



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

THE 13th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME -YEAR B

30th June 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 –see page 3
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: Aloysious Dacunha 0431 012 511 **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

Email: parish.safeguard@gmail.com

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

Judy Johnson's office hours are Tue, Wed and Thu 9.30am-1.30pm

MASS AND DEVOTIONS

ST ANTHONY'S MELTON SOUTH 1/7/2024-7/7/2024

MASS TIMES:

Monday	1/7	6.30pm
Tuesday	2/7	9.30am
Novena Mass & Blessing of St Anthony's bread		
Wednesday	3/7	9.30am
Thursday	4/7	9.30am
Friday	5/7	9.30am
First Friday Devotion		7.30pm
Saturday	6/7	First Saturday 9.00am

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

Rosary **8.30am prior to Saturday mass**



Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil	6/7	5.00pm
Sunday	7/7	8.30am & 10.30am

Confession is available and begins 30 minutes prior to each Mass and will cease 5 minutes before Mass commences.
No Confession on Monday.

ST BERNARD'S BACCHUS MARSH 1/7/2024-7/7/2024

MASS TIMES:

Monday	1/7	No Mass
Tuesday	2/7	9.30am
Holy Hour		7.00pm
Wednesday	3/7	9.30am
Thursday	4/7	9.30am
Friday	5/7	9.30am
Saturday	6/7	9.00am

Sunday Mass

Saturday Vigil	6/7	5.00pm
Sunday	7/7	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 **2nd & 3rd Saturdays of the month** 5.00pm

Saturday 13th & 20th July

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 13th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME-YEAR B –Sr Mary Fermio rsi

Because of their appearances and circumstances, some are often overlooked in preference to the rich and well-dressed. Though equally loved by God, it is not always the way they are treated.

Today's Gospel tells of a rich leader of the Synagogue who came to Jesus asking him to cure his daughter who is dying. On the way a woman, destitute, shunned due to her illness and desperate, tries secretly to touch the cloak of Jesus hoping for a cure. She realises she now feels well but before she could sneak away, Jesus demands to know who touched him.

Fearful and trembling she comes forward to Jesus who has stopped his journey, and he gets her to relate her story thus reinstating her into society, calling her "my daughter" and praising her for her faith. In the meantime, Jairus's daughter has died, but Jesus insists on resuming his journey and brings the young girl back to life.

Each of us is a child of God, no matter our circumstances in this world; each of us is equally loved by God.
How do I treat others? Do I take time to listen?
Am I willing to stop for someone when I am on a mission to somewhere?



PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

PETER'S PENCE APPEAL –THIS WEEKEND-29TH & 30TH JUNE

This weekend we will have a special collection to support the Peter's Pence appeal. Donations to the appeal support Pope Francis' mission, from the proclamation of the Gospel to the promotion of integral human development, education and peace. Peter's Pence also aims to support a range of charities that bring aid and comfort to the poor, children, families, the elderly, the marginalised, victims of war and natural disasters, refugees and migrants.

ARCHBISHOP PETER COMENSOLI'S CANONICAL VISIT 21st-23rd June 2024

Last weekend the Parishes of St Anthony's and St Bernard's were blessed to have a visit from Archbishop Peter Comensoli. The Archbishop spent time meeting with our priests, our parish office staff, our representatives from various key ministries, the Parish Pastoral Councils, Finance Committees and our parishioners during the Forum and at Mass celebrations. Thank you to everyone who helped make this visit by our Archbishop a very successful one. Archbishop Peter Comensoli was very happy and grateful for our hospitality.

ST ANTHONY'S

SOLDIERS OF CHRIST-CHILDREN'S CATECHISM

Children's Catechism sessions will be held every 1st Sunday of the month, beginning Sunday 7th July. Suitable for children aged 5-12 years of age. 12pm till 1.30pm in the Padua Hall. The sessions will include games, Catechism activities and fun! Please contact Naim 0437 004 790. See flyer on noticeboard.

PARISH OFFICE

We will have temporary office hours from Tue 2nd July– Tue 9th July, during this period the office will be open Tue-Thu 9.30am-1.30pm. Office hours will be back to normal on Wednesday 10th July.

ST ANTHONY'S NOVENA MASS AND BLESSING OF BREAD

On the evening of the first Tuesday of each month we will have a Novena Mass and blessing and distribution of St Anthony's Bread. This will begin next Tuesday 2nd July

MARIAN GROTTO

Archbishop Peter Comensoli blessed our new grotto on Saturday 22nd June after the 5pm Vigil. Please take the time to stop by our beautiful grotto and pay our Mother Mary a visit.



