



St Anthony's Parish



St Bernard's Parish

67-74 EXFORD ROAD, MELTON SOUTH, 3338.
P.O BOX 2152 MELTON SOUTH 3338
TEL: 9747 9692 FAX: 9746 0422

61 LERDERBERG STREET, BACCHUS MARSH 3340
TEL: 5367 2069 FAX: 5367 4863
OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS, KOROBET
309 MYRNIONG-KOROBET ROAD 3341

The Baptism of the Lord

13th January 2019

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Fabian Smith

ASSISTANT PRIESTS: Fr Patrick Bradford & Fr Joseph Panackal IV Dei

ST ANTHONY'S PARISH

Parish Secretary: Lesley Morffew
Admin Assistant: Judy Johnson
Parish Office Hours: (January)
Tuesday- Friday 9.00am—1.00pm
Email: meltonsouth@cam.org.au
Website: stanthonysmeltonsouth.wordpress.com

St Anthony's School Principal: Damien Schuster
Wilson Road, Melton South 3338
Phone: 9743 1401
Email: principal@sameltonsth.catholic.edu.au
Website: www.sameltonsth.catholic.edu.au

Catholic Regional College - Melton (Years 7-12)
Principal: Mr Mark Sheehan **Phone:** 8099 6000
Website: www.crcmelton.com.au

ST BERNARD'S PARISH

Parish Secretary: Dolores Turcsan
Admin Assistant: Judy Johnson
Sacramental Coordinator/ Bookkeeper:
Naim Chdid Fri 10.00am—3.00pm

Parish Office Hours: Tue –Thurs 9.00am-1.00pm
Email: bacchusmarsh@cam.org.au
Website: http://pol.org.au/bacchusmarsh/Home.aspx

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
Naim Chdid	0437 004 790
Lillian Christian	0400 441 257
Stephen Fernandes	0439 743 533
Amy Honrade	03 9747 0078
Natalie Howard	0410 478 046
Rose Ma'ae	0431 386 473
Marthese Mercieca	0421 378 691

EX-OFFICIO:
Fr Fabian Smith PP, Fr Patrick Bradford, Fr Joseph Panackal
and Damien Schuster Council Secretary: Judy Johnson

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL COUNCIL

Cathy Belcher	0431 082 886
Shane Cook	0419 999 052
Peter Farren	0418 594 501
David Loxley	0459 974 960
Moira Ross	0400 675 056
Emillio Scalzo	5366 5800
James Waters	0403 822 795

EX-OFFICIO:
Fr Fabian Smith PP, Fr Patrick Bradford, Fr Joseph Panackal
and Emilio Scalzo

CHILD SAFETY OFFICERS

Coordinator: Godwin Barton (0425 734 449)
Officers: Aloysious Dacunha, Karina Dunne & Lorraine Tellis

Please contact Judy Johnson for any Parish news you would like published in the Newsletter

Articles must be received by midday Tuesdays. Email: judyparishnews@gmail.com

For appointments with Father Fabian please call Judy on 0414 007 009

For urgent matters only please call Fr Fabian on 0403 435 471

MASS AND DEVOTIONS

ST ANTHONY'S MELTON SOUTH

MASS TIMES : 14/1/19-20/1/19

Monday :	No Mass	
Tuesday morning:	No Mass	
Tuesday evening:	6.30pm	FJP
Wednesday:	9.15am	FFS
Thursday:	9.15am	FJP
Friday:	9.15am	FJP
Saturday morning:		
Saturday Vigil :	5.30pm	FJP
Sunday :	8.30am	FPB
	10.30am	FJP

INDIVIDUAL RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 4.45pm and before and after weekday Mass.

ROSARY: Prayed at 9.00am before every weekday Mass.



ADORATION: No Adoration and Devotions for the month of January.

CRC MELTON CHAPEL

Masses resume 4th February 2019.

ST BERNARD'S BACCHUS MARSH

MASS TIMES : 14/1/19- 20/1/19

All weekday Masses (except Thursday) will be held in the Chapel

Monday :	No Mass	
Tuesday :	5.30pm	FPB
Wednesday :	9.30am	FPB
Thursday :	9.30am	FFS
Friday :	9.30am	FPB
Saturday Vigil :	5:00pm	FPB
Sunday :	8:30am	FFS
	10.00am	FFS

INDIVIDUAL RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 4.30pm and before and after weekday Mass

ROSARY:

Monday night Rosary and Adoration will resume on 21st January 2019



ADORATION:

1 hour before every weekday Mass.

