



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

2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR C

20th 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 : 21/1/19-27/1/19

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	FFS
Sunday :	8.30am	FFS
	10.30am	FFS

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.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS KOROBET

MASS TIMES :

Saturday:	6.30pm Mass	FPB
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ST BERNARD'S BACCHUS MARSH

MASS TIMES : 21/1/19-27/1/19

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	FJP
Sunday :	8:30am	FPB
	10.00am	FJP

INDIVIDUAL RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 4.30pm and before and after weekday Mass

ROSARY:

Prayed every Monday at 7.30pm with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for one hour.

Rosary is also held on the first Friday of the month following morning mass.

Next Date : **Friday 1st February**



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**

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

ST ANTHONY'S 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

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.

ST ANTHONY'S THANKSGIVING MEMBERS WHO PAY BY CREDIT CARD

If your credit card details (expiry date etc.) have changed in the last 8 weeks can you please contact the Parish Office at your earliest convenience. Phone 9747 9692 Email: meltonsouth@cam.org.au. Thank you.

RCIA—2019 (ADULT FATIH FORMATION CLASSES)

If you want to learn more about the Catholic Faith, want to become a Catholic, or you didn't receive all your Sacraments as a child and you want to receive them, classes for Adult Faith Formation are being held at St Bernard's in the Parish Centre from 5pm till 6pm on the following Sundays:

February - 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th
 March - 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th

For further information, please contact the Parish Office on 5367 2069.

The Catholic family: Presentation of the Lord

On February 3, the Church celebrates the last day of Christmastide, the Presentation of the Lord. We read about the presentation of the Lord in Luke 2, but the text is a little mysterious. What is actually happening there?

Here is what Luke actually says about the event: "And when the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every male that opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord') and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons'."

Luke then records the encounters with Simeon and Anna, but at the moment our focus is what Luke refers to as "their purification". What is he talking about?

The first thing to note is that Luke is not talking about the time of Jesus' circumcision. That occurred on the eighth day after his birth. Luke has already talked about that and is now referring to a later time. Specifically, he's talking about the 40th day after Christ's birth.

We know that because of he quotes from Leviticus 12:8 ("a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons"), which refers to the purification ritual that a Jewish mother needed to perform to become ritually clean after childbirth. In the case of a boy, this was on the 40th day after childbirth. In the case of a girl child, the purification was later.

This leads to a question, Why "their" purification? Leviticus only mentions the purification of the mother. So, why does Luke refer to "their" purification?

Some have thought Luke was fuzzy on how all this was supposed to work. That seems unlikely to me. Luke may have been a Gentile Christian, but he was living amidst Jewish Christians, and in keeping with his habit of investigating things thoroughly, he would have been able to find out precisely how these things worked.

I think another explanation is more likely, and there are several possible ones. One is that Luke is just speaking in a general way. The rite of purification was something that the whole family was present for. They all made the journey to the temple together, and so it was in some sense "their" effort, even if it was Mary in particular who was being ritually purified.

A Poor but Obedient Family

There are a couple more things to note about Mary's purification. The first is that the offering she made indicates that the Holy Family was poor. The ordinary offering was a lamb and a dove, but in cases where a family was too poor, two doves were used instead.

Despite its noble lineage, belonging to the line of David, Joseph's family had fallen on hard times and was among the poor. They were still obedient to what the Law of Moses required, though. This is why Mary offers the second dove as a "sin offering" (see Leviticus 12:6), though she herself was immaculate.

This act does not indicate that she was a sinner any more than Jesus' circumcision, baptism, or participation in other sacrificial rites indicates that he was a sinner.

Source: Jimmy Akin, www.ncregister.com

The Redemption of the Firstborn

Luke also quotes Exodus 13:2, which deals with the redemption of firstborn males.

The idea behind this ritual was that every male firstborn—whether human or animal—is holy to God, the same way that the first fruits of a crop were holy to God. Consequently, they had either to be given to God in sacrifice or redeemed—bought back from him. Since human sacrifice was illegal and immoral, all firstborn boys had to be redeemed, which was done by their father paying a priest five shekels.

Again, people accuse Luke of being confused about this. It is argued that the redemption of the firstborn didn't take place at the Temple, and so there was no reason for the Holy Family to bring Jesus there.

Again, the criticism is misplaced. While it may have been possible for a boy to be redeemed anywhere, it was natural for this to be done at the Temple, and we know—in fact—that there was a tradition of doing so.

We read about that in Nehemiah 10:35-36, where the people took an oath, saying: "We obligate ourselves ... to bring to the house of our God, to the priests who minister in the house of our God, the first-born of our sons and of our cattle, as it is written in the law."

No Mention of Redemption?

Interestingly, Luke does not mention Joseph paying the five shekels to a priest. Why not? He may have simply taken this act for granted, just as he doesn't go into the details of the rite of Mary's purification. He has cited the Old Testament passages referring to these rites, and he takes that as sufficient indication that they were performed.

