



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

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER -YEAR B

5th May 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 6/5/2024-12/5/2024

MASS TIMES:

Monday	6/5	6.30pm
Tuesday	7/5	9.30am
St Anthony's Novena 8th Week-Adoration 6pm Novena 6.15pm		
Followed by Benediction & Mass		6.30pm
Wednesday	8/5	9.30am
Thursday	9/5	9.30am
Friday	10/5	9.30am
Saturday	11/5	9.00am

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

Rosary **8.30am prior to Saturday mass**



Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil	11/5	5.00pm
Sunday	12/5	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 6/5/2024-12/5/2024

MASS TIMES:

Monday	6/5	No Mass
Tuesday	7/5	7.30am
Holy Hour		7.00pm
Wednesday	8/5	9.30am
Thursday	9/5	7.30am
Friday	10/5	7.30am
Providence and Friends Mass		11.00am
Saturday	11/5	9.00am

Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil	11/5	6.30pm
Sunday	12/5	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	11/5	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 6th SUNDAY EASTER 2024-SR MARY FERMIO rsj

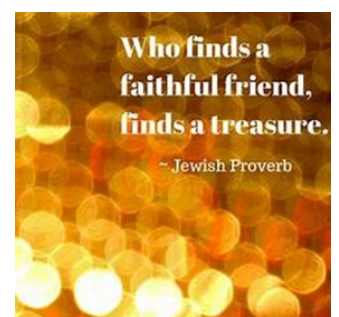
The book of Ecclesiastes has "A friend is a treasure". All of us treasure our friends with whom we share trust, with whom we can think aloud, share joys and sorrows, hopes and fears. A friend helps us survive loneliness and hostility.

In today's Gospel Jesus calls his disciples "my friends". And Jesus shared so much of his life with them, even his fears, as if he needed them to support him and to help him survive what was coming. Jesus had many other friends besides his disciples – Mary, Martha and Lazarus at whose tomb he wept; Peter, a forgiven friend who became the Rock; John, the beloved disciple whose community lived as friends for many years after the death of Jesus; Nicodemus and Joseph of Aramathea who assisted in the burial of Jesus; Mary Magdalen who stood at the foot of the cross and recognised Jesus calling her name at the tomb.

As we gather around the table at Mass, we hear we have been chosen by Jesus as his friends and sent to befriend the world with the love given to us. Not a cramped, grudging or grumpy love – but a joyful and expansive friendship encompassing the whole world.

Sit with one of Jesus' friends and ask them about their friendship with Jesus.

Is Jesus also my friend with whom I share my life, my fears, my hopes and dreams?



PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

CATHOLICCARE VICTORIA SUNDAY APPEAL-THIS WEEKEND

This weekend is the CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal (previously held during the month of August). CatholicCare Victoria works with individuals, families and communities to build strength, resilience, and empowerment to reach their full potential. Your generous donation will help the most vulnerable members of our community – those facing unemployment and homelessness, those experiencing mental health challenges, families struggling with relationship problems, people in hospitals and prisons, newly arrived refugees, and those experiencing grief and trauma. Please donate to CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal. Your compassion and generosity will help the most vulnerable and marginalised in our community. You can also donate using the appeal envelope available or donate online at www.catholiccarevic.org.au or call (03) 9287 5513.

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 2024

Dear Parishioners to support our pastoral leadership teams, in their role of acknowledging, guiding and empowering our Parish community, please fill in the census card.

This information is used only for pastoral and administrative purposes within this parish and will not be shared.

Any queries, please contact either Natalie Howard, Lillian Christian, Godwin Barton or Lesley Morffew.

Thank you.

INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL-19th May 2024

We will be holding our International Food Festival on Pentecost Sunday -19th May 2024, following the 10.30am in the Padua Hall. Come along and enjoy food from the many cultures that make up our vibrant Parish community. All funds raised will go towards the extension of the Padua Hall.

TRIVIA NIGHT

Save the date! There will be a Trivia night facilitated by St Anthony's youth Saturday 1st June 2024. It will be a night of competitive fun, food & some entertainment. Come and support the youth & parish on this night.

More details to follow.

PROJECT COMPASSION

The St Anthony's Parish collected \$3201.00 for the Project Compassion Appeal. Thank you for your generosity.

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.

