



St Anthony's Parish

67-75 EXFORD ROAD, MELTON SOUTH, 3338.
P.O BOX 2152 MELTON SOUTH 3338
TEL: 9747 9692



St Bernard's Parish

61 LERDERBERG STREET, BACCHUS MARSH 3340
TEL: 5367 2069
OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS, KOROBET
309 MYRNIONG-KOROBET ROAD 3341

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT-YEAR A

12th March 2023

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Fabian Smith
ASSISTANT PRIESTS: Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint and Fr Samuel Kapani

ST ANTHONY'S PARISH

Parish Secretary: Lesley Morffew
Admin Assistant: Judy Johnson

Parish Office Hours:

Tue-Fri 9.00am-4.00pm

Email: parishsecretary83@gmail.com

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

Sacramental Coordinator/ Bookkeeper: Naim Chdid

Parish Office Hours:

Tue 9.00am-11.30am Wed & Thu 9.00am-1.00pm

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 **Website:** www.crcmelton.com.au

If you need a Priest in the case of a genuine emergency please call 0403 435 471

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL COUNCIL

Naim Chdid	0437 004 790
Lillian Christian - Vice Chair	0400 441 257
Stephen Fernandes	0439 743 533
Amy Honrade	0457 042 695
Natalie Howard - Chair	0492 947 201
Rose Ma'ae	0460 672 571

EX-OFFICIO: Fr Fabian Smith PP, Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint,
Fr Samuel Kapani, 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
Peter Kennedy - Secretary	0407 778 119
Moir Ross	0400 675 056
Aaron Russell - Chair	0401 927 502

EX-OFFICIO:

Fr Fabian Smith PP, Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint and Fr Samuel Kapani
Sr Mary Sarah Galbraith

SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Coordinator/Officer: Godwin Barton (0425 734 449) **Officers:** St Anthony's - Lorraine Tellis 0437 658 423 & Geetha Vincent 0478 112 996
St Bernard's - Margaret Love (0437 247 779) Evana Miesen & Ron Geurts

Items for the newsletter must be submitted by Tuesday 6.00pm. Please email parishsecretary83@gmail.com or call 9747 9692

MASS AND DEVOTIONS

ST ANTHONY'S MELTON SOUTH 13/3/2023-19/3/2023

MASS TIMES:

Monday 13/3	6.30pm
Tuesday 14/3	9.30am & 6.30pm
Wednesday 15/3	7.30am & 9.30am
Thursday 16/3	9.30am
Friday 17/3	9.30am
Stations of the Cross every Friday in Lent	10.00am & 7.00pm



Rosary at 9.00am before 9.30am morning masses

Sunday Masses

Saturday 18/3	5.00pm
Sunday 19/3	8.30am & 10.30am

Confession available 30 minutes prior to each Mass.
No Confession on Monday.

ST BERNARD'S BACCHUS MARSH 13/3/2023-19/3/2023

MASS TIMES:

Monday 13/3	No Mass
Tuesday 14/3	7.30am
Holy Hour	7.30pm
Wednesday 15/3	9.30am
Thursday 16/3	7.30am
Friday 17/3	7.30am
Stations of the Cross	7.30pm
Saturday 18/3	9.00am

Sunday Masses

Saturday 18/3	5.00pm
Sunday 19/3	8.30am & 10.30am

(Rosary in the Chapel 10.00am on Sundays)
Confession available 30 minutes prior to each Mass.

MASS CELEBRATING THE FEAST OF ST JOSEPH

Saturday 18th March :Two Hearts Chapel
274 La Road Greendale. 11.00am Rosary, 11.30am Mass
Followed by Fellowship. Celebrant; Fr Fabian Smith

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

KOROBET

MASS TIMES

VIGIL	18/3	6.30pm
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PARISHIONER'S FIRST COLLECTION/SECOND COLLECTION

Parishioners who normally give cash each weekend for the collections, if they wish to donate, 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 3rd SUNDAY LENT 2023– Sr Mary Fermio

REFLECTION 3RD SUNDAY LENT 2023

When working in Sydney, one of our participants was a Zulu Sister, who was amazed, that to get water, all she had to do was turn on the tap. At her home convent it meant a daily walk to bring back water in containers, carried on their heads.

In his encounter with the Samaritan woman, Jesus used water to initiate a conversation by asking for a drink. But he broke three common rules. 1. He spoke to a **woman**. 2. she was a **Samaritan** and Jews did not speak to them. 3. If he drank from **her cup** he would be considered unclean. For Jesus the woman was more important than the rules. She avoided the other women because of her unmarried state. But Jesus ignored all this. He wanted her to know of living water, and even revealed who he was, and so convinced her, she ran back to the town to tell the others about him.

And Jesus ended up staying **in the town** for two days!

