



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

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER, DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY-YEAR C

24th April 2022

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Fabian Smith
ASSISTANT PRIESTS: Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint /Father Marcus Goulding

ST ANTHONY'S PARISH

Parish Secretary: Lesley Morffew
Admin Assistant: Judy Johnson
Parish Office Hours: Monday 9.00am-12noon
Tue 9am-4pm Wed 9am-5.30pm Thu /Fri 9am-4pm
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: 0477 155 210
Email: principal@slweirviews.catholic.edu.au
Website: www.slweirviews.catholic.edu.au

Catholic Regional College - Melton (Years 7-12)

Principal: Marlene Jorgensen **Phone:** 8099 6000
109-141 Bulmans Rd, West Melton, 3337 **Website:** www.crcmelton.com.au

ST BERNARD'S PARISH

Parish Secretary: Dolores Turcsan
Admin Assistant: Judy Johnson
Sacramental Coordinator/ Bookkeeper:
Naim Chdid
Parish Office Hours:
Tue-Thu 9am-1pm
Email: bacchusmarsh@cam.org.au
Website: www.stbernardsbacchusmarsh.com.au

St Bernard's School **Principal:**
19a Gisborne Rd, Bacchus Marsh VIC 3340
Phone: (03) 5366 5800
Email: principal@sbbacchusmarsh.catholic.edu.au
Website: www.sbbacchusmarsh.catholic.edu.au

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL COUNCIL

Naim Chid	0437 004 790
Lillian Christian - Vice Chair	0400 441 257
Stephen Fernandes	0439 743 533
Amy Honrade	9747 0078
Natalie Howard - Chair	0492 947 201
Rose Ma'ae	0460 672 571

EX-OFFICIO: Fr Fabian Smith PP, Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint,
Fr Marcus Goulding, Damien Schuster and Bill Hill
Council Secretary: Judy Johnson

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL COUNCIL

Shane Cook -School Advisory Board	0419 999 052
Peter Farren	0418 594 501
Peter Kennedy - Secretary	0407 778 119
Maira Ross	0400 675 056
Aaron Russell - Chair	0401 927 502

EX-OFFICIO:
Fr Fabian Smith PP, Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint and Fr Marcus Goulding

SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Coordinator: Godwin Barton (0425 734 449) **Officers:** St Anthony's -Karina Dunne, Lorraine Tellis & Geetha Vincent
St Bernard's - Margaret Love (0437 247 779) Evana Miesen & Ron Geurts

Items for the newsletter must be submitted by Wednesday 1.00pm. Please email judyparishnews@gmail.com or call 0414 007 009

MASS AND DEVOTIONS

ST ANTHONY'S MELTON SOUTH 25/4/22-1/5/22

MASS TIMES:

Monday 25/4	6.30pm
Tuesday 26/4	9.30am
Holy Hour	5.30pm
Week 7 of the St Antony's Novena	6.15pm
followed by Mass at	6.30pm
Wednesday 27/4	7.30am & 9.30am
Thursday 28/4	9.30am
Friday 29/4	7.30am & 9.30am

Sunday Masses

Saturday 30/4	5.00pm
Sunday 1/5	8.30am, 10.30am & 5.00pm

Confession available 30 minutes prior to each Mass.

No Confession on Monday

ST BERNARD'S BACCHUS MARSH 25/4/22-1/5/22

MASS TIMES:

Monday 25/4 No Mass	Rosary	7.30pm
with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for one hour.		
Tuesday 26/4		7.30am
Holy Hour		7.30pm
Wednesday 27/4		9.30am
Thursday 28/4		7.30am
Friday 29/4		9.30am

Sunday Masses

Saturday 30/4	5.00pm
Sunday 1/5	8.30am & 10.30am

Confession available 30 minutes prior to each Mass.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

KOROBET

VIGIL MASS

6.30pm

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

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.

REFLECTION SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER-SR MARY FERMIO rsj

For most of us there would have been times when, like Thomas, we found it hard to believe. One can imagine the discussion and talk that happened that first week – the appearances of Jesus, the death of Judas, the empty tomb, the mystery of where the body of Jesus was, and in the midst of all this Thomas wanting proof, **visible** proof.

So here they all were, locked in a room, still fearful of being arrested, when Jesus pops in, offers peace and gives the power to forgive. When Thomas hears about this, he won't believe them until he touches Jesus himself. Jesus must have smiled to himself, so a week later he pops in again and lets Thomas know what he said and invites him to touch his hands and his side. Thomas says those words many of us have repeated: My Lord and my God! Then Jesus says those wonderful words for us: *Thomas you believe because you have seen, blessed are those who believe but have not seen.* That can only mean us.