PROVIDENCE MASS

Is held on the second Friday of the month at 11.00am
The Village 5-7 Griffith St, Maddingley.

Next Mass: **No Masses in December and January**

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS KOROBET

MASS TIMES :

Saturday:	6.30pm Mass	FFS
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SENIOR PARISHIONER'S MASS

Is held on the third Friday of the month in the Parish Centre at 10.30am. Everyone is welcome not just the seniors. Next Senior's Mass: **Friday 15th February 2019**

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

NEW YEARS EVE DANCE

Father Fabian's family and friends held a dance on New Year's Eve in Aspendale to raise funds for our new Chapel at St Anthony's. Sales of dance tickets, raffle tickets, food and generous donations raised a total sum of \$10,000. Thank you to all those who were involved and supported this wonderful event.

PRIME TIMERS

Our first meeting for 2019 will be our Annual General Meeting, 29th January 2019 at 11.30 am. Held at the Lifestyle Village. Please BYO lunch, tea/coffee provided. If a lift is needed call Ineke on [0400120401](tel:0400120401) or email ineke49@yahoo.com

BINGO

St Anthony's Bingo resumes this Tuesday 15th January. Eyes down 7.00pm. Finish time 9.45pm.

ST ANTHONY'S CUPPA ROSTER- VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed for our monthly cuppa roster. Cuppas are held on the fourth weekend of the month. Please find clipboards at the rear of the Church. See Sue Alexander or Carmen Vella for further information. Thank you.

RCIA—2019 (ADULT FATIH FORMATION CLASSES)

Classes will be held on Sundays from 3rd Feb 5pm-6pm at the St Bernard's Parish Centre. Details to follow in next week's newsletter.

KSC SOCIAL MEETING- ST BERNARD'S

KSC social meeting this Monday 14th Jan. 6.30pm BBQ at Ron's.

The Catholic family: The Baptism of the Lord

The mystery of Christ's baptism in the Jordan by St John, the Precursor, proposes the contemplation of an already adult Jesus. This mystery is celebrated at this time of year as it is infinitely linked to the Solemnities of the Lord's Birth and the Epiphany that we have just celebrated, as in some ways it takes up and represents their significance to us.

At Christmas we have contemplated the human birth of the Word Incarnate by the Virgin Mary. In the fourth century, the Fathers of the Church deepened the understanding of the faith with regard to the Christmas mystery in the light of Jesus' humanity. They spoke of the Incarnation of the Word already working as the "Christification" of the humanity that he had assumed from His mother.

Or, put in simpler terms: Jesus is the Christ, the Anointed One, from the first instant of His conception in His Virgin Mother Mary's spotless womb because He Himself, with His Divine Power, consecrated, anointed and "Christified" that human nature with which He became incarnate.

In the mystery of the Epiphany, we then meditated on Christ's manifestation to all the nations of the Earth that was represented by the Magi, the three wise men from the East, who came to adore the Christ Child.

Now, in the mystery of Christ's Baptism in the Jordan River, we again encounter and represent the truth of the Lord's Incarnation and His manifestation as the Christ. Jesus' Baptism is, in fact, His definitive manifestation as the Messiah or Christ to Israel, and as the Son of the Father to the entire world.

Here we find the dimension of the Epiphany which was His manifestation to all nations. The Father's voice from heaven at Christ's Baptism shows that Jesus of Nazareth is the eternal Son of God; and the descent of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove shows the Trinitarian nature of the Christian God. The true and unique God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, shows in Christ, through Him, with Him and in Him.

The Baptism in the Jordan returns to the great Christmas theme of "Christification", Jesus of Nazareth's spiritual anointing, His presentation as the Anointed One *par excellence*, the Messiah, the One sent by the Father for the salvation of mankind.

Source: www.catholicculture.org

The Spirit that descended on Jesus at His Baptism shows and seals in an incontrovertible way the "Christification" of Jesus' humanity that the Word had already fulfilled from the first moment of His miraculous conception by Mary.

