



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

1st Sunday of Advent

Year C

2nd December 2018

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:
Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri 9.00am—4.00pm
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 call 0414 007 009

MASS AND DEVOTIONS

ST ANTHONY'S MELTON SOUTH

MASS TIMES : 3/12/18-9/12/18

Monday :	7.30pm	TBA
Tuesday morning:	9.15am	FJP
Tuesday evening:	6.30pm	FJP
Wednesday:	9.15am	FJP
Thursday:	9.15am	FJP
Friday:	9.15am	FJP
1st Friday Devotion:	7.30pm	FJP
Saturday morning:		
Immaculate Conception Mass	9.15am	FFS
Saturday Vigil :	5.30pm	FFS
Sunday :	8.30am	FJP
	10.30am	FFS

INDIVIDUAL RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 4.45pm and before and after weekday Mass.



ROSARY:

Prayed at 9.00am before every weekday Mass.

ADORATION: 30 minutes before and 30 minutes after every weekday Mass.

NO MASSES AT CRC CHAPEL THIS WEEK

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS KOROBEIT

MASS TIMES :

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

MASS TIMES : 3/12/18-9/12/18

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	FPB
Friday :	9.30am	FPB
Saturday Vigil :	5:00pm	FPB
Sunday :	8:30am	FPB
	10.00am	FPB

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 : **7th December**



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: **14th December**

NEWS FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE

CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE

Catch up on the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne podcast. Take the time to listen here: <https://soundcloud.com/melbournecatholic>

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Come and celebrate with us Saturday 8th December 2018, Ta Pinu Shrine (Aust), All Nations Marion Centre, 15 Flanagans Drive, Bacchus Marsh. Feast of the Immaculate Conception and Dedication and Blessing of the East Timorese Oratory 'The Immaculata' from 2.00pm. Rosary Procession starting from the 'Immaculate Conception' (Maltese) Oratory. Bring along your Flags, Banners, Icon images and let us join all Nations to call her 'Blessed'. Holy Mass & Benediction led by His Grace Archbishop Em. Denis J Hart DD and other members of the clergy.

PARISH EVENTS & NOTICES

MEN'S, WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S RETREAT

St Anthony's and St Bernard's Parishes will be holding a retreat for men, women and children on the 14th-16th December. Flyers are available with all the details.

CHRISTMAS BBQ AND NATIVITY PLAY

Organised by the Spirit of the Two Hearts Youth Group **Sunday 9th December 2018** St. Joseph's Hall at the Two Hearts Centre 274 La Cote Road, Greendale, Vic 3341. 12:30pm BBQ Lunch 1:30pm Nativity Play and Christmas Carols followed by Dessert. Cost: Free RSVP: Monday 3rd December Contact: Sister Clare Mobile: [0415 806 217](tel:0415806217) or Email: twoheartscentre@bigpond.com Coordinated by the Missionaries of Love and Peace of the Most Blessed Trinity

DAWN CHRISTMAS NOVENA MASSES

The Parish of Melton invites you to join 'Simbang Gabi sa Melton' (The nine dawn Christmas Novena Masses). To be held 16th December—24th December 2018. Starts 5.00am at St Catherine of Siena Church, 107 Bulmans Road, Melton West. All welcome.

MELBOURNE OVERSEAS MISSION—SPECIAL COLLECTION

Next weekend we will have a special collection to support the Melbourne Overseas Mission. The Mission assists developing countries. The programs are based on the Christian motivation of commitment to the poor with strong objectives to encourage self-help and self-reliance. Please give generously.

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

ST ANTHONY'S

MEMORIAL BOOK ENTRY - WITHOUT DATES

There have been a few requests from family members for names of their loved ones who have passed away prior to the last entry, to be entered into the memorial book.

