



St Anthony's Parish

67-75 EXFORD ROAD, MELTON SOUTH, 3338.
P.O BOX 2152 MELTON SOUTH 3338
TEL: 9747 9692 FAX: 9746 0422



St Bernard's Parish

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

The 20th Sunday In Ordinary Time

Year A

16th August 2020

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Fabian Smith

ASSISTANT PRIESTS: Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint /Father Marcus Goulding

ST ANTHONY'S PARISH

Parish Secretary: Lesley Morffew Mon Tue Wed & Fri 9am-4pm

Admin Assistant: Judy Johnson Tue-Thu 10am-2pm

Parish Office Hours: phone/email contact only

Father Fabian 0403 435 471

Fr Lucas 0478 768 141 /Fr Marcus 0468 367 893

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

Catholic Regional College - Melton (Years 7-12)

Principal: Marlene Jorgensen **Phone:** 8099 6000

Website: www.crcmelton.com.au

ST BERNARD'S PARISH

Parish Secretary: Dolores Turcsan Wed-Fri 9am-1pm

Admin Assistant: Judy Johnson Tue-Thu 10am-2pm

Sacramental Coordinator/ Bookkeeper: Naim Chdid

Tue & Fri 10am-1pm

Parish Office Hours: phone/email contact only

Father Fabian 0403 435 471

Fr Lucas 0478 768 141/Fr Marcus 0468 367 893

Email: bacchusmarsh@cam.org.au

Website: www.stbernardsbacchusmarsh.com.au

St Bernard's School Principal: Emilio Scalzo

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

Sue Alexander	0400 171 843
Lillian Christian - Vice Chair	0400 441 257
Stephen Fernandes	0439 743 533
Amy Honrade	03 9747 0078
Natalie Howard - Chair	0410 478 046
Villy Julita	0403 751 343
Rose Ma'ae	0431 386 473
Kim Nguyen	0431 035 980

Ex-OFFICIO:

Fr Fabian Smith PP, Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint, Fr Marcus Goulding
and Damien Schuster Council Secretary: Judy Johnson

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL COUNCIL

Cathy Belcher - Vice Chair	0431 082 886
Shane Cook -School Advisory Board	0419 999 052
Peter Farren	0418 594 501
Moir Ross	0400 675 056
Aaron Russell	0401 927 502
John Thorne - Secretary	5310 6692
James Waters - Chair	0403 822 795

EX-OFFICIO:

Fr Fabian Smith PP, Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint, Fr Marcus Goulding
and Emilio Scalzo

CHILD SAFETY OFFICERS

Coordinator: Godwin Barton (0425 734 449)

Officers: Karina Dunne & Lorraine Tellis

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: [CDFpay for St Anthony's Parish, Melton South](#)

The link to the St Bernard's Parish is: [CDFpay for St Bernard's Parish, Bacchus Marsh](#)

Please put your name and thanksgiving number if you know it as a reference. Thank you.

MASS AND DEVOTIONS

ANointING OF THE SICK

Anointing of the sick can be organised with the Priests directly, please call them.
Father Fabian 0403 435 471/Fr Lucas 0478 768 141 /Fr Marcus 0468 367 893

MASS TIMES—LIVE STREAMING FROM ST ANTHONY'S CHURCH

Monday-Saturday: 5.30pm Adoration/Rosary/Benediction
6.00pm Mass

Sunday: 10.30am Mass

MASSES AVAILABLE ON LIVE STREAMING— FACEBOOK AND YOUTUBE

St Anthony's Parish are live streaming Masses on YouTube.

The Masses are also being live streamed on Facebook. You can watch Masses by going to the website: stanthonypadua.com.au. Click the link for Live Masses.

The Masses are coming through the St Anthony's Facebook page—St Anthony of Padua Catholic Church Melton South (you will need to have a Facebook account to be able to view the Masses).

ST ANTHONY'S FACEBOOK

Please visit our Facebook page.:

[St Anthony of Padua](#)

[Catholic Church Melton South](#) Live

Masses streaming from St Anthony's daily.



MASS AT ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL

The 11am Sunday Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral will be televised every week during the COVID-19 restrictions, on Channel 31 (often listed as Channel 44 on digital TVs). Also 'Mass for you at Home' is televised on channel 10 every Sunday at 6am. Please share this news with friends and family who might be limited to TV viewing. Please check your TV guides for changes.