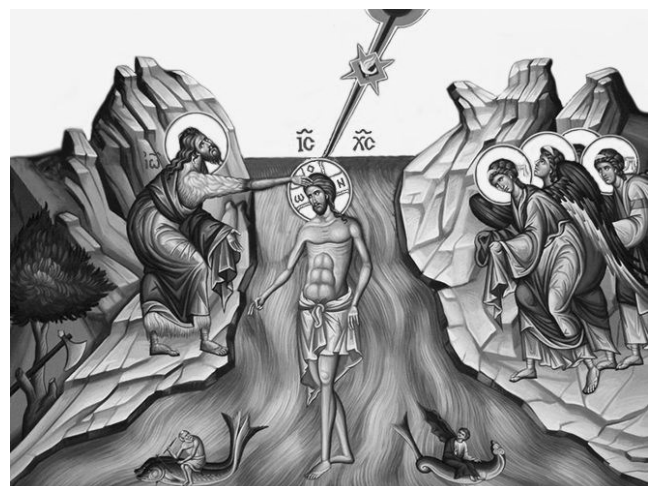
Jesus, from the very beginning, was always the Lord's Christ, He was always God. Yet, His one, true humanity, that which is perfect in every way, as the Gospel records, constantly grew in natural and supernatural perfection: "And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and with men" (Luke 2:52).

In Israel at 30 years of age, one reached full maturity and therefore could become a master. Jesus came of age and the Spirit, descending and remaining on Him, definitively consecrated His whole being as the Christ.

The same Spirit, that descended on the water of the River Jordan wafted over the waters during the first creation (Genesis 1:2). Therefore, the Baptism in the Jordan presents yet another truth: that Jesus has started a new creation. He is the second man (1 Corinthians 15:47) or the last Adam (1 Corinthians 15:45), that comes to repair the first Adam's guilt.

Christ does this as the Lamb of God Who takes away our sins.

Pope Benedict described it thus: "Looking at the events in light of the Cross and Resurrection, the Christian people realised what happened: Jesus loaded the burden of all mankind's guilt upon His shoulders; he bore it down into the depths of the Jordan. He inaugurated his public activity by stepping into the place of sinners" (*Jesus of Nazareth*, p18).



WORSHIP NEWS

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

ST ANTHONY'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 19th & 20th January

MINISTERS OF THE WORD:

5.30pm: Stephen Fernandes
8.30am: Dolores Turcsan
10.30am: Rita Harinos

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.30pm : Lorraine Tellis (P) & Gavin Pereira
8.30am : Geoff Sutton (P), Lillian Christian & Anthea Scerri
10.30am: John Scerri (P) & Elaine Lacey

If you are unavailable for these dates please contact the emergency minister on the roster. Thank you.

MASS COORDINATORS

5.30pm: Carmen Vella & Godwin Barton
8.30am: Natalie Howard & Ron Howard
10.30am: Godwin Barton & Anthea Scerri

ALTAR SERVERS

5.30pm: Kieran Grech & Jedi Anyayahan
8.30am: Nixon, Thytus & Aaron Ben
10.30am: Anakin Anderson & Nick Taunuu

If you are unavailable please contact Ben Kratochvil 0423 076 305

ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 19th & 20th January

MINISTERS OF THE WORD:

5.00pm: Sandra Ibrahim
8.30am: Peter Lafranchi & Margaret Love
10.00am: Diane Corro & James Waters

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Vikki Benson
8.30am: Colm Carragher
10.00am: Jenny Kearney

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL ROSTER

January: Parish Office Staff

ALTAR SERVERS

5.00pm:
8.30am: TBA
10.00am:

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

We pray for the death anniversary at this time of:

Arthur Noel Abel, Molimau Asiata, Alfredo Ling Baoan, Emanuel Bonello, Maria Cachia, Lorraine Camilleri, Wilma Dacunha, Ursula & Joe Formosa, Letizja Gatt, Colin Proud, Frank Respondino, Louis & Grace Stellini & Louis Stellini

Please pray for the Sick: Jean Barnett, Nickolia & Klara Butkovic, Maria Caruana, Mary Caruana, Judy Layton, Peter Manicaro, Reg Marslen, Veronica Michael, Wanda Novak, John Osborne, Irene Rahilly, Catherine Roberts, Peter Roberts, Pat Roberts, Charlie Spiteri, Clint Abela Wadge, Michael Wright & 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)

PRAYER FOR THE SICK

May you be wrapped up in God's love,
Found deep in his everlasting wings;
Carried and kept safe and cherished.
May the healing power of Christ be
with you.
Amen



ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

SPIRIT OF THE TWO HEARTS YOUTH GROUP

Experience faith, friendship and fun.

