



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

4th SUNDAY OF LENT

YEAR C

31st MARCH 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:

Mon 9.00am-4.00pm Tue 1.00pm-5.00pm

Wed—Thurs 9.00am-5.00pm Friday 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
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 : 1st April- 7th April

Monday:	7.30pm	FFS
Tuesday morning:	9.15am	FJP
Tuesday evening:	6.30pm	Bishop Mark
Week 3 Novena to St. Anthony		
Wednesday:	9.15am	FFS
Thursday:	9.15am	FJP
Friday:	9.15am	FJP
Stations of the Cross	2.00pm	
Adoration and Confession	6.00pm	
Stations of the Cross	7.00pm	
1st Friday Devotion	7.30pm	FPB
	12.00am	FFS
1st Saturday Devotion	9.15am	FJP
Saturday Vigil:	5.30pm	FJP
Sunday:	8.30am	FJP
	10.30am	FJP

Sunday evening: 5.00pm
Lenten Talks on prayer by Father Fabian. All welcome.

INDIVIDUAL RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 4.45pm and before and after weekday Mass.
Friday April 12th: 6 - 8.30pm. 3 priests available

ROSARY:
Prayed at 9.00am before every weekday Mass.

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

CRC MELTON CHAPEL: 8.00am
Wednesday, Thursday and Friday

ST BERNARD'S BACCHUS MARSH

MASS TIMES : 1st April-7th April

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

INDIVIDUAL RECONCILIATION
Saturday: 4.30pm and before and after weekday Mass.
Tuesday 9th April: 5 - 6.30pm. 3 priests available

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 5th April**

ADORATION:
30 minutes 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: **Friday 12th April**

SENIOR PARISHIONER'S MASS
The next seniors monthly Mass is due for 19th April which is Good Friday. **As there can be no mass on Good Friday the April Mass has been cancelled.** A warm invitation is extended to all parishioners to come along and join with the seniors in celebration of the Eucharist on **Friday May 17th.**



OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS KOROBET

MASS TIMES :

Saturday:	6.30pm Mass	FPB
------------------	-------------	-----

NEWS FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE

PROJECT COMPASSION

Fourth Sunday of Lent
31st March 2019



Michaela is a 21-year-old trainee at Purple House, a dialysis center in the Central Desert for people suffering from kidney disease. With the support of Caritas partners, Michaela is helping to build a social enterprise, a connection to culture and a new outlook for the chronically ill. **Please donate to Project Compassion 2019 and help provide essential health care, employment and training for First Australians like Michaela. Lives change when we all give 100%.**

You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.



PARISH EVENTS & NOTICES

BISHOP MARK'S PASTORAL PARISH VISIT

We welcome Bishop Mark to St Anthony's Parish this weekend. Bishop Mark will be celebrating all Masses this weekend. Please join us for a cuppa after Mass this weekend. Next weekend Bishop Mark will be celebrating all Masses at St Bernard's, Parishioners are invited to a cuppa after the 5pm Saturday Vigil Mass and the Sunday 10.00am Mass. The Bishop will be in both Parishes during the week (2nd April-5th April). Please take a copy of the A5 flyer for more details. Flyers are available at the side and rear entrances of the Church.

HOLY LAND OLIVE WOOD DISPLAY

A stall with the Holy Land Wood Display will be set up at St Bernard's this weekend, and the stall will be at St Anthony's next weekend, you will find many beautiful items for sale from the Holy Land, that make great gifts or keepsakes.

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

ST ANTHONY'S

THANK YOU – INDIAN COMMUNITY

The Fund Raising Committee would like to thank the Indian Community for raising \$1227.00 with their sale of food last weekend. Special thanks to all those who supported this. The proceeds will go towards the extension of the Church.

EASTER LITURGY TIMETABLE—ST ANTHONY'S

Sunday 14th April	Palm Sunday - Gather in Hall before all Masses for the Blessing of the Palms
Monday 15th April	7.30pm Mass
Tuesday 16th April	No morning Mass Chrism Mass at St Patricks Cathedral East Melbourne. All welcome 6.30pm Mass
Wednesday 17th April	9.15am Mass
Thursday 18th April	Holy Thursday No morning Mass 7.30pm Mass of the Lord's Last Supper followed by Night Prayer
Friday 19th April	Good Friday 10.00am Stations of the Cross 3.00pm The Passion of Our Lord 7.00pm Veneration of the Cross 7.30pm Evening Prayer
Saturday 20th April	8.00pm Vigil Mass Please gather at rear of Church For the Service of Light.
Sunday 21st April	Easter Sunday 8.30am Mass 10.30am Mass

REMINDER– DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS

NEXT WEEKEND 7TH APRIL 2019



ST BERNARD'S

ACTION EASTER EXPERIENCE 2019

St Bernard's and the Knights of the Southern Cross invite the young people in our Parish to Action Easter Experience 2019. Time: 5.00pm Thursday 18th April to 8.30pm 20th April. Cost: \$25.00 which includes food and accommodation. Venue: St Bernard's Primary School. Any inquires please call Mark Farrell 0416 251 025.