PARISHIONER'S FIRST COLLECTION/SECOND COLLECTION OR PARISH APPEALS

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.

Parishioners are able to make quick and easy recurring thanksgiving payments or can choose a one-off offering from the comfort of their own home.

When making an offertory online, parishioners have the option to choose which collection they would like to partake in, as they usually would during Sunday Mass - first collection, second collection or a parish appeal.

The link to the St Anthony's Parish is: [CDFpay for St Anthony's Parish, Melton South](#)

The link to the St Bernard's Parish is: [CDFpay for St Bernard's Parish, Bacchus Marsh](#)

Please put your name and thanksgiving number if you know it as a reference. Thank you.



Prayer for the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary –Feast Day 15th August

Father in heaven, all creation rightly gives you praise, for all life and all holiness come from you. In the plan of your wisdom she who bore the Christ in her womb was raised body and soul in glory to be with him in heaven. May we follow her example in reflecting your holiness and join in her hymn of endless love and praise. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Source: Catholic Online

A PRAYER FOR PERSONS SUFFERING FROM THE CORONAVIRUS

*You shall not fear the terror of the night
nor the arrow that flies by day,
nor the pestilence that roams in darkness,
nor the plague that ravages at noon. Ps 91:5-6*

Merciful God, hear our fervent prayer for all who suffer from the coronavirus.

May those who are infected receive the proper treatment
and the comfort of your healing presence.

May their caregivers, families and neighbours be shielded
from the onslaught of the virus.

Give solace to those who grieve the loss of loved ones.

Protect and guide those who strive to find a cure,
that their work may conquer the disease and restore communities to wholeness and health.

Help us to rise above fear. We ask all this through the intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes,
and in the name of your Son, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

Source: Catholic Health Association of the United States





St Anthony's Parish

Dear Parishioners of St Anthony's,

I wish to write to you about the progress with our church extension. Much work has been happening during these past six months. In the next three weeks our church extension will be completed. Thank you for all your creative ideas to raise money and for all your financial support. I know that you have gone out of your way to support the many fundraisers to make this happen. You have given very generously to make a ten-year dream come to reality. Once the work is completed I will get photos taken and posted on the parish website.

Whilst we have run a tight ship and have diligently used all the money allocated for the project to complete the building, we have not exceeded much over the budget. The furnishings in the chapel are not included in the extension project. Whilst we are in lockdown we are unable to raise any money to furnish and complete the works in the new chapel.

Only if you are in a financial position to help make this happen and wish to contribute towards the furnishings, I am providing bank details. Ac Name **ST ANTHONYS CHURCH**, BSB **083 347** Account No **641915964**. Please put in your Full Name for record keeping.

Two White Angels, Two Painted Angels, St Anthony's Statue, Carpet, 10 Pews with upholstery for the seat and kneeler which will seat a total of 40 in the new chapel. I sincerely apologise for asking. If you need to talk to me please contact me on 0403 435 471. Donations can be made over some months.

Many Blessings
Fr Fabian



ST ANTHONY'S PARISH OFFICE

Parishioners please be advised that the St Anthony's Parish Office will be closed during the COVID-19 Stage 4 lockdown. The Parish Staff will be working from home. Please contact us for any assistance you need.

Lesley Morffew Parish Secretary **Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 9.00am-4.00pm**

Email Lesley: meltonsouth@cam.org.au or call **9747 9692**

Judy Johnson Admin Assistant **Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 10.00am-2.00pm**

Email Judy: judyparishnews@gmail.com or call **0414 007 009**



Est. 1874

St Bernard's Catholic Parish

BACCHUS MARSH

Dear parishioners of St Bernard's,

Masses Suspended. Bacchus Marsh was placed under Stage 3 Stay at Home restrictions at 11.59pm on Wednesday, 5th August. This necessitates the temporary suspension of public Masses until the lock-down is lifted. It has been wonderful to see so many of you taking the opportunity to attend Mass over the last few weeks. The suspension of public Masses is a great suffering for Catholics, but we are now well practiced at keeping our faith alive at home.

Pray at Home. We are working hard to help you keep close to the Lord throughout lock-down. Over the last couple of weeks, we have developed a new website which will be regularly updated with helpful links and resources to support your relationship with God at home. For more information, visit StBernardsBacchusMarsh.com.au

Pastoral Care. Fr Lucas and Fr Marcus continue to reside at St Bernard's presbytery. They will pray for you daily at their private Masses. If you have any pastoral or sacramental need, please do not hesitate to contact them.