Age group: 11years+ **When:** Every 4th Thursday of the month 7.00pm-9.00pm **Where:** Two Hearts Centre, 274 La Cote Road, Greendale

Contact: Sister Clare 0415 806 217 or

Email : twoheartscentre@bigpond.com

'Coordinated by the Missionaries of Love and Peace of the Most Blessed Trinity of the Pilgrimage of the Two Hearts'

We pray for the death anniversary at this time of:

Kathleen Adair, Charlie Azzopardi, Katherine Caldwell, Catherine Hynes, Maree Maitland & Lorraine Turner

Please pray for the Sick:

Noah Barlow, Dudley Baddeley, Michael Barrett, Peter Bennett, Steven Braszel, Kevin Bridges, John Canty, Fred Capuano, Gary Ching, Ted Cooling, Lindsay & Kathleen Dally, Judy Delahey, Jack DeLuca, Allison Evans, Helen Evans, Justin Fernandez, Pasquale Gagliarbi, Mario Galea, Cynthia Goodyear, Gwen Green, Joe Gristi, Brian Harrison, Adam Hillier, Elle Hillman, Kiahni Holamotutama, Alicia Holborn, Matthew Jansen, David Kasprzak, Loretta Kervin, Marie Maloney, Patricia Marechal, Debbie Marshall, Jordanis Maryo, Pauline McDonald, Ian McKechnie, Marcus Meno, Paul Mullin, Anmar Naoum, Kevin O'Gorman, Arthur Pape, Michael Paterson, Georgia Peacock, Arabella Periera, Bev Pickett, Mitchell Prendergast, Peter Roberts, Ken Shaw, Marian Smith, Frank & Elizabeth Stehmann, Susan Trist, Hayden Tung, Mitchell Tung, John Van Orsouw, Angela Vicum, Louis Vogels, Barry Walsh, Mary Walsh, Carol Wells, Cath Wheelahan, Jayne Wilkins, Nils Wyren, Patricia Yazbek, Betty Young & Hannah Young.

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



SERVICE / COMMUNITY

ST ANTHONY'S

VOLUNTEERS WEEKEND: 19th & 20th January

PIETY STALLS VOLUNTEERS

5.30pm: Liza Fernandes
8.30am: Edwina La Rose
10.30am: Indika Silva

CUPPA ROSTER

Cuppa Weekend: **23rd & 24th February**

5.30pm:
8.30am: Roster Pending
10.30am:



CHURCH FLOWERS

Ann Tannu & Roperta Mavaega



CLEANING ROSTER: Thursday

Lorelle Porter

Volunteers would be appreciated as well.

SERVICE AND COMMUNITY QUADRANT

Volunteers are required for the following groups:
Piety Stall, Social Committee, & Monthly Cuppa.
Contact:

Natalie Howard	0410478046,
Amy Honrade	0457042695
Lillian Christian	0400441257

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Welfare Number: 1800 305 330

The Melton South Conference meet every 3rd Tuesday morning in the Holy Family Room 10.00am.

New members most welcome, training provided.

Non perishable items within the use by date can be left in the 'drop box' at the back of the Church. Thank you.

COMBINED CHURCHES CARING MELTON INC

CCCM's aim is to supply free food to help people in our local community in need and walk alongside them to reduce dependency through friendship and education.

Address: 100 Coburn Road Melton South 9747 6811

Hours: Mon- Thurs: 10.00am-3.00pm

Friday : 10.00am-12.15pm

School Holidays : 10.00am-12.30pm

ST BERNARD'S

VOLUNTEERS WEEKEND : 19th & 20th January

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: Margot Short
Sunday: Kay Lafranchi

MORNING TEA

Is held on the first Sunday of the month in the Parish Centre after 10.00am Mass.

