



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 LENT-YEAR A

5th 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 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 parishsecretary83@gmail.com or call 9747 9692

MASS AND DEVOTIONS

ST ANTHONY'S MELTON SOUTH 6/3/2023-12/3/2023

MASS TIMES:

Monday 6/3	6.30pm
Tuesday 7/3	9.30am & 6.30pm
Wednesday 8/3	7.30am & 9.30am
Thursday 9/3	9.30am
Friday 10/3	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 11/3	5.00pm
Sunday 12/3	8.30am & 10.30am

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

ST BERNARD'S BACCHUS MARSH 6/3/2023-12/3/2023

MASS TIMES:

Monday 6/3	No Mass
Tuesday 7/3	7.30am
Holy Hour	7.30pm
Wednesday 8/3	9.30am
Thursday 9/3	7.30am
Friday 10/3	7.30am
Providence	11.00am
Stations of the Cross	7.30pm
Saturday 11/3	9.00am

Sunday Masses

Saturday 11/3	5.00pm
Sunday 12/3	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

KORBEIT

MASS TIMES

VIGIL	11/3	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 2nd SUNDAY LENT 2023- Sr Mary Fermio

Have you ever had a chance encounter with someone or something that has changed your life or attitude? Moses encountered God in the Burning Bush and on Mt Sinai and his whole life was challenged. Elijah encountered God on the mountain in the gentle breeze and set out on a journey.

Jesus was travelling to Jerusalem, a journey into the unknown, where he would encounter objections, challenges, suffering and death. But before this, Jesus encounters God on the mountain, and his whole person was transformed. Moses and Elijah appeared and talked to him and a voice proclaimed: "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him!" Imagine you were one of the apostles. How would this encounter affect you? They did not want to leave. Though fearful, they wanted to hold on to this wonderful experience.

But all good things come to an end. They had to return to the real world, to come down from the mountain, to once again face the trials and challenges of every day. A spiritual encounter with God in prayer and/or connected to creation, can strengthen us, reassure us and give us the peace and strength to face each day as it comes.

Let us pray always to seek and know God's comforting presence, when we feel afraid and weak.



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: Walk through the Mass.

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. 8th March: The Church in the first two centuries; saints, adversaries and teaching.

LENTEN TALKS-FR SAMUEL

Fr Samuel will hold Lenten Talks every Thursday evening in the MacKillop Room, St Anthony's. 9th March topic: 'Repent and believe in the Good News!' (Mk1:15).

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.

PROJECT COMPASSION

Please donate to Project Compassion 2023. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes/envelopes or by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or call 1800 024 413

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

Last weekend we had a collection for World Day of Prayer. We collected \$642.00. Thank you for your generosity.

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.

WOMEN'S RECOLLECTION—THURSDAY 9th MARCH 6.45PM

March Theme— The Lenten Way. Please see flyer for all the details.

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 contribution here in Bacchus Marsh for the past 133 years. Please bring a plate to share. All welcome! The St. Bernard's Social Fundraising team.

MORNING TEA There will be a morning tea after the 8.30am and 10.30am Masses next Sunday, March 12th. All welcome.

PROVIDENCE AND FRIENDS MASS Parishioners are invited to our monthly Providence and Friends Mass on Friday 10th March at 11.00am. Please bring a plate to share for morning tea/lunch. If transport is required, please let the Parish Office know or call Margot Short 0419 507 438.

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. Thank you!

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

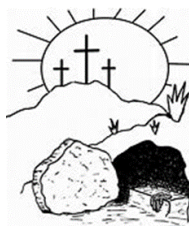
Celebration of the Lord's Passion 3.00pm

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



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: 11th & 12th 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: Gavin Pereira
8.30am: Mercy Seufatu
10.30am: Anonnica Mavaega

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Gavin Pereira
8.30am: Geoff Sutton
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: Sonia Smith
8.30am: Peter Lafranchi
10.30am: Samantha Butler

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: John Thorne

MINISTERS OF THE WORD: 11th & 12th March

5.00pm: Evana Miesen
8.30am: Maggie Kratochvil
10.30am: Charlotte Lindorff

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Vikki Benson

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

March: Cheryl Stevens

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Alice Kelly & Maria Zahra

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.**

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Lara Paige Cameron, Mary Delahey, Peter Gavin, Mary Glasheen, Reginald Kirwan, Edward Kula, Ronald Lebner, Christopher Mallia & Gottfried Miesen

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.**

PRAYER FOR THE SICK

Father we lift up all those who are facing illness. We ask that You bring healing, comfort and peace to their bodies. Calm their fears and let them experience the healing power of your love. Amen



SERVICE / COMMUNITY

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

ST ANTHONY'S

WEEKEND VOLUNTEERS: 11th & 12th March

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: Kim Barton
8.30am: Pat Chiles
10.30am: Geetha Vincent

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 : 11th & 12th February

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: 5.00pm Carmel Shea
Sunday: 8.30am Margot Short

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

Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face.
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;
hide not your face from me.