ST BERNARD'S

SPECIAL COLLECTION

Last weekend we had a special appeal collection for funds to help maintain our beautiful St Bernard's church. We collected \$1618.30. Thank you for your generosity.

150th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

'How refreshing to be in a beautiful, jam-packed church participating in a deeply moving Mass with such spiritually, nurturing music and singing.'

This was one of many comments passed by those in attendance at our 150th Anniversary Mass of the blessing and opening of St Bernard's Church. The occasion marked the re-housing of the Foundation Stone of our first chapel, St Laurence O'Toole. Archbishop Peter arrived in our parish on Friday as the stone was being assembled. We were able to share and clarify our history for him. Sunday was the culmination of so much work and planning by so many:

- the paver project
- the Foundation Stone installation
- the writing and publishing of the parish history
- the design and printing of the commemorative bookmark
- the preparation of the Mass, the hymns, the Mass booklet and the contribution of our liturgical ministers and other helpers as listed in the book
- the catering which lived up to standard
- the preparation of grounds, gardens and facilities

Archbishop Peter combined the Mass celebration commitment with his canonical visit. We appreciated the opportunity to share concerns and blessings with him and to embrace his approach to addressing challenges. We are grateful for the time he gave us and he, in turn, was appreciative of our hospitality.

When Sunday's frosty start gave way to sunshine and lit up the beautiful stained-glass image of our patron, it felt as though St Bernard himself had entered the building and was giving his blessing to the day. We give thanks to Archbishop Peter, Frs Alex, Wilford, Lucas and Brian for their meaningful, inclusive Mass concelebration so well complemented by the glorious voices of our singers who drew fellow worshippers into prayerful participation.

How good was the Byham brothers' harmony!

Lifelong parishioner, Pat O'Leary who has given extraordinary service to our parish enthralled attendees with his history synopsis as he fittingly launched *Peopling our Parish*. Already we have solved the missing window information (page 115).

The day finished with talk, talk and more talk as locals, returning parishioners and pioneer descendants caught up. Huge thanks to helpers and contributors to all facets of the 150th Anniversary. You know who you are. As Mary MacKillop said, 'There where you are you will find God.'

WORSHIP NEWS

ALL VOLUNTEERS IN OUR PARISH MUST HAVE A CURRENT VALID WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK AND A CODE OF CONDUCT FORM SIGNED.

ST ANTHONY'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 6th & 7th July
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: Gavin Pereira & Michelle Tennakoon
8.30am: Leonia Jessop & Amy Honrade
10.30am: Ana Taunuu & Elizabeth Underwood

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Dolores Turcsan & Aloysious Dacunha
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

5.00pm: Natalie & Ron
8.30am: Godwin & Lillian
10.30am: Leonia & Lillian

ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 6th & 7th July

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

5.00pm: Vicki Benson
8.30am: Nathan Costin
10.30am: Samantha Butler

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: John Thorne
8.30am: Volunteer needed
10.30am: Volunteer needed

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

July: Jan Carragher

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

We pray for the recently deceased:

Remy Zografidis

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

Carmena Chircorp, Joseph Chircorp, John DeBrincat, Cecil Fernandez, Adelina Grech, Clemont Grech, Joseph Grech Margherita Grech, Allan McCain & Amaya Michallef

Please pray for the Sick:

Bruce Amoa, Teresita Arrozal, Nickolia & Klara Butkovic, Maria Caruana, Mary Caruana, Christabelle, Lydia De Vega, Ann Eskdale, Melanie Fue, Bruce Hynes, Kotinis Cornelia Kani, Judy Layton, Faamu Leiataua, Peter Manicaró, Damien Michael, Hazel Michael, Tony Michael, Veronica Michael, Jan Mifsud, Nickol, Caleb O'Brien, John Osborne, Anna Samy, Samantha Smith, Sina, Saleri, Charlie Spiteri, Janko Stojanovic, 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.

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



ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

We pray for the recently deceased:

John Rodger Patterson, James Sheehan & Debbie Pace Vella

Requiem Mass for John Rodger Patterson will be held at St Bernard's Church on Monday 1st July 2024 at 11am.

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

Odino (Dinny) Antonello, Stan Mullane, Paul Murray, & Adrianus (Aad) Weerdenburg.

