



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

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT-YEAR A

26th February 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: Mon 9.00am-12.00noon
Tue 9.00-4.00pm Wed 9.00-5.30pm
Thu/Fri 9.00-4.00pm
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 Chid	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 judyparishnews@gmail.com or call 0414 007 009

Judy Johnson's office hours: Mon-Wed 9am-1pm

MASS AND DEVOTIONS

ST ANTHONY'S MELTON SOUTH 27/2/2023-5/3/2023

MASS TIMES:

Monday 27/2	6.30pm
Tuesday 28/2	9.30am & 6.30pm
Wednesday 1/3	7.30am & 9.30am
Thursday 2/3	9.30am
Friday 3/3	9.30am

Stations of the Cross every Friday in Lent 10.00am & 7.00pm

Except Friday 3rd March Stations of the Cross at 9.00am

World Day of Prayer 3/3	10.30am
First Friday Devotions	7.30pm & Midnight
First Saturday Devotions	8.30am

Rosary at 9.00am before 9.30am morning masses



Sunday Masses

Saturday 4/3	5.00pm
Sunday 5/3	8.30am & 10.30am

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

ST BERNARD'S BACCHUS MARSH 27/2/2023-5/3/2023

MASS TIMES:

Monday 27/2	No Mass
Tuesday 28/2	7.30am
Holy Hour	7.30pm
Wednesday 1/3	9.30am
Thursday 2/3	7.30am
Friday 3/3	7.30am
Stations of the Cross	7.30pm
Saturday 4/3	9.00am

Sunday Masses

Saturday 4/3	5.00pm
Sunday 5/3	8.30am & 10.30am

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

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

KOROBET

MASS TIMES

VIGIL	4/3	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 1ST SUNDAY LENT 2023

Many people make a yearly retreat, a time of silence, prayer and listening, of checking up on the way they live and where it is heading. Here they find strength and direction.

Jesus had spent a long time in the wilderness, in silence, alone, in prayer and listening. Was he learning what his role in life would be? What God wanted him to do? At the end he would have been hungry, vulnerable and weak. The devil, we are told, tempted him to turn a stone into bread. That must have been very tempting to a hungry man. How could it hurt anyone? Who else would know? Jesus' strength to refuse came from his time of prayer.

Three times he was tempted - all subtle temptations that would hurt no one - but would benefit his ego by seeking goods, security and power.

There is nothing wrong wanting what we need and the ability to achieve them.

The problem is in how we go about getting them and why.

Lent enables us to reflect on the choices we make and what draws us.

Are we drawn to God's way or the ways of Satan?

Lord, teach us the way of discernment.



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: The Eucharist.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

World Day of Prayer 2023 Service will be held at St Anthony's Church, Friday 3rd March at 10:30am. Friendly cuppa and light luncheon provided after the Service. ALL WELCOME.

LENTEN PREPARATION- DR GERARD O'SHEA

Dr Gerard O'Shea will hold a series of five sessions on the History of the Church-Every Wednesday evening in March, St Bernard's Parish Hall 7.30pm-8.30pm. 1st March: Recognising faithful doctrinal developments across the centuries: Cardinal Newman's seven characteristics of authentic development.

LENTEN TALKS-FR SAMUEL

Fr Samuel will hold Lenten Talks every Thursday evening in the MacKillop Room, St Anthony's. 2nd March topic: 'My Lord and my God!' (Jn 20:28)

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 2 : Are you the Christ? Jesus' Arrest and Trial before the Sanhedrin

PALMS AUSTRALIA MISSION: CHANGE THEIR LIVES AND YOURS

Communities in Africa, Asia and the Pacific are seeking Australians from a variety of professions and trades to share their skills with those who have less opportunity to develop their talents. Please go to our website to explore 35 positions available. Also on our website you can also see news including stories from those currently supported in Timor-Leste, Samoa, American Samoa and Thailand. Please enquire further about potential assignments for you or someone you know: **RING: 02 9560 5333 or 0422 472 567 WEB: www.palms.org.au**

ST ANTHONY'S

CUPPA WEEKEND

Please join us for a cuppa after all the Masses this weekend.

VALENTINE'S DAY DANCE

The Social Committee held a Valentine's Day dance last Saturday and raised \$2356.00. The money raised will go towards the extension of Padua Hall. Thank you to everyone that supported this fundraiser.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER Dear Parish Family,

As World Day of Prayer 2023 is soon approaching, we will be having a leaving collection to raise money for our sisters and brothers in Taiwan, this weekend. The money raised will go towards supporting and educating marriages of mixed cultures, strengthening their faith and family unit. I trust you will give as generously as you have in past years. Marian Muller

MEN'S RECOLLECTION 28th FEB 7PM MACKILLOP ROOM

A monthly men's evening of Recollection. A time for prayer, learning, making resolutions and fellowship.