Next Morning Tea: **3rd February 2019**

Host: Parish Pastoral Council (TBC)



CHURCH FLOWERS

Tup Shea



COUNTING TEAM # 3

Cheryl Rogers

Lyn Shea

Graham Hooper

Michael Love

Sean Gianì

Margaret Love

PRESBYTERY & CHURCH GROUNDS- (January)

Front Garden: Stuart Robertson

Back/Side Garden: Volunteer Please

Parish Centre: John Tung

Carpark/Pines: John Tung

Back Paddock: Ron Geurts

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Welfare Number is 1800 305 330.

The Bacchus Marsh Conference meets once a month in the Parish Centre. New members are welcome and training is available. The contact number is 5310 6322.

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. Presently, the store is looking for homewares and toys. However, all donations are gratefully accepted.

THE NEIGHBOURS PLACE

Emergency Foodbank and Hospitality centre

Address: 77 Main Street Bacchus Marsh

Open: Monday/Wednesday/Friday 9.30am-3.00pm

Email: neighbourspl@iinet.net.au

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.

Contact: Jenny Kearney 0408 104 155

PARISH CENTRE BOOKING

Tel: 5367 3427

Mon-Fri 9.00am to 6.00pm

Hall Managers: Marie & Terry Casey

FAITH FORMATION

ST ANTHONY'S

BAPTISM PREPARATION PROGRAM

Held on the fourth Thursday of the month in the Church 6.30pm-7.45pm.

Next preparation : **Thursday 24th Jan**

Baptisms are held on the 1st and 3rd

Sunday of the month: **Sunday 3rd & 17th February**

See details on Parish Homepage as listed on front page and download forms. Forms are also available from the Parish Office or from the Sacristy after Mass from Father. Both parents are required to attend these meetings. We kindly request adults only and a copy of the birth certificate.

Contact Fr Fabian, Fr Patrick, Fr Joseph or the Parish Office for queries.

BAPTISM TEAM: Karina Dunne & Judy Johnson

ADULT PREPARATION for the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist or Confirmation are through the R.C.I.A Program. Please see Fr Fabian, Fr Patrick or Fr Joseph .

CHILDREN'S LITURGY Is held during Saturday evening Vigil Mass and Sunday 10.30am Mass.

DIVINE MERCY: 1st Sunday of the month at 3pm .

FATIMA STATUE

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

Group 1: **Jojo & Wilma Chua** 0423 953 843

Group 2: **David & Anne Leheny** 0405 621 232

Group 3: **Godfrey & Vilma Pinto** 0400 070 263



ST BERNARD'S

BAPTISM PREPARATION PROGRAM

Held on the fourth Sunday of the month in the Parish Centre at 11:15am.

Next program: **Sunday 27th January**

Baptisms are held on the 1st and 3rd

Sunday of the month: **Sunday 3rd & 17th February**

Registration forms can be downloaded from our website www.pol.cam.org.au/bacchusmarsh. Bring completed Registration Form with a copy of Birth Certificate to the program.

Please note: Both parents are required to attend the program.

Contact Fr Fabian, Fr Patrick, Fr Joseph or the Parish Office for queries.

COORDINATORS : Peter & Rosemary (TBC)

ADULT PREPARATION for the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist or Confirmation are through the R.C.I.A Program. Please see Fr Fabian, Fr Patrick or Fr Joseph.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY Is held every Sunday during 10.00am Mass in the meeting room in the Parish Centre.



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.

NICENO-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

WEEKLY PRAYERS & READINGS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

After the Lord was baptised, the heavens were opened,
and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove,
and the voice of the Father thundered:

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it.

'Console my people, console them,'
says your God.

'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem
and call to her

that her time of service is ended,
that her sin is atoned for,
that she has received from the hand of the Lord
double punishment for all her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness
a way for the Lord.

Make a straight highway for our God
across the desert.

Let every valley be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low,
let every cliff become a plain,
and the ridges a valley;
then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed
and all mankind shall see it;
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain,
joyful messenger to Zion.
Shout with a loud voice,
joyful messenger to Jerusalem.
Shout without fear,
say to the towns of Judah,
'Here is your God.'

Here is the Lord coming with power,
his arm subduing all things to him.
The prize of his victory is with him,
his trophies all go before him.
He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,
gathering lambs in his arms,
holding them against his breast
and leading to their rest the mother ewes.
The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS-- 2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Is 62:1-5;

Second Reading: 1 Cor 12:4-11;

Gospel: Jn 2:1-11



RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 103

Comm: Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!

All: Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!