Parish Annual General Meeting. Given the limitations we are currently experiencing, our parish AGM will be held via Zoom at 7.30pm on Thursday, 10th September 2020. Parishioners who wish to attend the AGM via Zoom should email Dolores at bacchusmarsh@cam.org.au. A link will be sent out to you prior to the AGM with instructions about how to connect to the meeting. Papers for the AGM will be emailed to everyone on our Newsletter mailing list on 26th August 2020, two weeks prior to the AGM. Hard copies will be available outside the parish office from the same day. Anyone wishing to present reports for the AGM should email them to Dolores no later than Friday, 14th August 2020. If you are unable to participate in the AGM by Zoom and have questions or comments for the AGM, they should be emailed or submitted in writing to Dolores prior to the AGM. Responses to any queries will be brought to you by members of the Parish Council following the AGM.

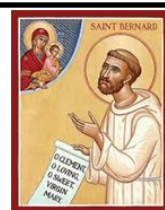
Many blessings,

Father Fabian 0403 435 471

Fr Lucas 0478 768 141 /Fr Marcus 0468 367 893

QUOTES FROM ST BERNARD- FEAST DAY 20th AUGUST

- Blessed Mary, whoever loves you honours God; whoever serves you pleases God; whoever invokes your holy name with a pure heart will infallibly receive the object of his petition.
- Let us not imagine that we obscure the glory of the Son by the great praise we lavish on the Mother; for the more she is honoured, the greater is the glory of her Son. There can be no doubt that whatever we say in praise of the Mother gives equal praise to the Son.



Source: AZ Quotes Online

ST BERNARD'S PARISH OFFICE

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Dolores Turcsan Parish Secretary **Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 9.00am-1.00pm**

Email Dolores: bacchusmarsh@cam.org.au or call **0432 055 992**.

Naim Chdid Sacramental Coordinator/ Bookkeeper **Tuesday & Friday 10.00am-1.00pm**

Email Naim: bacchusmarsh@cam.org.au

Judy Johnson Admin Assistant **Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 10.00am-2.00pm**

Email Judy: judyparishnews@gmail.com or call **0414 007 009**

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

ST ANTHONY'S

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Frank Barker, Anthony Buhagiar, Eric Clyne,
Angelina de Guzman, Daminku Mintoff & Doris Trevor

Please pray for the Sick:

Jean Barnett, Nickolia & Klara Butkovic, Maria Caruana,
Mary Caruana, Judy Layton, Peter Manicaro, Reg Marslen,
Damien Michael, Kevin Michael, Tony Michael, Veronica Michael,
Wanda Novak, Caleb O'Brien, John Osborne, Peter Poole,
Irene Rahilly, Catherine Roberts, Peter Roberts, Pat Roberts,
Charlie Spiteri, Dolores Turcsan, Clint Abela Wadge,
& John Xuereb 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

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

FAITH ON FIRE PRAYER GROUP

Every fortnight on Thursday at 7.00pm. We pray the Rosary,
Stations of the cross, Divine Mercy chaplet and do a Bible
reading and discussion.

Next meeting **To be advised**

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

Lena Carli, Leonard Condon, William Cook, Patricia Cooper,
Peter Fanning, Maureen Grogan, Milos Kratochvil,
Moya McGonegal, Joseph & Dora Mercieca, Bill McGrath,
Anton Mijic, Paddy O'Leary & James Symmons.

Please pray for the Sick:

Noah Barlow, Chaiel Balcombe, Michael Barrett, Peter Bennett,
Steven Braszel, Kevin Bridges, Tina Bower, John Canty,
Fred Capuano, Gary Ching, Josephine Cilia, Robyn Cola,
Ted Cooling, Marianne Cuskelly, Lindsay & Kathleen Dally,
Judy Delahey, Jack DeLuca, Allison Evans, Helen Evans,
Justin Fernandez, Pasquale Gagliarbi, Mario Galea,
Cynthia Goodyear, Gwen Green, Joe Gristi, Adam Hillier,
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,
Bev Pickett, Mitchell Prendergast, Peter Roberts, Ken Shaw,
Terry Sims, Marian Smith, Elizabeth Stehmann, Susan Trist,
Dolores Turcsan, Stephen Van Eede, John Van Orsouw,
Angela Vicum, Louis Vogels, Barry Walsh, Mary Walsh,
Cath Wheelahan, Jayne Wilkins, Patricia Yazbek,
& Betty Young.