EASTER VIGIL MASS CHOIR: INVITATION FOR SINGERS

The Two Hearts Choir extends an invitation for men and women, and teenage boys and girls to join in and sing with us for the Easter Vigil Mass - it's a great opportunity! We will be arranging practices prior. For any enquiries please call or text Sister Clare on 0415 806 217.

EASTER LITURGY TIMETABLE—ST BERNARD'S

Sunday 14th April	Palm Sunday - Gather in Hall before all Masses for the Blessing of the Palms
Tuesday 16th April	No morning Mass Chrism Mass at St Patricks Cathedral East Melbourne. All welcome
Wednesday 17th April	9.30am Mass
Thursday 18th April	Holy Thursday No morning Mass 7.30pm Mass of the Lord's Last Supper followed by Night Prayer .
Friday 19th April	Good Friday Good Friday Stations of the Cross and Devotions Josefina Maria's Two Hearts Centre 274 La Cote Road, Greendale, VIC 3341 10:30am: <i>Please meet in the Chapel</i> Stations of the Cross using our new Stations of the Cross walk (or in our Chapel if weather not suitable) Office of Readings for Good Friday in the Chapel (Prayers of the Church) Concluded by a solemn Good Friday hymn Contact Number: 0415 806 217 11.00am Ecumenical Way of the Cross. A re-enactment of Christ's Passion & Death by way of a street-side procession starting in the Foodworks carpark. 3.00pm The Passion of Our Lord
Saturday 20th April	7.30pm Vigil Mass Please gather in Church carpark For the Service of Light.
Sunday 21st April	Easter Sunday 8.30am Mass 10.00am Mass 8.30am Mass

KOROBET

WORSHIP NEWS

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

ST ANTHONY'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 6th & 7th April

MINISTERS OF THE WORD:

5.30pm: Mila Little
8.30am: Geoff Sutton
10.30am: Karina Dunne

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.30pm : Ann Tennakoon(P) & Lorraine Tellis
8.30am : Edwina La Rose (P) Ineke Allen &
Volunteer Please

10.30am: Dolores Turcsan(P) & John Scerri

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

MASS COORDINATORS

5.30pm: Stephen Fernandes & Pat Fernandez
8.30am: Lina Calleja & Ken Dumandan
10.30am: Leonia Jessop & Carmen Vella

ALTAR SERVERS

5.30pm: Kieran Grech & Mason Azzopardi
8.30am: Nixon, Thytus & Aaron Ben
10.30am: Nick Taunuu & Ethan Porter

If you are unavailable please contact
Ben Kratochvil 0423 076 305

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

We pray for the death anniversary at this time of:

Marie Dromey, Ida Christina Enriquez,
Vincent Hallsworth, Charlie Morrison, Marcelina Nalipay
& Stephen Vella

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

PRAYER FOR THE SICK

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



ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 6th & 7th April

MINISTERS OF THE WORD:

5.00pm: Maureen Zahra
8.30am: Gerard Harrington & Jenny Hooper
10.00am: Cathy Belcher

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Mary Beaton
8.30am: Peter Lafranchi
10.00am: **Volunteer Please**

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL ROSTER

March: John Thorne

ALTAR SERVERS

5.00pm: Vereker
8.30am: Shea Family
10.00am: Lindorff Family

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

SPIRIT OF THE TWO HEARTS YOUTH GROUP

Experience faith, friendship and fun.

Age group: 11years+ When: Every Thursday
fortnight (starting 28th Feb) 7.00pm-9.00pm

Where: Two Hearts Centre, 274 La Cote Road, Greendale

Contact: Sister Clare 0415 806 217 or

Email : twoheartscentre@bigpond.com

Website: www.missionariesofloveandpeace.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:

George Hamm, Brendan Love & Brice Lummis.

Please pray for the Sick:

Terry Sims, 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, Danny McRae, Marcus Meno,
Paul Mullin, 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: 6th & 7th April

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.30pm: Judy Van Hoos
8.30am: Pat Chiles
10.30am: John Scerri

CUPPA ROSTER

Cuppa Weekend: **30th & 31st March**
(Bishop Mark's visit)



5.30pm: Judy Van Hoos, Gladys Clarke & PPC
8.30am: Joyce Stellini, Lina Calleja & PPC
10.30am: Rose Ma'ae and Family & PPC

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.

Contact:

Natalie Howard	0410 478 046,
Amy Honrade	0457 042 695
Lillian Christian	0400 441 257

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 : 6th & 7th April

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: Trish Davine
Sunday: Volunteer Please

MORNING TEA ROSTER

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

Next Morning Tea: **7th April 2019**

Host: Rosary & Prayer Group



CHURCH FLOWERS

Volunteer Please



COUNTING TEAM # 3

Cheryl Rogers
Lyn Shea
Graham Hooper
Michael Love
Margaret Love
Sean Gianì

PRESBYTERY & CHURCH GROUNDS- (April)

Front Garden:	Volunteer Please
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 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.