But some have seen a deeper significance to Luke's failure to mention Jesus being redeemed. The obvious answer is that Jesus was considered as still consecrated to the Lord.

Two reasons suggest themselves. First, as the Jewish Encyclopaedia notes: "Not only priests and Levites, but also Israelites whose wives are the daughters of priests or Levites, need not redeem their first-born."

Joseph was the husband of Mary, and Mary was a relative of Elizabeth, who was "of the daughters of Aaron" (Luke 1:5), so perhaps Mary's lineage didn't require her to have her Son redeemed. In that case, Jesus was presented at the Temple in *acknowledgement* of his consecration to God.

Or, if the redemption was done, Luke may have meant to suggest, on a literary level, that Jesus remained totally consecrated to God. Benedict XVI comments: "Evidently Luke intends to say that instead of being 'redeemed' and restored to his parents, this child was personally handed over to God in the Temple, given over completely to God. ... Luke has nothing to say regarding the act of 'redemption' prescribed by the law. In its place we find the exact opposite: the child is handed over to God, and from now on belongs to him completely." (*Jesus of Nazareth: The Infancy Narratives*, p3).

WORSHIP NEWS

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

ST ANTHONY'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 26th & 27th January

MINISTERS OF THE WORD:

5.30pm: Patrick Ilustrisimos
8.30am: Kim Nguyen
10.30am: Elaine Lacey

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.30pm : Mila Little (P) & Philip Anyayahan
8.30am : Villy Julita (P), Michael Higgins & Ron Howard
10.30am: Rita Harinos (P) & John Scerri

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

MASS COORDINATORS

5.30pm: Pat Fernandez & Godwin Barton
8.30am: Lina Calleja & Ken Dumandan
10.30am: Godwin Barton & Anthea Scerri

ALTAR SERVERS

5.30pm: Jonathan Dacunha & Mason Azzopardi
8.30am: Rhys Tuala & Andre Oqueli
10.30am: Nick Taunuu & Ethan Porter

If you are unavailable please contact Ben Kratochvil 0423 076 305

ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 26th & 27th January

MINISTERS OF THE WORD:

5.00pm: John Thorne
8.30am: Moira Ross & Marj Tung
10.00am: Sr Mary Fermio

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Colin Remedios
8.30am: Brendan Harrison
10.00am: Carol Ryder

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:
Alfredo Ling Baoan, Maria Cachia, Romauld Correa & Colin Prowd.

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:
Coral Sharpe, Elka Timmins & Gerard Shanahan.

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, 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: 26th & 27th January

PIETY STALLS VOLUNTEERS

5.30pm: Anne Peramuna
8.30am: Judy Johnson
10.30am: Kim Barton

CUPPA ROSTER

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

5.30pm:
8.30am: Roster Pending
10.30am:



CHURCH FLOWERS

Ana 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 : 26th & 27th January

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: Trish Davine
Sunday: Carol Ryder

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

Volunteer Please



COUNTING TEAM # 4

Gerard Harrington
Chris Eggleston
Dianne Shelly

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.

Many thanks to the Parishioners who donated items for our Christmas hampers. Our conference provided 34 hampers to members of the Bacchus Marsh community with items received from: St Bernard's Parish, St Bernard's Primary School, Grades 2C & 2G Bacchus Marsh Primary School and Patrons and staff of Little Lucky Cafe.

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: **Stephen & Liza Fernandes 0439 743 533**

Group 2: **Leonia Jessop 0450 371 965**

Group 3: **Josephine Vella 9746 0903**



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

All the earth shall bow down before you, O God,
and shall sing to you,
shall sing to your name, O Most High!

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*As the bridegroom rejoices in his bride, so will your God
rejoice in you.*

About Zion I will not be silent,
about Jerusalem I will not grow weary,
until her integrity shines out like the dawn
and her salvation flames like a torch.

The nations then will see your integrity,
all the kings your glory,
and you will be called by a new name,
one which the mouth of the Lord will confer.
You are to be a crown of splendour in the hand of the Lord,
a princely diadem in the hand of your God;
no longer are you to be named 'Forsaken,'
nor your land 'Abandoned,'
but you shall be called 'My Delight'
and your land 'The Wedded';
for the Lord takes delight in you
and your land will have its wedding.

Like a young man marrying a virgin,
so will the one who built you wed you,
and as the bridegroom rejoices in his bride,
so will your God rejoice in you.
The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 95

Comm: Proclaim his marvellous deeds to all the nations.

All: Proclaim his marvellous deeds to all the nations.

O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
O sing to the Lord, bless his name.

Proclaim his help day by day,
tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples.

Give the Lord, you families of peoples,
give the Lord glory and power,
give the Lord the glory of his name.

Worship the Lord in his temple.
O earth, tremble before him.
Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.'
He will judge the peoples in fairness.

All: Proclaim his marvellous deeds to all the nations.