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, Joanne Mumford, 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.

SERVICE / COMMUNITY

ALL VOLUNTEERS IN OUR PARISH MUST HAVE A CURRENT VALID WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK AND A CODE OF CONDUCT FORM SIGNED.

ST ANTHONY'S

WEEKEND VOLUNTEERS: 6th & 7th July

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

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

CHURCH FLOWERS

July: Ana

CUPPA VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm:
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 : 6th & 7th July

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: 5.00pm: Marj Tung
Sunday: 8.30am: Dianne Shelly

CHURCH FLOWERS

July: 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@inet.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.



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:	Robert & Angela Lacono	0424 801 928
Group 2:	Maria & Juan Dumanden	0402 177 623
Group 3:	Godwin & Kim Barton	0425 734 449

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,

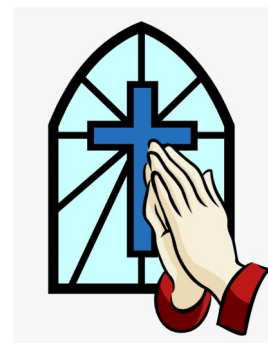
so that we may discern our journey

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

All peoples, clap your hands.
Cry to God with shouts of joy!

FIRST READING Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24

Death was not God's doing,
he takes no pleasure in the extinction of the living.
To be - for this he created all;
the world's created things have health in them,
in them no fatal poison can be found,
and Hades holds no power on earth;
for virtue is undying.
Yet God did make man imperishable,
he made him in the image of his own nature;
it was the devil's envy that brought death into the world,
as those who are his partners will discover.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 29

Commentator: I will praise you, Lord,
for you have rescued me.

All: I will praise you, Lord,
for you have rescued me.

I will praise you, Lord, you have rescued me
and have not let my enemies rejoice over me.
O Lord, you have raised my soul from the dead,
restored me to life from those who sink into the grave.

Sing psalms to the Lord, you who love him,
give thanks to his holy name.
His anger lasts but a moment: his favour through life.
At night there are tears, but joy comes with dawn.

The Lord listened and had pity.
The Lord came to my help.
For me you have changed my mourning into dancing,
O Lord my God, I will thank you for ever.

I will praise you, Lord,
for you have rescued me.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all within me, his holy name

NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS

14th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FIRST READING: Ezek 2:2-5

SECOND READING: 2 Cor 12:7-10

GOSPEL: Mk 6:1-6



SECOND READING 2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13-15

You always have the most of everything - of faith, of eloquence, of understanding, of keenness for any cause, and the biggest share of our affection - so we expect you to put the most into this work of mercy too. Remember how generous the Lord Jesus was: he was rich, but he became poor for your sake, to make you rich out of his poverty. This does not mean that to give relief to others you ought to make things difficult for yourselves: it is a question of balancing what happens to be your surplus now against their present need, and one day they may have something to spare that will supply your own need. That is how we strike a balance: as scripture says: The man who gathered much had none too much, the man who gathered little did not go short.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Our Saviour Jesus Christ has done away with death
and brought us life through his gospel.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mark 5:21-43

When Jesus had crossed in the boat to the other side, a large crowd gathered round him and he stayed by the lakeside. Then one of the synagogue officials came up, Jairus by name, and seeing him, fell at his feet and pleaded with him earnestly, saying, 'My little daughter is desperately sick. Do come and lay your hands on her to make her better and save her life.' Jesus went with him and a large crowd followed him; they were pressing all round him.

Now there was a woman who had suffered from a haemorrhage for twelve years; after long and painful treatment under various doctors, she had spent all she had without being any the better for it, in fact, she was getting worse. She had heard about Jesus, and she came up behind him through the crowd and touched his cloak. 'If I can touch his clothes,' she had told herself 'I will be well again.' And the source of the bleeding dried up instantly, and she felt in herself that she was cured of her complaint. Immediately aware that power had gone out of him, Jesus turned around in the crowd and said, 'Who touched my clothes?' His disciples said to him, 'You see how the crowd is pressing round you and yet you say, "Who touched me?"' But he continued to look all round to see who had done it. Then the woman came forward, frightened and trembling because she knew what had happened to her, and she fell at his feet and told him the whole truth. 'My daughter,' he said 'your faith has restored you to health; go in peace and be free from your complaint.'