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 from Friday 3rd of May to Sunday 5th May 5.00pm.

Any enquiries please call Natalia 0409445552

MOTHER'S DAY CAKE AND CRAFT STALL

A Mother's Day Cake and Craft Stall will be held at all Masses on the weekend of 11th/12th May. Please bring a cake/slice/ biscuits and then buy one! Please list ingredients.

No fresh cream, custard or raw eggs. Thank you.

THANKSGIVING STATEMENTS & ENVELOPES

Thanksgiving statements for those giving via direct debit/online contributions are available in the Gathering Space. So, too, are envelopes for those giving that way. If you indicated you wished to give and have not received a statement or envelopes, please put your name and contact number on the clipboard to allow follow-up.

PROVIDENCE AND FRIENDS MASS

Parishioners are invited to our monthly Providence and Friends Mass on Friday 10th May 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.

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.

The cut-off date for orders at the office is Friday 10th May 2024.

MORNING TEA

There will be a morning tea held in the foyer after the 8.30am and 10.30am Masses on Sunday May 12th. All welcome.

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: 11th & 12th 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: Aloysious Dacunha & Liza Fernandes
8.30am: Mercy Seufatu & Geoff Sutton
10.30am: Alexandra Gunaratnam & Romeo Sacris

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Dolores Turcsan & Gavin Pereira
8.30am: Ron Howard & Elizabeth Underwood
10.30am: Frank Carreon & Cita Carreon

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

MASS COORDINATORS

5.00pm: Natalie & Ron
8.30am: Josephine & Lillian
10.30am: Annonica & Godwin

ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 11th & 12th May

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

6.30pm: John Thorne
8.30am: Dominican Sisters
10.30am: Chloe Lindorff

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

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

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

May: Maureen Zahra

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

We pray for the recently deceased:

Troy Saliba

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

Karen Austin, WM Campbell, Annie Fernandes, Linda Finch, Walter German, George Mercieca, Georgia Mercieca, & Frank Xiberra.

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, Faamu Leiataua, 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, 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 the recently deceased:

Lewis Darminin, Maree Gleeson, Troy Saliba, Frank Sammut & Mary "Molly" Whiting.

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

Kath Coburn, Christina Dellios, George Freeman, Jeffrey Galea, Susan Pamintuan, Dianne Sargent, Patricia (Trish) Shelly, Frank Sammut, & Mary Wadeson.

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, Nancy Pace, 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: 11th & 12th May

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: Liza Chdid
8.30am: Pat Chiles
10.30am: Lorette Soba

CHURCH FLOWERS

May: 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 : 11th & 12th May

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

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

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:	Brian Barker	0408 974 322
Group 2:	Nirmala Meegama	0452 200 344
Group 3:	Mary & Tony Galea	0401 169 224

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.

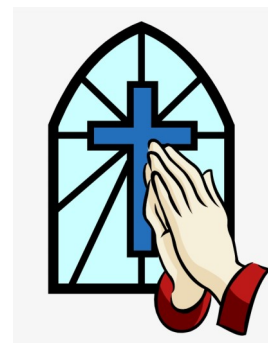
I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen

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

Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard;
proclaim to the ends of the earth:
The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

FIRST READING Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48

As Peter reached the house Cornelius went out to meet him, knelt at his feet and prostrated himself. But Peter helped him up. 'Stand up', he said 'I am only a man after all!'

Then Peter addressed them: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.'

While Peter was still speaking the Holy Spirit came down on all the listeners. Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter were all astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit should be poured out on the pagans too, since they could hear them speaking strange languages and proclaiming the greatness of God. Peter himself then said, 'Could anyone refuse the water of baptism to these people, now they have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have?' He then gave orders for them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterwards they begged him to stay on for some days.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 97

Commentator: The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

All: The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

Sing a new song to the Lord
for he has worked wonders.
His right hand and his holy arm
have brought salvation.

The Lord has made known his salvation;
has shown his justice to the nations.
He has remembered his truth and love
for the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
Shout to the Lord all the earth,
ring out your joy.

The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord,
and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete,
to abide with you for ever, alleluia.