**(PLEASE LET US KNOW WHEN YOUR LOVED ONE IS NO LONGER
REQUIRED ON THIS LIST)**

FATIMA STATUE

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

Group 1: **Barry & Rosanna Melder** **9743 5063**

Group 2: **Gerard & Anakin Anderson** **0433 690 902**

Group 3: **Santos & Liz Schembri** **0466 854 476**



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

Along the track

The Prism

My brother lived in a retirement home interstate for four or five years until his death a couple of years ago. He celebrated Mass there every Sunday for the residents and the many neighbours who chose this as their place of worship. On one Sunday when I happened to be visiting, we all listened to the readings and he began his homily with this question:

What did you hear today? What words from these readings have stayed with you?

He waited. And waited. And waited. Finally a couple of people responded, and then a few more, then more. Some heard words that they remembered from hearing these readings during childhood. Others found words of hope and encouragement, others were challenged. Some heard words that reflected their view of a judgemental God, One to be feared.

Two ideas struck me.

What do I hear as I go about life? It is a good question to ask ourselves. What have I heard today that has stayed in my mind? Did I focus on the positive or the negative? Was I so focussed on myself that I missed what others were talking about, some important messages perhaps? Did I listen only to those I agree with? Did I really listen or was I waiting to jump in with my response, my own story?

What has that got to do with listening to the Scriptures? We call the Scriptures 'the living word' because it speaks to our lives, and gives life. If we are open to it, that word makes its home in our minds and in our hearts. If we are open to it. Listening is a skill that requires nurturing and practice. We tend to see and hear the world through the prism of our own experiences. If our experiences have been negative, we tend to hear the negative. If they are positive, we tend to be more alert to the encouraging, the optimistic messages.

We hear God's word through that prism too. The parable of the Sower and the Seed is all about our ability, our readiness to hear, to receive this living word. Are we too busy, too switched off religion, too cynical perhaps, too doubting to hear? We think we've heard it all before? Many writers today talk of the infallibility of atheism. In the atheist's view, there can be no other way of seeing or thinking.

The Gospels tell the stories of how Jesus interacted with people – in word and action He brought them the Good News about God's love, forgiveness and support. He listened to people, He understood their lives. He showed them in word and action healing and forgiveness, He spoke words of comfort and challenge. He listened closely to people, he gave them 'the time of the day' and was alert to fakery and cynicism. So he couched his message in terms that this varied audience might understand, as the parable explains.

But some could not hear him. Their life experience made them feel that listening to rules and regulations was the way to salvation. Some simply rejected his message as unacceptable, some felt it too 'soft' or some too hard. It was not the Good News they were expecting. Others were fearful. Others were open to Jesus and His message. They listened, they asked questions, they were eager to learn and so they were open to others, open to the ways of God that are often surprising. They listened with both head and heart.

When we listen to the Living Word, that's what we are asked to do, to listen with an open mind and heart. But that will only happen if we have learned to listen to others in that way, to stay silent, to reflect and listen. Listening takes the head and the heart.

Listening is in short supply today. Everyone has an opinion, a solution they want to share.

So when someone asks me to listen to them and I start giving advice, I am not listening.

When someone asks me to listen to them and I tell them they shouldn't feel that way, I am not only trampling all over their feelings and anxieties. I am not listening.

When someone asks me to listen, then listen. Don't start talking or offering solutions. If the person who asked you to listen wants solutions, they will ask.

So just listen. In turn, that person might want to listen to what you have to say.

So what did you hear today?

Regards
Jim Quillinan

Email: jquillinan@dcsi.net.au

LITURGY OF THE WORD

ENTRANCE PROCESSION

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield;
and look on the face of your anointed one;
one day within your courts
is better than a thousand elsewhere.

FIRST READING Isaiah 56:1, 6-7

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest. Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants - all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant - these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 66

Response: O God, let all the nations praise you!

O God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help. **R.**

Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples,
you guide the nations on earth. **R.**

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him. **R.**

NEXT WEEK'S READING

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Is 22:19-23;
Second Reading: Rom 11:33-36
Gospel: Mt 16:13-20



SECOND READING Romans 11:13-15, 29-32

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.

Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now - and only because of the mercy shown to you - will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom
and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 15:21-28

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

With the Lord there is mercy;
in him is plentiful redemption.

The life of Catholic worship and piety XXX

Music and Liturgy (1 of 3 parts)

The importance of music in biblical religion is shown very simply by the fact that the verb “to sing” (with related words such as “song”, and so forth) is one of the most commonly used words in the Bible. It occurs 309 times in the Old Testament and 36 in the New.

Areas of existence are awakened that spontaneously turn into song. Indeed, man’s own being is insufficient for what he has to express, and so he invites the whole of creation to become a song with him: “Awake, my soul! Awake, O harp and lyre! I will awake the dawn! I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples; I will sing praises to you among the nations. For your steadfast love is great to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds” (Psalm 57).

We find the first mention of singing in the Bible after the crossing of the Red Sea. Israel has now been definitively delivered from slavery. In a desperate situation, it has had an overwhelming experience of God’s saving power. Just as Moses as a baby was taken from the Nile and only then really received the gift of life, so Israel now feels as if it has been, so to speak, taken out of the water: it is free, newly endowed with the gift of itself from God’s own hands.

In the biblical account, the people’s reaction to the foundational event of salvation is described in this sentence: “They believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses” (Exodus 14:31). But then follows a second reaction, which soars up from the first with elemental force: “Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the Lord” (15:1).

Year by year, at the Easter Vigil, Christians join in the singing of this song. They sing it in a new way as their song, because they know that they have been “taken out of the water” by God’s power, set free by God for authentic life.

Liturgical Music Flows From Love

The singing of the Church comes ultimately out of love. It is the utter depth of love that produces the singing. “Cantare amantis est,” says St Augustine, singing is a lover’s thing. In so saying, we come to the trinitarian aspect of Church music. The Holy Spirit is love, and it is he who produces the singing. He is the Spirit of Christ, the Spirit who draws us into love for Christ and so leads to the Father.

In liturgical music, based as it is on biblical faith, there is, therefore, a clear dominance of the Word; this music is a higher form of proclamation. Ultimately, it rises out of the love that responds to God’s love made flesh in Christ, the love that for us went unto death.

By Pope Benedict XVI, catholiceducation.org/en/

From the book, *The Spirit of the Liturgy*

After the Resurrection, the Cross is by no means a thing of the past, and so this love is always marked by pain at the hiddenness of God, by the cry that rises up from the depths of anguish, *Kyrie eleison*, by hope and by supplication. But it also has the privilege, by anticipation, of experiencing the reality of the Resurrection, and so it brings with it the joy of being loved, that gladness of heart that Haydn said came upon him when he set liturgical texts to music.

Thus the relation of liturgical music to *logos* means, first of all, simply its relation to words. That is why singing in the liturgy has priority over instrumental music, though it does not in any way exclude it. It goes without saying that the biblical and liturgical texts are the normative words from which liturgical music has to take its bearings. This does not rule out the continuing creation of “new songs”, but instead inspires them and assures them of a firm grounding in God’s love for mankind and his work of redemption.

Sacred Music in the West

In the West, in the form of Gregorian chant, the inherited tradition of psalm-singing was developed to a new sublimity and purity, which set a permanent standard for sacred music. Polyphony developed in the late Middle Ages, and instruments came back into divine worship; quite rightly, too, because the Church not only continues the synagogue, but also takes up, in the light of Christ’s *Pasch*, the reality represented by the Temple.

Two new factors are thus at work in Church music. Artistic freedom increasingly asserts its rights, even in the liturgy. Church music and secular music are now each influenced by the other. This is particularly clear in the case of the so-called “parody Masses”, in which the text of the Mass was set to a theme or melody that came from secular music, with the result that anyone hearing it might think he was listening to the latest “hit”. These opportunities for artistic creativity and the adoption of secular tunes brought danger with them. Music was no longer developing out of prayer, but was now heading away from the liturgy; it was becoming an end in itself, opening the door to new, very different ways of feeling and of experiencing the world. Music was alienating the liturgy from its true nature.

At this point the Council of Trent intervened in the culture war that had broken out. It was made a norm that liturgical music should be at the service of the Word; the use of instruments was substantially reduced; and the difference between secular and sacred music was clearly affirmed.