While he was still speaking some people arrived from the house of the synagogue official to say, 'Your daughter is dead: why put the Master to any further trouble?' But Jesus had overheard this remark of theirs and he said to the official, 'Do not be afraid; only have faith.' And he allowed no one to go with him except Peter and James and John the brother of James. So they came to the official's house and Jesus noticed all the commotion, with people weeping and wailing unrestrainedly. He went in and said to them, 'Why all this commotion and crying? The child is not dead, but asleep.' But they laughed at him. So he turned them all out and, taking with him the child's father and mother and his own companions, he went into the place where the child lay. And taking the child by the hand he said to her, 'Talitha, kum!' which means, 'Little girl, I tell you to get up.' The little girl got up at once and began to walk about, for she was twelve years old. At this they were overcome with astonishment, and he ordered them strictly not to let anyone know about it, and told them to give her something to eat.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Blessed Virgin Mary 7

The Immaculate Conception

St John Henry Newman was such a public figure in 19th-century England that, when he left the Anglican Church for the Catholic Church about midway through his long life of more than 90 years, he became the object of scorn and attack in the media of his day. Thus his fighting tone in this defence of the Catholic reverence for Our Lady and in particular his defence of the Immaculate Conception, which was defined in 1854 by Pope Pius IX in *Ineffabilis Deus*; that is to say, during Newman's lifetime.

It is so difficult for me to enter into the feelings of a person who *understands* the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception and yet objects to it, that I am diffident about attempting to speak on the subject. I was accused of holding it, in one of the first books I wrote, 20 years ago. On the other hand, this very fact may be an argument against an objector — for why should it not have been difficult to me at that time, if there were a real difficulty in receiving it?

Does not the objector consider that *Eve* was created, or born, *without* original sin? Why does not *this* shock him? Would he have been inclined to *worship* Eve in that first estate of hers? Why, then, Mary?

Does he not believe that St John Baptist had the grace of God — that is, was regenerated, even before his birth? What do we believe of Mary, but that grace was given her at a still earlier period? *All* we say is, that grace was given her from the first moment of her existence.

We do not say that she did not owe her salvation to the death of her Son. Just the contrary, we say that she, of all mere children of Adam, is in the truest sense the fruit and the purchase of His Passion. He has done for her more than for anyone else. To others He gives grace and regeneration at a *point* in their earthly existence; to her, from the very beginning.

We do not make her *nature* different from others. Though, as St Augustine says, we do not like to name her in the same breath with mention of sin, yet, certainly she *would* have been a frail being, like Eve, *without* the grace of God. A more abundant gift of grace made her what she was from the first. It was not her *nature* which secured her perseverance, but the

excess of grace which hindered Nature acting as Nature ever will act. There is no difference in *kind* between her and us, though an inconceivable difference of *degree*. She and we are both simply saved by the grace of Christ.

Thus, sincerely speaking, I really do not see *what* the difficulty is. I will add that the above statement is no private statement of my own. I never heard of any Catholic who ever had any other view. I never heard of any other put forth by anyone.

Next, Was it a primitive doctrine? No one can add to Revelation. That was given once for all; but as time goes on, what was given once for all is understood more and more clearly ... Now, as to the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception, it was *implied* in early times, and never *denied*. In the Middle Ages it was denied by St Thomas and by St Bernard, but they took the phrase in a different sense from that in which the Church now takes it. They understood it with reference to our Lady's mother, and thought it contradicted the text, "In sin hath my mother conceived me" — whereas we do not speak of the Immaculate Conception except as relating to Mary; and the other doctrine (which St Thomas and St Bernard did oppose) *is* really heretical.

As to primitive notion about our Blessed Lady, really, the frequent contrast of Mary with Eve seems very strong indeed. It is found in St Justin, St Irenæus, and Tertullian, three of the earliest Fathers, and in three distinct continents — Gaul, Africa, and Syria. For instance: "The knot formed by Eve's disobedience was untied by the obedience of Mary; that what the Virgin Eve tied through unbelief that the Virgin Mary unties through faith."

Again: "The Virgin Mary becomes the Advocate (Paraclete) of the Virgin Eve, that as mankind has been bound to death *through* a Virgin, *through* a Virgin it may be saved, the balance being preserved, a Virgin's disobedience by a Virgin's obedience." (Saint Irenæus).

Again, "As Eve, becoming disobedient, became *the cause* of death to herself and to *all mankind*, so Mary, too, bearing the predestined Man, and yet a Virgin, being obedient, became the CAUSE OF SALVATION both to herself and to all mankind."

To be continued