NEXT WEEKEND'S READING

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Reading: Acts 1:1-11
Second Reading: Eph 1:17-23
Gospel: Mk 16:15-20



SECOND READING 1 John 4:7-10

My dear people,
let us love one another
since love comes from God
and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.
Anyone who fails to love can never have known God,
because God is love.
God's love for us was revealed
when God sent into the world his only Son
so that we could have life through him;
this is the love I mean:
not our love for God,
but God's love for us when he sent his Son
to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we will come to them.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 15:9-17

Jesus said to his disciples:
'As the Father has loved me,
so I have loved you.
Remain in my love.
If you keep my commandments
you will remain in my love,
just as I have kept my Father's commandments
and remain in his love.
I have told you this
so that my own joy may be in you
and your joy be complete.
This is my commandment:
love one another,
as I have loved you.
A man can have no greater love
than to lay down his life for his friends.
You are my friends,
if you do what I command you.
I shall not call you servants any more,
because a servant does not know
his master's business;
I call you friends,
because I have made known to you
everything I have learnt from my Father.
You did not choose me,
no, I chose you;
and I commissioned you
to go out and to bear fruit,
fruit that will last;
and then the Father will give you
anything you ask in my name.
What I command you
is to love one another.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Holy Eucharist LX

Celebration of the Eucharist

5. Living the Eucharist

3. Adoration

“It is the Lord!” The celebration of the Eucharist is many things, but it is certainly and most profoundly an encounter with Jesus, our Risen Saviour. We do not receive holy bread, or blessed bread, nor do we gather to talk about Jesus and to share bread and wine.

“It is the Lord!” When we receive communion, we receive Jesus, our Lord and our God. Therefore we approach the Eucharist in a spirit of reverent adoration.

We also most fittingly spend time in adoration in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, reserved in the tabernacle to be brought to the sick. We can pray anywhere, but there is no more fitting place to pray on earth than in the sacramental presence of the Lord. There we are profoundly struck with the awesome mystery of God’s grace.

When we pray in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament we extend in contemplation the mystery we celebrate in the Eucharist. We bring before the Lord all of our cares and troubles, and prepare ourselves for the next time we receive Jesus in Communion.

Extended prayer before the Blessed Sacrament is an expression of the ancient tradition of vigil: offering time before the Lord.

Our lives are made up of time, and the way we spend time is the surest measure of our priorities. In the garden of Gethsemane, when Jesus “returned to his disciples he found them asleep. He said to Peter: ‘So, you could not keep watch with me for one hour?’” (Matthew 26:40) In the Gospels, Jesus himself keeps vigil before the Heavenly Father (see Mark 1:35; Luke 6:12).

As we enter a Catholic church, we look to the sanctuary lamp, which burns before the tabernacle, a sign of the light of Christ and of our prayer of vigil before the Lord. We should be sure to instruct our children concerning the

By Cardinal Thomas Christopher Collins, catholicculture.org

real presence of the Lord, and the prayer of Eucharistic adoration. When we explain gestures, such as genuflection, we help them to deepen their Eucharistic awareness.

We can easily forget the awesome reality of the presence of Christ, since the way in which he comes is, as always, so unobtrusive. To counter this forgetfulness, we should have in all of our parishes not only the opportunity to pray in adoration before the tabernacle, but also occasions for more explicit expressions of awareness of the Eucharistic presence, such as Exposition, Holy Hours, and Benediction. These can fruitfully be joined with another marvellous aspect of our tradition of prayer, the celebration of the Liturgy of the Hours.

During such times of prayer, I suggest that we especially pray to God for two intentions: 1) that our families may be strengthened; and 2) that those who are being called to the priesthood and religious life will respond to that call.

During our period of vigil before the Blessed Sacrament, we should spend most of the time in silent prayer.

It is good to read from the Scriptures, either aloud or silently, and perhaps to pray the Rosary, or litanies, or prayers of adoration. Perhaps say the Jesus Prayer: “Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.” Or the prayer of Samuel: “Speak, Lord. Your servant is listening.” Or: “Mara-natha! Come, Lord Jesus.”

It is good to sing a Eucharistic hymn, preferably one of the richly meaningful ones from the Christian tradition. Those of Saint Thomas Aquinas are especially profound.

Time in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament is so important for us all that it should not be an occasion for promoting private revelations, apparitions, or locutions, or any particular devotions.

An extended time of Eucharistic vigil most fittingly either begins or ends with the actual celebration of the Eucharist.