Each of us has been baptised with this living water, with the promise of life eternal.

Let us remember ALL of us are made in God's image,

ALL of us are the beloved of God – God has no favourites and

"loves each one of us, as if there was only one of us!" -

whoever we are, whatever we claim to be.



PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

FAITH FORMATION : Our Faith Formation sessions begin at 7.00pm every Tuesday at St Anthony's Church of Padua, 67-75 Exford Road, Melton South (Age 16+) Faith Formation topic this week: "Confession and Anointing of the Sick".

LENTEN PREPARATION – DR GERARD O'SHEA

Dr Gerard O'Shea will hold a series of talks on the History of the Church-Every Wednesday evening in March, St Bernard's Parish Hall 7.30pm-8.30pm. 15th March: The Church in the first two centuries; Early Heresies and the Church's Responses.

LENTEN TALKS - FR SAMUEL : Fr Samuel will hold Lenten Talks every Thursday evening in the MacKillop Room, St Anthony's.

LENTEN PROGRAM - NO GREATER LOVE: A BIBLICAL WALK THROUGH CHRIST PASSION - NAIM CHDID

Sessions will be held on Fridays after Stations of the Cross. Session 3 : The Trial before Pilate: Jesus is Condemned to Death.

ST BERNARD'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

Hopefully our parishioners have commenced documenting your families involvement in parish life from pre 1874 when our present church was built to the present day. Photos reflecting this involvement will enhance written information. If you have contact with families no longer living in our parish, please pass this message on to them. As soon as notes and photos are ready send them to bammlove129@outlook.com

ST BERNARD'S PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE

The recent meeting endorsed the statement prepared for the Parish AGM. In spite of minimising expenditure the operating deficit was \$67771.04. Thanksgiving offerings will not financially sustain the parish. The sale of land bordering the school has been authorised by the Archbishop. Hopefully this will allow development on church land of income-producing facilities. Given the slowness of this process, the parish is faced with some difficult years. Fr Fabian reported on land sale progress and Property Co deliberations re land development to the AGM.

Dear Parishioners, please note I will be on annual leave for the month of March. Please email all your newsletter items to parishsecretary83@gmail.com or call 9747 9692. Please contact our Parish Secretaries if you need any assistance. I will be back in the office Monday 3rd April 9.00am. Many thanks Judy.

ST ANTHONY'S

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

St Anthony's hosted this year's World Day of Prayer last Friday. Thank you to all who took so much time and effort to make the Service and refreshments such a great success.

MEN'S RECOLLECTION - Tuesday 28th March

This month's subject is "Lenten Practices in the Sermon on the Mount" 7.30pm to 9.30m in the MacKillop Room.

THANKSGIVING ENVELOPE WORKING BEE

My apologies! The Thanksgiving Envelope Working Bee will be this Wednesday after the 10.30am Mass. Any help will be greatly appreciated. Morning Tea provided. Envelopes will then be available 18th March in the Foyer.

HOLY WEEK TIME TABLE-St Anthony's Parish

Monday 3rd April Mass at 6.30pm

Tuesday 4th April Mass at 9:30am & 6:30pm

First Rite of Reconciliation Tuesday 4th April, 6.00pm – 7.30pm

Wednesday 5th April Mass at 9.30am

Holy Thursday 6th April No morning Mass
Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7.30pm
followed by adoration until Night Prayer 10.00pm

Good Friday 7th April

Stations of the Cross 10.00am

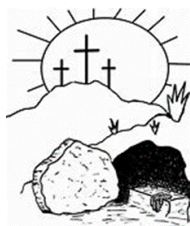
Celebration of the Lord's Passion 3.00pm

Veneration of the Cross 7.00pm

Evening Prayer 7.30pm

Holy Saturday 8th April **Easter Vigil Mass** at 8.00pm

Easter Sunday 9th April Mass at 8.30am & 10.30am



ST BERNARD'S

SOUP AND STATIONS Every Friday during Lent: Soup at 6.30pm
Confessions 7.00pm-7.30pm Stations of the Cross 7.30pm

FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH POTLUCK LUNCH

Please join us in celebrating the Feast of St. Joseph!

A Potluck Lunch will be held on Sunday the 19th of March after the 10:30am Mass in the Parish Centre. Come along to celebrate and acknowledge the Sisters of St. Joseph's contribution here in Bacchus Marsh for the past 133 years. Please bring a plate to share.

All welcome! From St. Bernard's Social Fundraising Team.

ST. BERNARD'S EASTER RAFFLE! We are holding an Easter Raffle on Sunday 2nd April to raise funds for a much needed new stove in our Parish Centre. Donations of Easter-themed items would be greatly appreciated. Please place them in the marked basket in the foyer.