Topic: Christians as salt of the earth and light of the world.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CHURCH CLEANING

We are in need of volunteers to help clean the Church. If you think this is something you would be willing to help with, please add your name to the clipboard in the Church foyer and we will contact you.

ORDINATION TO THE 'PERMANENT DIACONATE' OF STEPHEN FERNANDES AT ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, ON SATURDAY, THE 11TH OF MARCH, 2023 AT 10.00 AM

I, Stephen Fernandes along with my family, cordially invite the parishioners of St Anthony's Parish to join us in the Eucharistic celebration to give thanks to God, as I exercise my formal Participation in the Ministry of Diaconate for the first time, on Saturday, the 11th of March, 2023 at 5.00 pm. Your prayers and presence will be appreciated. (Refreshments will be served after Mass in the Church Hall). Please add your name to the clip-board provided in the foyer for catering purposes by Sunday, the 5th of March. You are also invited to attend my 'Ordination to the Permanent Diaconate' at St Patrick's Cathedral on Saturday, the 11th of March at 10.00 am.

ST BERNARD'S

ST BERNARD'S AGM -THIS SUNDAY

St Bernard's Annual General Meeting will be held in the Parish Centre this Sunday 26th February 2023 at 11:30am.

PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office will be closed Tuesday 28th February.

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 contribution here in Bacchus Marsh for the past 133 years. Please bring a plate to share. All welcome!

- The St. Bernards Social Fundraising team.



Caritas
AUSTRALIA

Project Compassion Sunday 25 & 26 Feb

[After losing her father when she was just 10-years-old,](#)

[Laxmi was at risk of falling further into extreme poverty. But with the support of our partner Caritas Nepal, Laxmi joined a child's club, became a leader in her school and is now a mentor to other children in her village.](#)

Please donate to Project Compassion 2023.

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/envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion, or by calling 1800 024 413.



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: 4th & 5th 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: Stephen Fernandes

8.30am: Leonia Jessop

10.30am: Nikshita D'Souza

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Dolores Turcsan

8.30am: Philip Anyayahan

10.30am: George Bonello

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

MASS COORDINATORS

5.00pm: Annonika & Coleen

8.30am: Leonia & Lillian

10.30am: Godwin & Lillian

ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

MINISTERS OF THE WORD : THIS WEEKEND

5.00pm: Vikki Benson

8.30am: Moira Ross

10.30am: Dominic Van Der Linden

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Mary Beaton

MINISTERS OF THE WORD: 4th & 5th March

5.00pm: Sonia Smith

8.30am: Peter Lafranchi

10.30am: Samantha Butler

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: John Thorne

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

March: Cheryl Stevens

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Leo Cachia, Maria Calleja, William Joy, Leslie Levett,

Lavina Mascarenhas, Carmelo Micallef,

Francis Xaviour Micallef, Faaleleiga Pennacio,

Anthony Savian & Penaacio Sio.

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, Reg Marslen, 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 the recently deceased:

Marlene Borg, Ronnie Cachia & Lorna Quinlan

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

Ken Blomely, Cynthia Camilleri, Mary Cassar, Anthony Chircop, Lyn Delahey, Zoe Egan, Wilma Fowler, Lorraine Halliwell, Yvonne Kelekis, Lilly Marmara, Andrew Monteith, Eileen Mullane, Kaylene Preston, Kevin Punshon & Nell Shelly.

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, 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: 4th & 5th March

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: Lorraine Tellis
8.30am: Edwina La Rose
10.30am: Judy Van Hoos

CUPPA VOLUNTEERS 25th & 26th February

5.00pm: Julie Sequiera
8.30am: Sam & Pat Chiles
& Sosefo & Vaioleti Finau
10.30am: Doris & Emily Bonello

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 : 4th & 5th February

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: 5.00pm Jackie Tabone
Sunday: 8.30am Lyn Shea
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:	Lorraine Tellis	0437 658 423
Group 2:	Elizabeth Underwood	0422 882 562
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



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

When he calls on me, I will answer him;
I will deliver him and give him glory,
I will grant him length of days.

FIRST READING Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being.

The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden.

The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death".' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 50

Commentator: Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

All: Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin.

My offences truly I know them;
my sin is always before me.
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;
what is evil in your sight I have done.

A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervour sustain me.
O Lord, open my lips
and my mouth shall declare your praise.