Since the pages are printed in chronological order (27/11/1951 to 04/01/2017) we are unable to insert names into the existing pages. It has been suggested that a new page with only names (without dates) be printed, as is on the first page of the memorial book. Anyone who wants to have their loved ones in the memorial book, please contact Godwin on [0425 734 449](tel:0425734449).

PLENARY COUNCIL CONVERSATIONS 2020

Facilitator: Fr Patrick **Date:** Sun 2nd Dec
Time: 5.00pm **Venue:** Holy Family Room

Facilitator: Rose Ma'ae **Date:** Mon 3rd Dec
Time: After 7.30pm Mass **Venue:** Holy Family Room

Facilitator: Fr Fabian **Date:** Mon 10th Dec
Time: 8.00pm **Venue:** Holy Family Room

NEW YEAR'S EVE BALL—RAFFLE TICKETS

Raffle tickets will be available soon. All proceeds will go towards the New Adoration Chapel.

THANK YOU – CRAFT GROUP

A Big Thank You to the Craft Group for raising **\$235.55** selling their beautiful creations last weekend. The funds raised will go towards the extension of the church.

COMBINED CHURCHES CARING MELTON INC

Last weekend our special collection raised \$593.30 for Combined Churches Caring Melton Inc. Thank you for your generosity.

CHRISTMAS TREE-GIVING TREE

Celebrating the birth of Christ—It is the season that spreads Love, Peace and Joy around and brings out the best in everyone. Our Parish 'Giving Tree' represents this sign of Giving and provides us with an opportunity to enable another who is struggling to feel loved, appreciated and remembered.

Please select a tag placed under the Christmas Tree, purchase a suitable gift for the child and place your gift under the Christmas Tree by Sunday 16/12/2018.

Thank you for your Kind Generosity and wishing you a Holy and Blessed Christmas.

ST BERNARD'S

SENIOR PARISHIONERS' MASS GROUP

The December Mass will be the Seniors last for this year and will be celebrated on FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, at 11.30 a.m.

In St. Bernard's Parish Centre. All parishioners are warmly invited to join with the Seniors at this – our Christmas Mass. Following Mass, traditional Christmas Luncheon will be served. Do come along and join in this Parish Celebration. Luncheon bookings are essential and may be made by contacting ELIZABETH LUMMIS (5310 6320) or MARY FLANAGAN (5367 3309). For Catering reasons, numbers are required by FRIDAY, December 7. Luncheon cost is \$ 20.00. The Seniors would like to wish our Priests – Fr. Fabian, Fr. Patrick and Fr. Joseph, and all parishioners a Blessed and Joyous Christmas and safe, healthy and happy New Year.

PLENARY COUNCIL CONVERSATIONS 2020

Facilitator: Natalia Klenkowski **Date:** Mon 3rd Dec
Time: 7.00pm

Venue: St Joseph's Hall Two Hearts 274 LaCote Rd Greendale

Facilitator: Fr Patrick **Date:** Tue 4th Dec

Time : After 5.30pm Mass

Venue: Parish Centre

Facilitator: Dominican Sisters **Date:** Tue 11th Dec

Time: After 5.30pm Mass

Venue: Parish Centre

ST VINCENT DE PAUL GIVING TREE

We are again seeking food donations for our Christmas Hampers. If you are able to assist, please take labels from the Giving Tree which is located in the Gathering Space.

Please return your donations by Sunday December 8.

(If further information is required please contact Margot 0419 507 438)

WORSHIP NEWS

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

ST ANTHONY'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 8th & 9th December

MINISTERS OF THE WORD:

5.30pm: Gavin Pereira
8.30am: Ineke Allen
10.30am: Leonia Jessop

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.30pm : Philip Anyayahan (P) & Ann Tennakoon
8.30am : Geoff Sutton (P), Lillian Christian
& Anthea Scerri

10.30am: Elaine Lacey (P) & Doris Bonello

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

MASS COORDINATORS

5.30pm: Godwin Barton & Pat Fernandez
8.30am: Natalie Howard & Ron Howard
10.30am: Godwin Barton & Anthea Scerri