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.

(No Preparation on ANZAC Day)

Next preparation : **Thursday 2nd May**

Baptisms are held on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month: **5th & 19th May**

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: **Da Rocha Family** **0421 854 711**

Group 2: **Alfreda Parnis-Cassar** **0416 250 490**

Group 3: **Dragica Mladen Soldo** **0466 482 035**



ST BERNARD'S

BAPTISM PREPARATION PROGRAM

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

Next program: **Sunday 28th April**

Baptisms are held on the 1st and 3rd

Sunday of the month: **5th & 19th May**

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 : Justin & Katie

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

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

FIRST READING: Joshua 5:9-12

The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.'

The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Comm: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

All: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
In the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad.

Glorify the Lord with me.
Together let us praise his name.
I sought the Lord and he answered me;
from all my terrors he set me free.

Look towards him and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.
This poor man called; the Lord heard him
and rescued him from all his distress.

All: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

SECOND READING : 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on this reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men's faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I will rise and go to my Father and tell him:
Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.
Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man,' they said, 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them:

'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father.

'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate.

'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about, "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But, for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property - he and his women - you kill the calf we had been fattening."

'The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it was only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."'
The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed,
I saw and I believed in God.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS – 5th SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading: Is 43:16-21;
Second Reading: Phil 3:8-14;
Gospel: Jn 8:1-11

The Catholic family: Raising children in a secular world XVII

DO'S AND DON'TS OF HOME CATECHESIS

Last week at Mass, 23 month-old Christopher said: "Watch, mom, priest." After the consecration, he said: "Watch, mum, Jesus."

At six months, Christopher could clearly speak the word "Jesus". At seven months, he could point upwards and say "Jesus up", when asked "where is Jesus' home?" Now Christopher has several sentences including the Hail Mary. Is Christopher gifted? No. Christopher has been taught, that's all.

Parents today spend hours sitting infants on their laps teaching them the alphabet, how to count, and so on, but we don't speak to them of God with the same intensity, until the child is three or four years old. Why? We have been convinced that the subject of religion is too advanced for a tiny child.

If a parent really wants to teach religion, there are some things they should and should not do. Here is a brief list:

1. When you pray, your children want to see if you really believe. I've noticed that often a child will stare at me when I pray. I know my children often wonder if I really see our Lord or our Lady. Let your children see how much you love God. Let them hear the words of the prayers as though our Lady or our Lord were truly in front of you. Show extra signs of reverence and bow your head each time you say, "Jesus". Children do not want to be told how to love God, they want to see it.
2. Children love to imitate their parents' ideals. Surround them with good Catholic families. The Bible says: "Even a child is known by his doings." Surround them with children who are just what you want your child to be.
3. Religion should not be boring. Use their religion books to teach them by playing a game. Write down questions on one set of cards and the answers on a second set. Lay all the question cards on the left and the answer cards on the right, in any order. Then have the child match questions and answers. I use different coloured cards for each grade level so they can later be used for a younger child.
4. Children love to show off. They thrive on attention from their parents. They love being right, so during our family rosary, the children take turns saying something about each Mystery. They compete and also learn from each other.
5. Parents can't give to a child what they don't have. I go to Mass every other day, even though it

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

is a hardship. I can't tell my children that the Eucharist is the most important event that takes place in a day if I go to Mass only on Sundays.

6. When I find an article on the Faith that I want the children to read, I take it into the bathroom. I never allow anything but religious magazines in the house, with the exception of *Reader's Digest*. I fold back the page with the article so that it opens just to the right page. The children will often refer to the article later in a sentence that usually begins: "Bet you didn't know ..." It works, but be discreet.

7. Finally, the car is a perfect place to teach a "captive audience". I "just happen" to have several religious tapes that I have "been meaning to listen to". They hear them whether they want to or not.

CHILDREN NEED QUIET PRAYER

The youth of today seem to have no direction. They are constantly being shifted from one desire to the next. Their world is a world of noise and constant movement. They have no real concept of quiet. The television set is usually blaring, the radio is on, and the telephone seems to be a permanent appendage to every ear.

At a very early age, we condition our children to have noise all around them. Even adults seem to have problems with silence. Some believe they must listen to devotional tapes or have religious programs on constantly in order to attain a higher spirituality. They seem to fear silence. No one can truly devote themselves to anything until they have shut the world and all its noise out.

Devotion requires silence. Devotion to the Sacred, especially in the Eucharist, requires a focused mind. A mind focused on God loves God, knows God is Love, and recognises Love Incarnate in the Eucharist. Merely acting out practices of devotion is not devotion. At adoration of the Eucharist, much time is spent on reading and little time on adoring our Lord. By our actions we are saying that our reading is more important than Christ's presence.

Is this the example we want to set for our children? We must help children learn the value of silent reflection. It is a good idea to accustom young children to quiet prayer. Have them spend a few minutes a day in silence. As they get older, it gets easier for them to listen to and talk to our Lord. They begin to grow in their love of Him and to live a truly devoted life.