support for struggling individuals and families in our community.

YEAR 7 2026 ENROLMENTS NOW OPEN-ST FRANCIS CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Enrolment applications for Year 7 2026 at St Francis Catholic College are now open. You can apply online at

www.sfcc.vic.edu.au/joinus/enrolment We welcome you to join one of our college tours.

Reserve your place at www.sfcc.vic.edu.au/joinus/college-tour Applications close on Friday 16 August 2024.

MELBOURNE ARCHDIOCESE- MASS COUNT

The annual Mass count will take place in May, the four weekends of **4-5 May, 11-12 May, 18-19 May and 25-26 May** have been selected for the count. This annual count taken in May is important for our pastoral planning activities and allows for comparisons to be made across the years. The count maintains an up-to-date picture of Mass attendance in the Archdiocese.

ST ANTHONY'S

PARISH CENSUS

Dear Parishioners, we will be having a Parish Census This is to prepare the Parish Records for a Thanksgiving Campaign in October. Here is a breakdown of what will be happening.

Weekend of 4th/5th May

We will be distributing Census Cards before Mass.

There will be an explanation during Mass on how to fill them out.

Weekend of 11th/12th May

Census Cards will be distributed before every Mass.

Weekend of 18th/19th May

Census Cards distributed before every Mass.

A final reminder to fill out cards will be delivered.

This is a very important step towards updating our records to accurately reflect our congregation before the Campaign.

Your patience during this process will be highly appreciated.

Kind regards and God bless from Lesley Morffew

MOTHER'S DAY BINGO SPECIAL

POSTPONED TILL 11th JUNE 2024

Join us for a night of fun. \$200 package=47games

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.

CUPPA WEEKEND

Parishioners we will have a cuppa after every mass this weekend.

Everyone welcome!

ST BERNARD'S

MOTHER'S DAY DINNER

Saturday 11th May at 6.00pm at BACK TO BACCHUS.

All Mums welcome to join us on a great night out! For booking purposes, please put your name on the clipboard in the foyer before Friday 3rd May.

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://StBernardsCatholicParish|BacchusMarsh) (stbernardsbacchusmarsh.com.au)

to order your copy!

CONFIRMATION COMMITMENT MASS-4th May

Students receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, later this year will be attending a Commitment Mass Saturday 6.30pm 4th May at St Bernard's Parish Church.

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: 4th & 5th May

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: Michelle Tennakoon & Gavin Pereira
8.30am: Eva Caliguran & Amy Honrade
10.30am: Elizabeth Underwood & Niel Evangelista

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Dolores Turcsan & Aloysious Dacunha
8.30am: Philip Anyayahan & Geoff Sutton
10.30am: Doris Bonello & George Bonello

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

MASS COORDINATORS

5.00pm: Godwin & Annonika
8.30am: Josephine & Lillian
10.30am: Leonia & Godwin

ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 4th & 5th May

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

6.30pm: Sonia Smith
8.30am: Nathan Costin
10.30am: Samantha Butler

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

6.30pm: John Thorne
8.30am: Colm Carragher
10.30am: Volunteer needed

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

May: Maureen Zahra

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

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

George Bonello, Nina Bugeja, Tony Carberry, Phyllis Michael, Hondrato E Miranda, Noel Saunders, & Ann Singleton.

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,
 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, Remy Zografidis
 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:

Carmen Calvitto, Paul Micallef, Lee O'Hehir, Michael O'Keefe, & Val Ratkowski.

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: 4th & 5th May

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

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

CHURCH FLOWERS

April: Rosabella

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.
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 : 4th & 5th May

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

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

CHURCH FLOWERS

May: 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.

THEY WILL BE NO BAPTISMS ON THE 23RD JUNE AT ST BERNARD'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:	Ben & Geetha Arulanandhu	0478 112 996
Group 2:	Richelle & Mike Lorenzo	0475 887 149
Group 3:	Joseph & Carmel Cilia	0418 201 027

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,

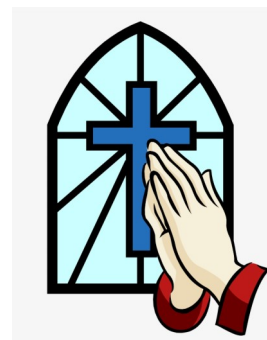
so that we may discern our journey

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

O sing a new song to the Lord,
for he has worked wonders;
in the sight of the nations
he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

FIRST READING Acts 9:26-31

When Saul got to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him: they could not believe he was really a disciple. Barnabas, however, took charge of him, introduced him to the apostles, and explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul and spoken to him on his journey, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. Saul now started to go round with them in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the Lord. But after he had spoken to the Hellenists, and argued with them, they became determined to kill him. When the brothers knew, they took him to Caesarea, and sent him off from there to Tarsus.

The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria were now left in peace, building themselves up, living in the fear of the Lord, and filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 21

Commentator: I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

All: I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

My vows I will pay before those who fear him.
The poor shall eat and shall have their fill.
They shall praise the Lord, those who seek him.
May their hearts live for ever and ever!

All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord,
all families of the nations worship before him.
They shall worship him, all the mighty of the earth;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust.