HOLY WEEK TIME TABLE-St Bernard's Parish

Tuesday 4th April Mass at 7.30am

Tuesday no Holy Hour in the Evening

Wednesday 5th April Mass at 9:30am

First Rite of Reconciliation

Wednesday 6.30pm – 7.30pm

Holy Thursday 6th April No morning Mass

Mass of the Lord's Supper 7.30pm

followed by adoration until Night Prayer 10.00pm

Good Friday 7th April

Stations of the Cross 10.00am

Celebration of the Lord's Passion 3.00pm

Holy Saturday 8th April **Easter Vigil Mass** 7.30pm

Easter Sunday 9th April

Mass of Easter Sunday (**Korobeit**) 8.30am

Mass of Easter Sunday (**St Bernard's**) 8.30am

Mass of Easter Sunday (**St Bernard's**) 10.30am



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: 18th & 19th March

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: Marian Muller

8.30am: Sefulu Seufatu

10.30am: Romeo Sacris

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Ann Tennakoon

8.30am: Ron Howard

10.30am: Doris Bonello

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

MASS COORDINATORS

5.00pm: Godwin & Coleen

8.30am: Julie & Lillian

10.30am: Leonia & Anonnica

ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

MINISTERS OF THE WORD : THIS WEEKEND

5.00pm: Evana Miesen

8.30am: Maggie Kratochvil

10.30am: Charlotte Lindorff

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Vicki Benson

MINISTERS OF THE WORD: 18th & 19th March

5.00pm: Maureen Zahra

8.30am: Margaret Love

10.30am: Volunteer Please

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Colin Remedios

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

March: Cheryl Stevens

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Duncan Brown, Charlie Calleja, Mary Calleja,
Charles Depares, Charles Giordmaina,
Joseph Micallef and Duncan Panganiban.

Please pray for the Sick:

Hazel Michael, Nickolia & Klara Butkovic, Maria Caruana, Mary Caruana, Christabelle, Lydia De Vega, Melanie Fue, Bruce Hynes, Kotinis Cornelia Kani, Judy Layton, Peter Manicaro, Lisa Melia, Damien Michael, Tony Michael, Veronica Michael, Nickol, Caleb O'Brien, John Osborne, Vaivasa Ruth Perez, Catherine Roberts, Peter Roberts, Pat Roberts, Anna Samy, Samantha Smith, 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.**

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 those whose death anniversaries occur at this time:

Bob Carr and Christina Kingcott

Please pray for the Sick:

Patricia Allison, Susan Alvarez, Noah Barlow, Chaiel Balcombe, Michael Barrett, Peter Bennett, Carmel Berry, Steven Braszel, Tina Bower, Fred Capuano, Gary Ching, Chris, Josephine Cilia, Robyn Cola, Ted Cooling, Lindsay & Kathleen Dally, Judy Delahey, Theresa Dockter, Allison Evans, Helen Evans, George Farrell, Justin Fernandez, Pasquale Gagliarbi, Mario Galea, Cynthia Goodyear, Gwen Green, Joe Gristi, Adam Hillier, Leonie Kervin, Elle Hillman, Kiahni Holamotutama, Alicia Holborn, Chaiel Jackson, Matthew Jansen, David Kasprzak, Michael Larkin, Marie Maloney, Patricia Marechal, Brian Marshall, Debbie Marshall, Jordanis Mary Pauline McDonald, Ian McKechnie, Marie Maher, 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, Cath Wheelahan, Jayne Wilkins, 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: 18th & 19th March

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: Julie Sequiera
8.30am: Ineke Allen
10.30am: Gilles Maitre

CUPPA VOLUNTEERS 25th & 26th March

5.00pm:
8.30am: To be advised
10.30am:

CHURCH FLOWERS

March: No Flowers-Lent



ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Welfare Number: 1800 305 330
The Melton South Conference meet every 3rd Tuesday morning in the Meeting 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.
Address: 100 Coburn Road Melton South 9747 6811

God, strengthen and sustain all those who volunteer in our Churches; that with patience and understanding they may love and care for your people; and grant that together they may follow with Jesus Christ offering to you their gifts and talents.



ST BERNARD'S

WEEKEND VOLUNTEERS : 18th & 19th March

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: 5.00pm Dianne Shelly
Sunday: 8.30am Marj Tung
10.30am Natalia Klenkowski



CHURCH FLOWERS

March: No Flowers-Lent

PRESBYTERY & CHURCH GROUNDS-MOWING

March: Colm Carragher & Ron Geurts

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY:

Welfare Number is 1800 305 330.
The Vinnies Store is now located at Shop 19, The Village, 164-190 Main Street Bacchus Marsh
The store is open 7 days a week. If you are able to volunteer and would like some more information, 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 \$1500 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

Dear Parishioners, the Parishes of St Anthony's and St Bernard's have updated their Baptism Preparation Program.