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians
*One and the same spirit distributes different gifts as he
chooses.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

God has called us with the gospel
to share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

The first of the signs given by Jesus was at Cana in Galilee.

There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee. The mother of Jesus was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited. When they ran out of wine, since the wine provided for the wedding was all finished, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' Jesus said, 'Woman, why turn to me? My hour has not come yet.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' There were six stone water jars standing there, meant for the ablutions that are customary among the Jews: each could hold twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, 'Fill the jars with water,' and they filled them to the brim. 'Draw some out now,' he told them, 'and take it to the steward.' They did this; the steward tasted the water, and it had turned into wine. Having no idea where it came from - only the servants who had drawn the water knew - the steward called the bridegroom and said, 'People generally serve the best wine first, and keep the cheaper sort till the guests have had plenty to drink; but you have kept the best wine till now.'

This was the first of the signs given by Jesus: it was given at Cana in Galilee. He let his glory be seen, and his disciples believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

You have prepared a table before me,
and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS- 3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading:	Neh 8:2-6, 8-10;
Second Reading:	1 Cor 12:12-30;
Gospel:	Lk 1:1-4, 4:14-21



The Catholic family: Raising children in a secular world VIII

The Option of Home Schooling

Some call it an option while others call it a necessity. Still others call it unthinkable. More and more families are seeing home schooling as a necessity. It puts parents back in control of their child's education. It can be thoroughly Catholic.

There are objections to home schooling. One is time. No matter how you look at it, a lot of time is required in your child's education. I know of one fine family whose children are in school. But they spend more time driving and being vigilant about what their children are learning than most home schoolers do with all their schoolwork put together.

Another objection is that household standards will drop. They are convinced that if they tried to home school, they would have to lower their standards. No more clean floors or clean laundry or a neat house. But, again, I know a home schooling family with 10 children. Their house is clean and neat; the children help to keep it that way.

A third objection is academic standards. But home-schooled children can get into the best universities if parents invest enough into it.

The fact is that it can be done. You adjust; you learn; you readjust; you grow. Somehow, by the grace of God, it all works out. In time, God gives graces to overcome your weaknesses in the areas of order, organisation, patience, etc. If you see it as a necessity for your child's soul, leave the rest in God's hands.

Peace will permeate the home, that peace which comes from doing what is right, even though it may not be what is easiest, most pleasurable or most comfortable. Not the false tranquillity of silent children who get their way or parents who avoid discipline to avoid contradiction.

A Home Full of Joy

One of the difficulties of the society we live in is that too rarely are we able to see or be with people who love to have and raise children. They consider it a privilege and do it with great enthusiasm and joy. Family life should be joyful, not sheer drudgery. If we are to make an impression and teach our children; if we hope to train them in virtue, it is joy that first prepares their hearts to be open.

But being joyful does not mean comfortable or without any difficulty. A joyful home is not selfish, disobedient, disorderly, prideful, envious or jealous. It is a home where charity and unselfishness abound; where there is no anger. Trust in God replaces tension because, with God's grace, things are not given more importance than they should have.

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To be joyful in family life is so important. How you present things to your children can make the difference between making life challenging or making it a drudgery. Your cheerfulness also sends a message to them: I'm happy to be here with you and to do things with you. If being with your children and raising them to be exemplary followers of Christ is important and worthwhile, don't do it with mediocrity and lukewarmness.

Being cheerful can be difficult, when we are not feeling joyful. There are enough reasons to be sad or cross. This is true in all families. A parent's sad or angry mood sets the tone and atmosphere for everyone. What is needed is at least one member of the family who is strong enough to remain cheerful, peaceful and loving to lift up the others.

Some people are almost always so cheerful that others are refreshed by their conversation. What is different about these people? Not their freedom from trial. On the contrary, habitually cheerful people are selfless and do not spend time dwelling on their trials. If parents are like this, their children will be well-adjusted.

Discipline and Obedience

The groundwork for obedience is laid very early in life. By age five, a child's character will have been set. When a baby crawls toward an electrical outlet, a parent says "No". The parent must then act to stop the child, or he is not following through and the baby will begin the habit of disobedience. The action tells the child: "I love you enough to put aside my own comfort to keep you from habits which are damaging to your soul."

Here are some of our rules for training children to uphold God's and parent's rules:

1. Parents know the rules and spell them out to the children. For example, a task assigned should be done promptly, completely and cheerfully.
2. Children's mistakes should be appraised as either honest mistakes or blatant defiance. Honest mistakes are learning experiences; while defiance deserves disciplinary measures.
3. Children should know the consequences for their misbehaviour. Punishment is appropriate when they step over the line, but the type of punishment should be decided beforehand. Even a parent who dislikes spanking can be effective if he remains in control and follows through with the punishment, even though he dislikes it. Belittling a child is not an effective way to eliminate poor behaviour; it will rather make him feel worthless. Our ultimate aim, as parents, is to lead the child to God, not to straighten them out to please us.