When we experience doubts, we need to talk about them, to believers, to stay with our faith community, even if it is a struggle.

Prayer may be impossible, but Theresa of Avila believed that prayer can be just silence, reaching out to God in our hearts, a God who may seem absent.

And like Thomas we wait until Jesus pops in and touches our lives in some way, restoring our faith.



Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.'

PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

ST ANTHONY'S

St VINCENT De PAUL

On behalf of the St Vincent De Paul Society I would like to thank your Parish Priest Father Fabian and the Parishioners of St Anthony's for their support during our recruitment drive during March.

If there is anyone else interested in joining the Home Visitation Team or finding out what other opportunities are available with the Society please contact Ineke Allen on 0400 120 401 for more information-Tony Proctor-Regional Council President.

EASTER RAFFLE RESULTS

Our Easter Raffle raised \$1660.00. Thanks to everyone that supported our raffle.

Our lucky prize winners are:

- 1st: Eden Grace
- 2nd: Joshua Caselino
- 3rd: Alec Carbon
- 4th: Elizabeth Underwood
- 5th: Judith Aquiai

PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office will be closed on Monday 25th April for ANZAC Day.



JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU



THANK YOU



Caritas Australia would like to THANK YOU for supporting Project Compassion 2022. If you still have your Project Compassion box or set of envelopes at home, please bring them back next week or visit lent.caritas.org.au and donate online. Your generosity will empower the world's most vulnerable communities to grow stronger and lift themselves out of poverty. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow For All Future Generations. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your Parish, by visiting lent.caritas.org.au, or by calling 1800 024 413

ST BERNARD'S

SAFEGUARDING Please return risk/safety survey sheet by Sunday, April 24th 2022. All those over 18 who volunteer in any capacity at all must have submitted, to the parish office, a WWCC aligned to our parish by May 31st. Once this is done a Code of Conduct Declaration is required. Don't give up because of this paperwork chore. We need our volunteers. You are the lifeblood of our parish. And another chore to satisfy legislative requirements - would an office-bearer or person in charge of any group using any parish facility obtain the mandatory Risk Assessment Checklist, Risk and Hazard Assessment Form and Attendance Sheet from me or from Evana Miesen. Once completed and signed off, the authority to operate will last for twelve months. Margaret Love

FATHER GLASHEEN'S GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION SUNDAY 15TH MAY 10.30AM MASS

Father Glasheen (Glash) will be the Celebrant at 10.30am Mass on Sunday 15th May to commemorate his Golden Anniversary of Ordination. All are welcome. Refreshments will be served in the Parish Centre following Mass. To assist with catering, if you are attending, please put your name on the clipboard in the church foyer, or contact either

Margot Short margotmshort@gmail.com or the Parish Office bacchusmarsh@cam.org.au or call 5367 2069.

SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR FATHER GLASHEEN

A special collection will be held next weekend 30th May/1st April for parishioners wishing to contribute towards a gift for Father Glasheen on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of his Ordination.

BACCHUS MARSH JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS

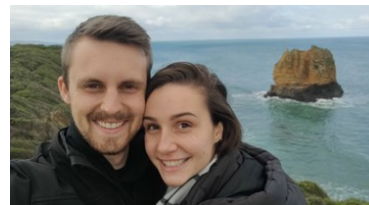
The first 2022 meeting of the Bacchus Marsh Josephite Companions (formerly Associates) will be held on Saturday May 7 at 2pm. It will be at Carmel Shea's home. All welcome.

PIETY STALL

We would like to open the Piety Stall after all weekend Masses but to do so we need more volunteers. The time commitment is about 20 minutes. If you would like to help please let the Parish Office know or Margot Short margotmshort@gmail.com

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWLYWEDS!

We warmly congratulate Brendan Elliston and Emily Walker (pictured) who were married by Fr Marcus at St Aloysius Catholic Church in North Caulfield on Saturday. Brendan and Emily will be moving into Brookfield and are already familiar faces at St Bernard's. We also congratulate Shanti Di Cello and Aaron Salvatore who were married by Fr Fabian at St Bernard's on Saturday. Shanti and Aaron live in Melton and are also familiar faces at St Bernard's.



WORSHIP NEWS

ALL VOLUNTEERS IN OUR PARISH MUST HAVE A CURRENT AND VALID WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK

ST ANTHONY'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 30th April & 1st 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 Vigil: Aloysious Dacunha

8.30am: Mercy Seufatu

10.30am: Susan Malinov

5.00pm: Dolores Turcsan

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm Vigil: Gavin Pereira

8.30am: Geoff Sutton

10.30am: Doris Bonello

5.00pm: Not rostered

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

MASS COORDINATORS

5.00pm: Coleen & Carmen

8.30am: TBA

10.30am: TBA

5.00pm: TBA

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Jennifer Barrow, George Bonello, John De Brincat, Bernie Lavery, Honorato. E. Miranda, Kennith & Ella Rule & John David Sehuler.

