



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

2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER/DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY -YEAR B

7th 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 8/4/2024-14/4/2024

MASS TIMES:

Monday	8/4	6.30pm
Tuesday	9/4	9.30am
St Anthony's Novena 4th Week-Adoration 6pm Novena 6.15pm		
Followed by Benediction & Mass		6.30pm
Wednesday	10/4	9.30am
Thursday	11/4	9.30am
Friday	12/4	9.30am
Saturday	13/4	9.00am

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

Rosary **8.30am prior to Saturday mass**



Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil	13/4	5.00pm
Sunday	14/4	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 8/4/2024-14/4/2024

MASS TIMES:

Monday	8/4	No Mass
Rosary and Adoration		7.00pm
Tuesday	9/4	9.30am
Holy Hour		7.00pm
Wednesday	10/4	9.30am
Thursday	11/4	9.30am
Friday	12/4	9.30am
Providence and Friends Anointing Mass		11.00am
Saturday	13/4	9.00am

Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil	13/4	6.30pm
Easter Sunday	14/4	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	13/4	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 2nd SUNDAY EASTER 2024-SR MARY FERMIO rsj

All the time we are asked to believe the evidence of others – on TV, in newspapers, from other people. Seldom do we question what we see and read. "Seeing is believing!"

In today's Gospel Jesus seems to decide he needed to see the Apostles before they left for Gallilee, as he had instructed the women. Their amazement must have been evident on their faces. Did someone check the locked door? Was this really Jesus? This turned to Joy when the familiar "Peace be with you" was heard.

So, one can hardly blame Thomas when the Apostles told him of the visit of Jesus, that he ate food, they touched him and he was real. A dead man coming back to life! Yet Thomas had seen Lazarus back from the dead. Jesus showed his love and forgiveness by inviting Thomas to touch his wounds, as he claimed he had to, before he would believe. Thomas gave us the phrase most of us have used "My Lord and my God!" But Jesus gently chided him: "You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe!"

We can truly count ourselves among the latter. But, can I ask myself:
"Why do I believe in the Resurrection?" Let us be honest in our response.



PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

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.



ST ANTHONY'S

EASTER RAFFLE

Thank you to our Social Committee for organising our Easter Raffle. Thank you to everyone that supported this fundraiser. We raised \$2015.00. All money raised will go towards the extension of the Padua Hall. All winners have been notified.

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.

GOOD FRIDAY-COLLECTION FOR HOLY LAND

St Anthony's Parish collected \$1598.00 for the Holy Land special collection on Good Friday. Thank you for your generosity.

ST BERNARD'S

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

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

PROVIDENCE AND FRIENDS MASS-ANOINTING MASS

Parishioners are invited to our monthly Providence and Friends Mass on Friday 12th April 2024. at 11.00am. Please bring a plate for morning tea/lunch. If transport is required please let the Parish Office know or call Margot Short 0419 507 438.

KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS

The Knights of the Southern Cross meeting will be held in the parish centre meeting room at 8pm on Monday 8th April.

MORNING TEA

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 to order your copy!

Father, when I do the work to which you have called me, let it both sustain my own life on earth and build up your Kingdom.

Source: A Year with the Church Fathers-Mike Aquilina

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: 13th & 14th 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: Aloysious Dacunha & Marian Muller
8.30am: Mercy Seufatu & Geoff Sutton
10.30am: Niel Evangelista & Alexandra Gunaratnam

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Gavin Pereira & Ann Tennakoon
8.30am: Ron Howard & Roa Seufatu
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: Godwin & Julie
8.30am: Josephine & Lillian
10.30am: Lillian & Leonia

ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 13th & 14th April

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

6.30pm: Jeremy Toledo
8.30am: Margaret Love
10.30am: Dominic van der Linden

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

6.30pm: Vikki Benson
8.30am: Volunteer needed
10.30am: Volunteer needed

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

April: John Thorne

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Dean Komanycki, John Mercieca, Jan Spiteri & Oli Oli Tomasi Tullau

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 the recently deceased:

Nazarena Casha, Lt Walter (Wally) Elmer.

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

Ada Judge, Marjorie Long, Marie Maher, George Maver, Gerry Reilly, Heather Ryan, Marie Sommerfeld.

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: 13th & 14th April

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: Kim Barton
8.30am: Pat Chiles
10.30am: Lorette Soba

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 : 13th & 14th April

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

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

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.

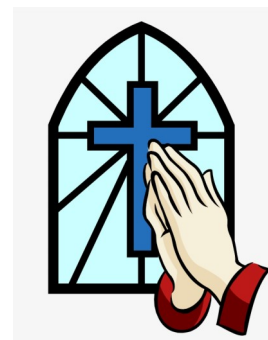
I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen

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

Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

FIRST READING Acts 4:32-35

The whole group of believers was united, heart and soul; no one claimed for his own use anything that he had, as everything they owned was held in common.

The apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great power, and they were all given great respect.

None of their members was ever in want, as all those who owned land or houses would sell them, and bring the money from them, to present it to the apostles; it was then distributed to any members who might be in need.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 117

Commentator: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

All: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

Let the sons of Israel say:

'His love has no end.'

Let the sons of Aaron say:

'His love has no end.'

Let those who fear the Lord 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.

I was punished, I was punished by the Lord,
but not doomed to die.

The stone which the builders rejected

has become the corner stone,

This is the work of the Lord,

a marvel in our eyes.

This day was made by the Lord;

we rejoice and are glad.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
his love is everlasting.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails,
and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.

NEXT WEEKEND'S READING

3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19

Second Reading: 1 Jn 2:1-5

Gospel: Luke 24:35-48



SECOND READING 1 John 5:1-6

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ

has been begotten by God;

and whoever loves the Father that begot him

loves the child whom he begets.

We can be sure that we love God's children

if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us;

this is what loving God is -

keeping his commandments;

and his commandments are not difficult,

because anyone who has been begotten by God

has already overcome the world;

this is the victory over the world -

our faith.

Who can overcome the world?

Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of God;

Jesus Christ who came by water and blood,

not with water only,

but with water and blood;

with the Spirit as another witness -

since the Spirit is the truth.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me;

happy are those who have not seen me, but still believe!

Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 20:19-31

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews.

Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again,

'Peace be with you.

'As the Father sent me,

so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.

For those whose sins you forgive,

they are forgiven;

for those whose sins you retain,

they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the

Lord,' he answered, 'Unless I see the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the

disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace

be with you,' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt

no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me.

Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Holy Eucharist LVI

Celebration of the Eucharist

3. The Liturgy of the Word

The readings from the Bible at Mass are a light for our path in life. I suggest that before each reading we say, silently in our hearts, the prayer of the young Samuel: "Speak, Lord. Your servant is listening." (1 Samuel 3:10)

On Sundays, we have a rich selection of biblical passages. First, God speaks to us through the Old Testament Reading, which is chosen because it touches on a theme found in the Gospel of the day.

As there is a great plan to history, seen in the Old and New Testaments, so God has a plan for the life of each of us, and attention to the readings will help us to discover it.

Next we pray one of the Psalms. Though sometimes their terms are a bit unfamiliar (which is a good reason to do some Bible study), the Psalms reveal to us the action of God in our own human condition as well as they did for those who first prayed them long ago.

The Second Reading, unlike the first, does not relate to the Gospel, but gives us a portion of a New Testament book, usually a letter of St Paul. These letters are always challenging to us, and provide material for serious reflection for the rest of the week.

In the Gospel we directly hear of the words and deeds of Jesus. At solemn celebrations of the Eucharist we have a procession with the Gospel book, with candles. We incense the book as a sign of reverence for the Lord. The Gospel is the foundation for our life of discipleship. Each day we should read a portion of the Gospels, for in them we find most directly the message of Christ.

The homily is meant to relate the Scripture readings to our present situation. The homilist should prepare through study, and reflection, but most of all through prayer and through a daily life of service. Each homily should give us one simple practical point to help us be better disciples.

By Cardinal Thomas Christopher Collins, catholicculture.org

A good exercise for all of us in the congregation: read the Scripture passages ahead of time, and if possible discuss them in the family, or in some Bible study group. What points would you stress in communicating these readings to another person?

We profess our faith, the common faith of the whole Church, and so remember that we are part of something far greater than what can be seen by looking around our local church.

The prayer of the faithful also reminds us to see our local situation within a wider perspective. We should pray for the members of the parish community in which we live, and for their needs.

Prayer is an act of charity, in which we show our love for others. We should also pray for the needs of the diocese and the Church throughout the world.

We take up the collection. Our practical gift helps the local parish, and those in need, and makes possible the work of the whole Church. How much should a person give? Consider the needs of the Church, locally, in the diocese, and around the world.

The work of the Church is made possible because of the collection at Mass. It is a serious responsibility of all members of the Church to give generously, as it is also a serious responsibility of those who manage the funds of the Church to do so frugally and effectively, as trustees of the people of God.

The priest offers up the bread and wine. As he does so, think of all your cares and problems and offer them up to God. In return, the Lord gives us himself.

In ancient times, water was always mixed with wine, as a practical measure, and this is done at Mass as well. But it has taken on a spiritual significance expressed by the beautiful prayer the priest says: "By the mystery of this water and wine, may we come to share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity."

To Be Continued