FIRST READING Genesis 12:1-4

The Lord said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your family
and your father's house, for the land I will show you. I will
make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your
name so famous that it will be used as a blessing.

'I will bless those who bless you:
I will curse those who slight you.
All the tribes of the earth
shall bless themselves by you.'
So Abram went as the Lord told him.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 32

Commentator: Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.

All: Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.

The word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love.

The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine.

Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
The Lord is our help and our shield.
May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you.

Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you

NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT-YEAR A

First Reading: Ex 17:3-7;
Second Reading: Rom 5:1-2,5-8;
Gospel: Jn 4:5-42



SECOND READING 2 Timothy 1:8-10

With me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good
News, relying on the power of God who has saved us and
called us to be holy - not because of anything we our-
selves have done but for his own purpose and by his own
grace. This grace had already been granted to us, in
Christ Jesus, before the beginning of time, but it has only
been revealed by the Appearing of our saviour Christ Je-
sus. He abolished death, and he has proclaimed life and
immortality through the Good News.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard:
this is my beloved Son, hear him.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL Matthew 17:1-9

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John
and led them up a high mountain where they could be
alone. There in their presence he was transfigured; his
face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white
as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them;
they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus.
'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish,
I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses
and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a
bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the
cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the
Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him'. When they
heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with
fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he
said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes
they saw no one but only Jesus.
As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them
this order. 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of
Man has risen from the dead.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased;
listen to him.

The Holy Eucharist II

The greatest need in today's world (2) Why Develop the Eucharistic Formation of the Young?

We cannot answer the question, "Why develop the Eucharistic formation of the young", unless we assume that the world and our own nation needs a moral conversion.

During his talks in Denver for the World Youth Day in 1993, Pope John Paul told the young people to "Pray that America might not lose its soul". The soul of America is Christianity. Christianity is the principle of our national life. As our nation becomes increasingly dechristianised, it loses more and more of its source of vitality. Unless the moral disease is cured, America as the nation we still call the United States will disappear. The same can be said for Australia.

But there is another and deeper meaning to the danger of a country losing its soul. Individuals lose their souls when they die estranged from God. There is such a thing as a second death, which means everlasting separation from God in what Christ calls eternal punishment. This is the awful prospect awaiting not just single persons, but whole societies, unless they repent and return to the God from whom they have separated themselves by their stubborn resistance to His will.

Sin-laden America and Australia. It is remarkable what a dream world people can be living in. By all material standards, America and Australia are prosperous countries. We are among the best fed, most expensively clothed, most comfortably housed, most conveniently transported, most lavishly entertained nations in human history.

But we are also world leaders in sin. I like St Augustine's definition. "Sin," he says, "is nothing else than the neglect of eternal things and seeking after temporal things." In other words, the very affluence of our countries in having access to so many satisfying creatures here on earth is a demonic seduction that lures people from the love of eternal things.

When I say "world leaders in sin", I mean this literally. Not satisfied with world leadership in adultery, contraception, fornication and sodomy, our American State Department for months before the United Nations' Cairo

Conference, broadcast to all nations that, and I quote, "the United States believes that access to safe, legal and voluntary abortion is a fundamental right of all women." And where America leads, Australia is right behind.

We are still answering the question, "Why develop the Eucharistic formation of the young?" Our answer is:

Because otherwise our young Catholics will become what their American peers already are — in large measure victims of an anti-Christian militia that dominates our media and political system.

Because, as we enter the 21st century, we need a well-formed, deeply committed and powerfully motivated Catholic leadership, which is the children and young people of today.

Why Eucharistic Formation? To anyone who does not have the Catholic faith, it is meaningless to associate the Eucharist with the moral revolution going on in our world today. But to those who have the fullness of the true faith, the relationship of the Eucharist to heroic virtue and massive conversion is not only meaningful, it is indispensable.

The key to this relationship is miracle. What am I saying?

I am saying, first of all, that, except for the Eucharist, no one can remain totally faithful to Jesus Christ and the moral demands He makes on His followers.

I am further saying that, except for the Eucharist, God will not convert the multitude of souls estranged from His love.

In both cases, it is Jesus Christ, the Wonder Worker on earth in the Eucharist who must perform the necessary miracles. He must work the miracle of infusing heroic courage and He must perform the miracle of conversion of lapsed Christians and unbelievers in the modern world.

Remember what we are speaking about. We are answering the question of why Eucharistic faith and love must be nourished among Catholics from their earliest years. Why? In order to prepare them for heroic virtue, and in order to make them channels of miraculous grace in a godless world.

To be continued