Please pray for the Sick: Nickolia & Klara Butkovic, Maria Caruana, Mary Caruana, Melanie Fue, Bruce Hynes, Judy Layton, Peter Manicaro, Reg Marslen, Lisa Melia, Damien Michael, Tony Michael, Veronica Michael, Maiava Kuno Nickol, Paul Nowak, Caleb O'Brien, John Osborne, Catherine Roberts, Peter Roberts, Pat Roberts, Charlie Spiteri, Janko Stojanovic, Uatoa Tuigamala, Clint Abela Wadge, and 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 MINISTRIES

MINISTERS OF THE WORD : THIS WEEKEND

5.00pm: Evana Miesen

8.30am: Maggie Kratochvil

10.30am: Beatrice Younger

MINISTERS OF THE WORD: 30th April & 1st May

5.00pm: John Thorne

8.30am: Margaret Love

10.30am: Samantha Butler

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

May: Maureen Zahra

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

We pray for the recently deceased:

Valerie (VAL) Dickson

Requiem Mass for Mrs Valerie Margaret Dickson will be held at St Bernard's, Friday 29th May 2022 at 11.00m followed by burial at Maddingley Cemetery.

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

Muriel Burt, Carmel Fitzgerald, Patrick Leonard, Paul Micallef, Judy (O'Leary) Shepherd & Neville Thompson.

Please pray for the Sick:

Patricia Allison, Noah Barlow, Chaiel Balcombe, Michael Barrett, Peter Bennett, Steven Braszel, Tina Bower, John Canty, Fred Capuano, Gary Ching, Chris, Josephine Cilia, Robyn Cola, Ted Cooling, Lindsay & Kathleen Dally, Judy Delahey, Jack DeLuca, Theresa Dockter, Allison Evans, Helen Evans, 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, Marcus Meno, Paul Mullin, Arthur Pape, Michael Paterson, Georgia Peacock, Mitchell Prendergast, Peter Roberts, Ken Shaw, Terry Sims, Marian Smith, Elizabeth Stehmann, Catherine Time, Susan Trist, Stephen Van Eede, John Van Orsouw, Angela Vicum, Louis Vogels, Barry Walsh, Cath Wheelahan, Jayne Wilkins, Patricia Yazbek, & Betty Young.

(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 AND VALID WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK

ST ANTHONY'S

WEEKEND VOLUNTEERS: 30th April & 1st May

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: Liza Fernandes

8.30am: Mercy Seufatu

10.30am: Gilles Maitre

CUPPA VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil:

8.30am: To be advised

10.30am:

CHURCH FLOWERS

May: Gloria



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. Thank you.

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

ST BERNARD'S

WEEKEND VOLUNTEERS : 30th April & 1st May

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Sunday: To be advised

CHURCH FLOWERS

May: Rita Marshall



PRESBYTERY & CHURCH GROUNDS-MOWING

May: Stuart Robertson

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY:

Welfare Number is 1800 305 330.

The Vinnies Store is located at 8 Grant 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 to \$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

***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.***

Amen



FAITH FORMATION

ST ANTHONY'S AND ST BERNARD'S

BAPTISM PREPARATION PROGRAM– ST ANTHONY'S AND ST BERNARD'S

Dear Parishioners

Keeping in line with the Archbishop's vision for Mission, the Parishes of St Anthony's and St Bernard's have put together a new Baptism Preparation Program, for any parents who wish to have their child Baptised.



Preparations for Baptisms will take place on Saturdays alternating between both Parishes. A welcome Mass must be attended prior to the Baptism. Baptisms will be held on Saturday mornings at 11.00am.

Parents must attend two sessions. Sessions will run from 12.00pm-4.00pm. Godparents must attend the 2nd session. Bookings must be made to attend these sessions. Please visit our website for a detailed description of the new program. Contact the Parish Office to book your Baptism Preparation and Baptism.

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 Marcus 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: Gordon & Gladys Clarke	0402 021 435
Group 3: Kristina Scerri	0458 857 479

DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

1st Sunday of the Month-3.00pm

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

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 5:12-16

The faithful all used to meet by common consent in the Portico of Solomon. No one else ever dared to join them, but the people were loud in their praise and the numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily. So many signs and wonders were worked among the people at the hands of the apostles that the sick were even taken out into the streets and laid on beds and sleeping-mats in the hope that at least the shadow of Peter might fall across some of them as he went past. People even came crowding in from the towns round about Jerusalem, bringing with them their sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and all of them were cured.