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT-YEAR A

First Reading: Gen 12:1-4;

Second Reading: 2 Tim 1:8-10;

Gospel: Mt 17:1-9



SECOND READING Romans 5:12-19

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift. The results of the gift also outweigh the results of one man's sin: for after one single fall came judgement with a verdict of condemnation, now after many falls comes grace with its verdict of acquittal. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

GOSPEL Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says:

Man does not live on bread alone
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down; for scripture says:

He will put you in his angels' charge,
and they will support you on their hands
in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'

Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says:
You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these', he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says:

You must worship the Lord your God,
and serve him alone.'

Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.
The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

The Holy Eucharist I

The greatest need in today's world (1)

The world's greatest need today is the formation of the Eucharistic faith and love in our children. Sound Eucharistic education is absolutely necessary to protect the souls of our children, as well as our own, from the many threats of dechristianisation which constantly flood the senses today.

What are we saying when we say that the greatest need in the world today is to form the Eucharistic faith and love of children?

We mean that what the world most needs is to believe in Jesus Christ; to believe that Jesus Christ is on earth in the Holy Eucharist. The world needs to love Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, offering Himself for us in the Sacrifice of the Mass and present within us in Holy Communion.

In the measure that this faith and love are nurtured from the most tender years of children to that extent will Jesus Christ continue working the miracles of grace He performed during His visible stay in Palestine.

My plan, therefore, is to:

- ♦ Briefly summarise the Church's teaching on the Holy Eucharist over the centuries.
- ♦ Explain why parents and teachers should develop the Eucharistic faith and love of children from infancy to adulthood.
- ♦ Provide some guidelines to children on how to grow in their faith and love of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.

The Church's pedagogy of the Eucharist

We know that already in the first century of the Christian era, the Church was concerned to teach the faithful—from the earliest years—the treasure of God's love which the Son of God gave to His followers in the Blessed Sacrament. When errors arose as early as 100 AD about the Real Presence, the Church's defenders, who became martyrs, made it clear that the Holy Eucharist is Jesus Christ.

Not coincidentally, the Eastern churches gave Holy Communion to infants on the day they were baptised. When, about the year 1,000 AD, heresies cropped up that openly denied that Jesus Christ is on earth in the Blessed Sacrament, these heresies were condemned by popes and councils.

Surely symptomatic of our times, Pope Paul VI issued an historic encyclical during the Second Vatican Council, the *Mystery of Faith (Mysterium Fidei)*, in which he verbally repeated the profession of faith in the Real Presence demanded by his predecessor a thousand years before.

By Father John Hardon, www.catholicculture.org

The reason for the encyclical is that millions of Catholics are being challenged in their Eucharistic faith in today's widespread climate of scepticism.

In the 16th century, the rise of a militant Protestantism challenged the Eucharistic belief on a scale never before experienced. Many of the Church's martyrs were killed for their faith in the Blessed Sacrament. Thus, the Jesuit, John Ogilvie, was murdered by command of the Scots for daring to celebrate Mass.

We get some idea of how confused things had become once we realise what Pope St Pius X had to do to restore the Church's practice of early and frequent Holy Communion. Seven hundred years before Pius X, at a general Council, the Church had prescribed First Communion on reaching the age of reason. Yet, in the height of Jansenism in the 17th century, religious women were known to receive the Holy Eucharist for the first time on their death bed!

The whole of St Paul VI's encyclical, *Mysterium Fidei*, is a plea for charity and orthodoxy in teaching the faithful about the Real Presence. All the liturgical progress made in the last generation will be lost, says the pope, unless Catholics from their earliest years understand that the Holy Eucharist is the presence and sacrifice of Jesus Christ on earth in our day.

Speaking to half a million young people in Denver, Colorado, Pope St John Paul II said:

"Your pilgrimage will lead you to Christ present in the Holy Eucharist. Praying before the Blessed Sacrament exposed, you can open your hearts to Him, but you should especially listen to what he says to each of you. Christ's special words to young people are: 'Do not be afraid' (Matthew 10:31) and 'Come, follow me' (Matthew 19:21). Who knows what the Lord will ask of you young people of America, sons and daughters of Europe, Africa, Asia and Oceania?"

So the Church's Eucharistic pedagogy has gone on for 2,000 years. Aimed especially at the young, it is in essence simplicity itself. From infancy through adolescence the young people are to grow in their believing love of Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist.

They are to be taught and trained to realise that Jesus Christ is indeed at the right hand of His heavenly Father. But Jesus Christ is also physically, geographically, really, completely, now on earth, present in the Blessed Sacrament, offering Himself in the Sacrifice of the Mass and received by us—His Body in our bodies—in Holy Communion.

To be continued