ALTAR SERVERS

5.30pm: Josh Djie-Spiteri & Jonathon Dacunha
8.30am: Rhys Tuala & Andre Oqueli
10.30am: Anakin Anderson & Ethan Porter

If you are unavailable please contact Ben Kratochvil 0423 076 305

ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 8th & 9th December

MINISTERS OF THE WORD:

5.00pm: Vikki Benson
8.30am: Jan Carragher
10.00am: Carmel Shea & Jennifer Taylor

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Stuart Robertson
8.30am: Brendan Harrison
10.00am: Carole Ryder

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL ROSTER

December: Diane Corro

ALTAR SERVERS

5.00pm:
8.30am:
10.00am: Lindorff

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

We pray for the recently deceased:

Franco Respondino

We pray for the death anniversary at this time of:

Tom Dagge

Please pray for the Sick: Jean Barnett, Nickolia & Klara Butkovic, Maria Caruana, Mary Caruana, Judy Layton, Peter Manicaro, 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

SPIRITS 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:

Joan Agius, Agnes Ann Burke, Emanuel (Bill) Cassar, Guinness Connell, Edward (Keith) Cowman, Maureen de Bolfo, Sr Mary Carmel Flanagan SRM, Jim Maloney, Marita Miesen, Myra O'Leary, and Jean Tobin.

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, 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: 8th & 9th December

PIETY STALLS VOLUNTEERS

5.30pm: Lorraine Tellis

8.30am: Ineke Allen

10.30am: Imalsha Silva

CUPPA ROSTER

Cuppa Weekend: **22nd December**

5.30pm: John & Anthea Scerri

8.30am: Ineke Allen & Lilly Offer

10.30am: Rose Ma'ae & Family



CHURCH FLOWERS

Doris Bonello &

Josephine German



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 : 8th & 9th December

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: Jan Farmelo

Sunday: Carmel Shea

MORNING TEA

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

Next Morning Tea: 2nd **December**

Host: Parish Pastoral Council



CHURCH FLOWERS

Bernadette Kearney



COUNTING TEAM # 8

Colm Carragher

Maggie Carragher

Jill Braithwaite

Marj Tung

PRESBYTERY & CHURCH GROUNDS- (December)

Front Garden: *Volunteer Please*

Back/Side Garden: *Volunteer Please*

Parish Centre: Ron Geurts

Carpark/Pines: Ron Geurts

Back Paddock: Colm Carragher

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: **John & Rose Ma'ae** 0431 386 473

Group 2: **Gavin & Alison Pereira** 0419 178 970



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 : To be advised

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

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.
Nor let my enemies exult over me;
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

I will cause a good seed to spring forth from David.

See, the days are coming - it is the Lord who speaks -
when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the
House of Israel and the House of Judah:

'In those days and at that time,
I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David,
who shall practise honesty and integrity in the
land.

In those days Judah shall be saved
and Israel shall dwell in confidence.

And this is the name the city will be called:
The Lord-our-integrity.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 24

Comm: To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

All: To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

Lord, make me know your ways.

Lord, teach me your paths.

Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my Saviour.

The Lord is good and upright.

He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor.

His ways are faithfulness and love
for those who keep his covenant and will.

The Lord's friendship is for those who revere him;
to them he reveals his covenant.

All: To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians
*When Christ comes may he strengthen your hearts in
holiness.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Your redemption is near at hand.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.'

'Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS- SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: Baruch 5:1-9;

Second Reading: Phil 1:4-6, 8-11

Gospel: Lk 3:1-6



The Catholic family: Raising children in a secular world I

One of the greatest blessings brought about by Vatican II is the increasing realisation that parents must be the primary evangelisers of their children. For our children to accept and be nourished by the teachings of the Church, we must be involved directly in teaching the faith to our children.