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 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.

O Lord, grant us salvation;

O Lord, grant success.

Blessed in the name of the Lord
is he who comes.

We bless you from the house of the Lord;
the Lord God is our light.

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

NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS-

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading: Acts 5:27-32,40-41;

Second Reading: Rev 5:11-14;

Gospel: Jn 21:1-19



SECOND READING Revelation 1:9-13, 17-19

My name is John, and through our union in Jesus I am your brother and share your sufferings, your kingdom, and all you endure. I was on the island of Patmos for having preached God's word and witnessed for Jesus; it was the Lord's day and the Spirit possessed me, and I heard a voice behind me, shouting like a trumpet, 'Write down all that you see in a book.' I turned round to see who had spoken to me, and when I turned I saw seven golden lamp-stands and, surrounded by them, a figure like a Son of man, dressed in a long robe tied at the waist with a golden girdle.

When I saw him, I fell in a dead faint at his feet, but he touched me with his right hand and said, 'Do not be afraid; it is I, the First and the Last; I am the Living One. I was dead and now I am to live for ever and ever, and I hold the keys of death and of the underworld. Now write down all that you see of present happenings and things that are still to come.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me;
happy 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 that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into 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.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

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

Divine Mercy Sunday 2022

The Holy Gospel that the Liturgy presents to us on this second Sunday of Easter, is the meeting of the Risen Lord with St Thomas. The Fathers of the Church have given us many insights into this Gospel text. Likewise, it is been the inspiration to the many artists who have represented the events of this Gospel in order to give us a clear idea of what happened, “eight days after” the first apparition of the Risen One, to the disciples in the cenacle.

Jesus’ response to Thomas, after he recognised Him as ‘My Lord and my God’, has a mysterious fascination that must relate not so much to the disciples — those who “have seen” — as to those, like us, who were added to their number afterwards. “You have come to believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed” (John 20:29).

The attention that these words evoke seems yet more paradoxical if we remember that the Lord had proposed, to the same author of the Gospel, what can be justly referred to as the Christian method, “come and see” (John 1:39). How can we reconcile these two phrases by Jesus that form the ideal setting for the whole of the fourth Gospel?

The timely recollection of the “eight days after”, which is the Sunday after the Resurrection, permits us to tie our reflection to one of the most significant Eucharistic hymns composed by another Thomas, St Thomas Aquinas. In the *Adore Te Devote*, which refers to the Eucharist, we read: “Sight, touch, taste are all deceived in their judgement of you. But hearing suffices firmly to believe.”

Combining these words with today’s Gospel, we can justly affirm that the experience “to see” is not denied to us, but it is in contrast with the Apostle Thomas’ physical experience, who was able to put his own finger into the holes in Christ’s hands and side, while we can only comprehend it in the faith that is guarded and transmitted by the Church, our Mother and Teacher. That which we “have not seen” is therefore the glorious Body of the Risen One.

However, today we have the ability to “listen” to the Word of God and the Magisterium of the Church and so we can “see” the real Body of Christ which is the Eucharist. We can “see” His Mystical Body,

which is the Church. We can “see” Him in our lives and in the lives of our many brothers who, after meeting the Lord in a real but mysterious way, are united to Him in His Spirit!

Divine Mercy Sunday

Between 1930 and 1938, Christ appeared to Sister Faustina, a Sister of Mercy in Poland, who initiated the Divine Mercy devotion. On Good Friday, 1937, Jesus requested that Faustina make a special novena from Good Friday until the following Saturday. Jesus also asked that a picture be painted according to the vision of Himself as the fountain of mercy. He gave her a chaplet to be recited and said that it was appropriate to pray the chaplet at three o’clock each afternoon (the Hour of Great Mercy).

From the diary of Sr M Faustina Kowalska

“On one occasion, I heard these words: ‘My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day all the divine floodgates through which graces flow are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet. My mercy is so great that no mind, be it of man or of angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity. ...

“ ‘[Let] the greatest sinners place their trust in My mercy. They have the right before others to trust in the abyss of My mercy. My daughter, write about My mercy towards tormented souls. Souls that make an appeal to My mercy delight Me. To such souls I grant even more graces than they ask. I cannot punish even the greatest sinner if he makes an appeal to My compassion, but on the contrary, I justify him in My unfathomable and inscrutable mercy. Write: before I come as a just Judge, I first open wide the door of My mercy. He who refuses to pass through the door of My mercy must pass through the door of My justice.’ ”