Lord God, how great you are,
clothed in majesty and glory,
wrapped in light as in a robe!
You stretch our the heavens like a tent.

Above the rains you build your dwelling.
You make the clouds your chariot,
you walk on the wings of the wind,
you make the winds your messengers
and flashing fire your servants.

How many are your works, O Lord!
In wisdom you have made them all.
The earth is full of your riches.
There is the sea, vast and wide,
with its moving swarms past counting,
living things great and small.

All of these look to you
to give them their food in due season.
You give it, they gather it up:
you open your hand, they have their fill.

You take back your spirit, they die,
returning to the dust from which they came.
You send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the earth.

All: Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus

He saved us through the water of rebirth and renewal in the Holy Spirit.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

John said: He who is to come is mightier than I;
he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

When Jesus had been baptised and had been praying, the heavens were opened and the Holy Spirit came upon him.

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.'

Now when all the people had been baptised and while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Behold the One of whom John said:
I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

The Catholic family: Raising children in a secular world VII

The Supernatural Perspective

Have you ever stopped to consider what an immense responsibility it is to provide for your family? But you do it gladly out of love. Many parents with great love want to provide a university education for their children, looking to help them in the future. It is truly a prudent parent who looks to the child's future.

There is something even more important than planning for university. We cannot leave our children's eternal destiny up to chance, hoping they get to heaven but taking no care to do anything about it. If they have all they need (or even want) for this life but lose their souls for all eternity due to our neglect, what have we done for them?

Parents might presume that since their child is a "good kid", they don't need to put time, interest, or effort into teaching their child to really know and practise the faith, with conviction. Many parents don't seem to realise that even honours students, star cricketers and swimmers, and popular students can lose their souls. In eternity, grades and runs and best personal times and popularity won't matter if these things kept them from knowing and practising their faith. Are you willing to hold back, to give only the minimum necessary when you are gambling with the eternal soul of your own child?

Catholic Education

You cannot hope to raise children with strong moral character if their education is filled with weakness and falsehood.

Although someone else may be doing the teaching, parents have the ultimate responsibility for *what* exactly is being taught and *how*. The time in school — at least five hours a day (vs a typical 20 minutes of direct communication with a parent) — is time enough for your child to be brainwashed. The decision of how your children will be schooled is a crucial one.

We need a stronger faith now than has been necessary in the past. What boy or girl do you know who's faith is not under attack? They must know their faith. And they must be able to defend it even as children, or they run the risk of losing it. If they really know their Catholic Faith, they will be able to demonstrate

Extract from *Teaching the Catholic Faith Effectively*, edited by Father John Hardon SJ

that it is the only religion that makes sense, but they have to know their Catholic faith to be able to do this.

When considering a school, ask yourself these questions: Do you know the teachers? Does he or she know their faith well? Do they live it? Are they faithful to the Holy Father? To provide a solid Catholic education, teachers must be deeply Catholic. Do they dress in a way to be an example to the children?

Do they value daily Mass. Is it even an option? Or is it so important that it is a required part of the day? Who would think to eliminate reading or maths from the schedule or to make it a mere option? Reading and maths are too important to let a child make that decision. They go to school to learn what is important, not to make their own decisions about it.

Children also learn what is important by what is required of them. So a teacher who does not want his or her class to go to Mass daily does not know the true value of the Mass or of our Lord's Real Presence. What importance does the teacher place on religious studies? There are teachers who consider Mass once a week a disruption of their schedule, so they eliminate religion that day. But if parents don't ask questions, they won't know.

Have you checked out the books that are used? The books and the teacher go hand in hand. An excellent Catholic teacher can fill any lesson with Catholicism and books that are true to Church teaching complement that. However, teachers who do not know the faith, or ignore their grave responsibility will ignore or not use the good books, or even teach error in their place. The books in all subjects should be Catholic. In the same way that you cannot practise the Catholic faith for one hour on Sunday, the Catholic faith cannot be squeezed into a one-hour lesson. If we are going to live our faith 24 hours a day, we should know how it effects every subject. Whether it is the courage of Captain Cook or moral teaching in science, our faith effects every part of our lives.

Lastly, look at those children who are your child's friends. Could your children say, with Mark Twain, "I have never let my schooling interfere with my education". (Apart from *Huckleberry Finn*, he also wrote a book about St Joan of Arc.)