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 Fabian, Fr Samuel or Fr Lucas .

FATIMA STATUE—ST ANTHONY'S

These families are praying together for the mission of the Parish:

Group 1:	Allen & Ellen Johnson	0418 200 144
Group 2:	Frank & Cita Carreon	0431 206 357
Group 3:	Vilma Pinto	0400 070 263

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

16th April (2nd Sunday of Easter)



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

My eyes are always on the Lord,
for he rescues my feet from the snare.
Turn to me and have mercy on me,
for I am alone and poor.

FIRST READING Exodus 17:3-7

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 94

Commentator: If today you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts.

All: If today you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts.

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. R.

Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. R.

O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.'

If today you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts.

NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT-YEAR A

First Reading: 1Sam 16: 1, 6-7, 10-13
Second Reading: Eph 5:8-14
Gospel: Jn 9:1-41



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world;
give me living water, that I may never thirst again.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL John 4:5-42

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' - Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied: 'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water. "You have no bucket, sir," she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied: 'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again; but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.' 'Sir,' said the woman 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water. I see you are a prophet, sir. Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said: 'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.

You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know; for salvation comes from the Jews.
But the hour will come - in fact it is here already - when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshipper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah - that is, Christ - is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.' Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony when she said, 'He told me all I have ever done', so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord,
the water I shall give will become in him
a spring welling up to eternal life.

The Holy Eucharist III

The greatest need in today's world (3)

My message to you is, train the Eucharistic faith of young Catholics today to become the living martyrs of Christ in the 21st century.

In the early Church, the expression was coined, "*semen est sanguis Christianorum*" ("the blood of martyrs is the seed of Christians"). This is even more true in our day. Christ needs martyrs who are willing to shed their blood if need be, and who do shed their acceptance by the world, out of loyalty to Jesus Christ.

In this same early Church, which we call the Church of Martyrs, daily Mass and daily Holy Communion were the accepted practice for Catholics. Children were not excluded.

But you might object, that was the age of the catacombs. If that is what you said, let me enlighten you. Anyone who wants really, honestly, sincerely, wholeheartedly to live his Catholic faith today must be ready to live a catacomb existence. Twenty-five years of working for the Holy See has taught me many things — most of which I will never articulate in public. But this much I can say: We are today living in the Age of Martyrs.

Where do we get the strength even to survive? From Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. How do we become instruments of divine grace in restoring a Christless society to its Redeemer? From Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.

How are we — parents and teachers, priests and religious — to become apostles of the Eucharist in our day. What is an apostle of the Eucharist? An apostle of the Eucharist is one who has certain Eucharistic qualities, eight to be exact.

- An apostle of the Eucharist is one who is personally very devoted to the Holy Eucharist:

By Father John Hardon, www.catholicculture.org

- ◊ as Real Presence

- ◊ as the Sacrifice of the Mass and

- ◊ as Holy Communion

- ◊ An apostle of the Eucharist is one who realises that there is no solution to the problems of the world or of the Church, except through the Holy Eucharist.

- ◊ An apostle of the Eucharist is one who does everything in his power, by word and example, to promote a deeper faith in the Eucharist

- ◊ as Presence-Sacrament,

- ◊ as Sacrifice-Sacrament, and

- ◊ as Communion-Sacrament.

All these are seen as the main sources of divine grace for the whole human race.

Prayer

Lord Jesus in the Holy Eucharist, we believe you are with us. We believe you are inviting us to become apostles of the Eucharist through the young people you bring into our lives.

You told us, "Allow the little children to come unto me, and do not prevent them from doing so." In saying this, you were telling us to nourish the Eucharistic faith of the young. It is by believing in you that they come to you. It is by growing in their understanding of this faith that they will grow in their love for you.

Here on earth, they cannot see you with their bodily eyes. But they can see you with the eyes of their soul — provided we nurture their faith by

- An apostle of the Eucharist prays for a deeper understanding of the Blessed Sacrament, by himself and by others — especially by bishops and priests.

- An apostle of the Eucharist lives a life of reparation for those who neglect the Holy Eucharist or desert the Holy Eucharist, or distort and desecrate the Holy Eucharist.

- An apostle of the Eucharist is zealous to convert or re-convert

people to a life of grace and the fullness of the Christian faith, which believes that Jesus Christ is, now, present on earth, offering Himself in the Mass by giving us the graces He won for us on Calvary, and giving Himself to us and coming bodily into our body, His soul into our soul, as the pledge of eternal destiny.

- An apostle of the Eucharist is a martyr for the Eucharist. No matter what price has to be paid, an apostle of the Eucharist is ready to pay it as a witness to his faith that Jesus Christ is living in our