We should read through the lessons in our children's religion books with them. That way we can grow in faith together with them. We can also make sure that their school program is presenting them with the full Catholic faith. Often religious textbooks have been reduced to a kind of religious psychology, focusing on how our children feel about their faith, rather than teaching them what it is. They also tend to avoid specifically Catholic doctrines like the Real Presence, Mary's intercessory power, and the truth of the Catholic Church. If this is the case, we must either switch religion programs or supplement their books with more complete Catechisms. Ignatius Press, Catholics United for the Faith, and The Apostolate for Family Consecration offer excellent catechetical series.

In our experience, successful Catholic parents do more than this. They know that to transmit their faith they must live it. The Catholic faith is not just an aspect of their lives, but their whole life. Today's secular culture, which teaches us from youth that devotion to God is a private matter, makes this difficult to see. Our society makes us ashamed not only to speak about God in the workplace or to our neighbours, we are even hesitant to show a vibrant faith to our own children. In fact, we often feel uncomfortable with our own religious desires. So, to parents trying to pass on the Faith to their children, we suggest that most of all they try to incorporate the faith into their daily lives.

Of course, in order to evangelise our children, we must first develop our personal religious life. You can't give what you don't have. So, we must participate in the Sacraments as much as possible. Sanctification is first of all the work of the Father Who draws us to Himself. We open ourselves to His grace through frequent attendance at Mass and reception of Jesus in Holy Communion.

Frequent Confession (weekly if possible) renews in us our good desires and gives us hope and strength. Secondly, we must begin to engage in one-on-one, meditative prayer with God the Father, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, Mother Mary, our guardian angels, and other saints. And we must nourish our faith by reading. We need to find good books about the faith, the spiritual life, the Church, the saints. Let's trade in our Danielle Steele novels for works by Catholic authors like G.K. Chesterton, Willa Cather, Dietrich von Hildebrand and Peter Kreeft.

Getting on the mailing lists of solid Catholic publishing houses like Ignatius Press, TAN Books, Sophia Press, Angelico Press and Emmaus Road will open avenues to Catholic literature.

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

These practices will increase our understanding of our religion, gradually making it natural to think about God and make decisions from His viewpoint.

Family prayer should have some part in every day. Mary's prayer, the Rosary, has nourished generations of Catholics since the 13th century. By singing we pray twice and learning to sing hymns can be a delight for the whole family. Preparing for the seasons of the Church like Advent and Christmas, Lent and Easter by decorating the house will give us an opportunity to explain to our children each season's purpose.

Read Catholic books aloud to your children. The Daughters of St Paul have an excellent series of saints' lives; many Catholic bookstores carry Fr Lawrence Lovasik's books for younger children.

These family activities are important and necessary, but there is no replacement for simply talking about God as situations arise. A family visit to the beach prompts me to say: "See how much God loves us? He made the ocean and these waves for us to enjoy!" Family vacations can use a spiritual dimension like a visit to a shrine or beautiful church in an area.

Besides these positive efforts, families intent on being Catholic must try to minimise the secular influences of society. Our society is practically atheistic: that is, God is excluded from "real" life. Society claims to be tolerant of God, as long as He does not try to influence it in any way. If our children are immersed in this society, they will naturally consider their parents' faith in God to be abnormal, and we will have an uphill battle.

To decrease secular influences, first, cut down on television, in particular broadcast television. Strictly limit and supervise both how much and what your children watch. Make use of your DVD to give your children quality entertainment. Second, expose your children to many different kinds of music. Especially limit the amount of pop music to which they listen. Much pop music is not evil in itself, but the culture that has grown up around the music is not only secular but turns teenagers away from their parents. Moreover, better kinds of music exist (classical, folk, religious). Children who cannot appreciate these kinds of music have missed much that is beautiful in life. Finally, find and associate with other serious Catholic families. Contact with like-minded parents strengthens us, and the friends our children have in such families make our job as Catholic parents easier.