And my soul shall live for him, my children serve him.
They shall tell of the Lord to generations yet to come,
declare his faithfulness to peoples yet unborn:
'These things the Lord has done.'

I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord.
Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty,
alleluia.

NEXT WEEKEND'S READING

6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Reading: Acts 10:25-26,34-35,44-48

Second Reading: 1 Jn 4:7-10

Gospel: Jn 15:9-17



SECOND READING 1 John 3:18-24

My children,
our love is not to be just words or mere talk,
but something real and active;
only by this can we be certain
that we are the children of the truth
and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence,
whatever accusations it may raise against us,
because God is greater than our conscience and he knows everything.
My dear people,
if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience,
we need not be afraid in God's presence,
and whatever we ask him,
we shall receive,
because we keep his commandments
and live the kind of life that he wants.
His commandments are these:
that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ
and that we love one another
as he told us to.
Whoever keeps his commandments
lives in God and God lives in him.
We know that he lives in us
by the Spirit that he has given us.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord;
my branches bear much fruit.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 15:1-8

Jesus said to his disciples:
'I am the true vine,
and my Father is the vinedresser.
Every branch in me that bears no fruit
he cuts away,
and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes
to make it bear even more.
You are pruned already,
by means of the word that I have spoken to you.
Make your home in me, as I make mine in you.
As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself,
but must remain part of the vine,
neither can you unless you remain in me.
I am the vine,
you are the branches.
Whoever remains in me, with me in him,
bears fruit in plenty;
for cut off from me you can do nothing.
Anyone who does not remain in me
is like a branch that has been thrown away
- he withers;
these branches are collected and thrown on the fire,
and they are burnt.
If you remain in me
and my words remain in you,
you may ask what you will
and you shall get it.
It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit,
and then you will be my disciples.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Holy Eucharist LIX

Celebration of the Eucharist

5. Living the Eucharist

1. The Day of the Lord

The Sunday Eucharist should be the high point of our week as disciples of Christ, for on that day we celebrate the resurrection of the Lord.

During the week, as we live out our baptismal priesthood through faithful discipleship, we prepare to meet our risen Saviour at Sunday Mass. At the same time, as each day goes by, we realise our frailty, and our need for the grace that we receive at the Eucharist. By becoming conscious of the quality of Christian life that we bring to the Eucharist, we humbly prepare for the Day of the Lord.

Sunday is a time to stop, look, and listen. We need to have a break from the daily rush of activity, a time to be with family, to be with God. In fact, the busier we are, the more we need Sabbath time every day, and certainly at least once a week. Sadly, in our society Sunday is often a day no different from the others, so the Christian is even more impelled to make it stand out, as much as possible, as an oasis of spiritual refreshment in the desert of busyness.

As we leave the Sunday Eucharist, we enter into the week that lies ahead. In the Scriptures we have received light for our path. In our association with our fellow disciples we have been strengthened in our consciousness that we are one in a supportive family of faith. We have seen our particular struggles and joys in the context of the whole communion of saints, and so gain the perspective we need in order rightly to live as disciples of Jesus in this passing world.

In the experience of the Eucharist we have been brought back to the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus, and forward to his second coming: "Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again". The Sunday Eucharist allows us to get our priorities straight, and strengthens us to be more faithful disciples.

2. Community

As Christians, we are a Eucharistic community. The day before he suffered, Jesus gathered his disciples together and gave them the Eucharist. Through the Eucharist, until he comes in glory, Christians can be united to Jesus, and to each

other. At the Eucharist we are conscious of the local parish, the diocese, the Church through the world, and the whole communion of saints. The Eucharist situates us as disciples, in the communion of the Church.

We need to make the way we live with others outside the celebration of the Eucharist an extension of the ordered community of love that we are called to be at the Eucharist.

How can the hand that receives our Lord Jesus himself in Communion be used later to strike another person, or to grasp at possessions? How can the tongue that receives Our Lord Jesus himself in Communion be used later to destroy the reputation of another, or to lie?

Our parish community is a family of faith. Its members are varied in many ways, though united in faith. We do not choose our fellow parishioners, but work together as disciples of Jesus.

Newcomers and visitors to our parish Sunday Eucharist should receive a genuine welcome, as brothers and sisters in Christ. And it should not stop there. As the letter of St James reminds us, true religion means caring for those who are in need.

We also need to reach out to our fellow Catholics who do not practise the faith. How can we rest content, when so many of them do not join in the Sunday Eucharist, or in the other aspects of the life of our parish community?

Some are not with us because they are caught up in the illusions of materialism. If so, we need to be sure that we are living the Gospel with integrity, so that our lives are an invitation to faith.

Some are not with us because (perhaps through misunderstanding) they cannot accept particular elements of the faith. If so, we need to reach out with sensitivity, combining clarity with charity, though we cannot adjust the message of the Gospel so that it is pleasing to all.

Some are not with us because they have experienced, or feel they have experienced, our shortcomings as individuals or as a community. If so, we need to ask honestly what we can do to change.

We derive guidance and strength from the Eucharist, so that our journey of life may bring us, in due time, to our goal. As St Augustine said: "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you."